



# WEST HANTS MIDDLE SCHOOL

902-757-4100

[www.whms.ednet.ns.ca](http://www.whms.ednet.ns.ca)

[whms@avrsb.ca](mailto:whms@avrsb.ca)



Mrs. Wallace-Principal, Mr. Miller-Vice Principal, Mr. States-Vice Principal

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

WHMS is filled with busy students once again! The grade six and seven students have settled in and for the most part are finding their way around, trying out for teams, joining groups, and making themselves comfortable. They are doing a great job helping each other, being kind and using their manners. It will take some time for them to learn teachers' names and get used to so many new adults in their lives.

We have three administrators and three secretaries in the office at WHMS. Mr. States oversees the Student Services aspect of school and works with the EAs, the Resource staff, classroom teachers and families to help with programming for students. Mr. Miller looks after scheduling, registering students in classes and assigning teachers to those classes, and making sure the schedule meets the Department's requirements. My responsibilities are more global with communication with the Board Office, the parent community and the community at large, the basic operations of the building, and dealing with all aspects of staffing and finance. We work closely as a team and all three of us support each other as needed.

We started this year with approximately 375 new students in the building, and a total of 559 current students. There are 18 new staff members in the building for approximately 60 adults that help service the students in a variety of ways. We almost always have a contingent of International Students from all over the world. Some will stay for a short time, while others are with us for the entire year.

### **A FEW POINTS FOR PARENTS:**

- students will find out about a lot of school events from the morning announcements
- you will be able to see those announcements under 'Daily Bulletin' on the student or parent portal; on the school website; or listen to them as an option by calling the school
- you will be able to see what 'day' it is on the WHMS webpage in the top left hand corner.
- on the parent portal you can see assignments, marks, attendance
- it is crucial for us to have your updated contact information
- Please feel welcome to attend our Home & School meetings

Please contact your child's teacher if you have concerns about their school work. We are working hard to make this a very successful school year.

### **Reminder to all parents or visitors**

We ask that you please check in at the office when entering the school and not park in the handicapped parking spots unless there is a need.

### **Upcoming Events**

- Sept 30** – NO SCHOOL - Inservice Day
- Oct 10** – No School-Thanksgiving
- Oct 12** – Photo retakes
- Oct 14** – Gr 8 Trip (tentative)
- Oct 19** – Early Dismissal 12:20 pm
- Oct 20** – Dance 7-9
- Oct 28** – No School-Inservice
- Nov 11** – No School – Remembrance Day
- Nov 15** – Early Dismissal 12:20 pm
- Nov 24** – Report Cards go home
- Nov 24** – Dance 7-9
- Nov 30** – No School - Inservice

### **Also a reminder to all parents/guardians**

When dropping off a student after 9:05 please call us, come into the office to sign them in or send a note in with them so they do not get marked Unexcused.



## ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER AND NOTICES

You will also be receiving this newsletter via email. If you do not receive this newsletter via email, please contact the school at 757-4115 and provide us with an updated email address.

After today, we will be sending home our newsletters and notices through email. If you would like a paper copy, please contact the office. Only those who have contacted us will receive a paper copy.

## PARENT/STUDENT PORTAL ACCOUNT

It is extremely important that you support your child's education and the Parent portal allows you to monitor many aspects of your child's school. Student achievement information is now presented with a greater emphasis on the individual assessments and course outcomes for the entire course. An improved user experience is now in place for parents and students to view information related to assessments and outcomes. Information on attendance, late work, missing work, and achievement are all available to encourage ongoing communication and the improvement of student achievement.

Any parent who has not previously created a portal account can email the main office at [whms@avrsb.ca](mailto:whms@avrsb.ca) to request portal information. This information will then be emailed to you.

Any parent who had previously created a parent/student portal account, and is having issues signing in, please call the school for help.



## BREAKFAST PROGRAM

Our breakfast program is a great program used very frequently by our students. We would like to keep the program running so that the students can benefit greatly from it. Donations of breakfast items such as fruit, whole grain cereal, breakfast bars, juice, yogurt, cheese, paper bowls, plastic spoons, and bread products are greatly appreciated.

If you would like to volunteer to assist with the breakfast program between 8:15am-9:00am, please contact Mrs. Wallace through the main office.



## PASTE NEWS

PASTE Leadership will soon be underway once again at West Hants!! Applications have been collected and afterschool training will take place on Oct. 12<sup>th</sup> at WHMS from 3:20 to 5:30.

**Physically Active, Ambassadors, Student Motivators, Technology, and Environment Teams** will be posted at the training. This program gives students an opportunity to help out in various ways at their school, as well as to meet many new people with similar interests!

PASTE coordinators, facilitators, and mentors look forward to an amazing year!!



## LIBRARY NEWS



Mrs. Lake will be in the library: Tuesday and Thursday – 9:00am – 3:30pm; Friday: 12:30pm – 3:30pm

Students can borrow up to three items for a two week sign out. Please remember to return books on time to avoid having your name added to the missing assignment list.

The library will be open during recess and lunch breaks. Please stop by and find something interesting to read. We also have Chess, Checkers, and Scrabble to help you pass the time.

Join us at our new location; Room 1106 opposite the small gym. Everyone welcome!



## NEWS FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT



Hello parents, guardians, and students; welcome to a new and exciting year of music making at WHMS! A music newsletter outlining how our program works, details of upcoming events and more will be coming home soon. Our big event on the horizon is the Grade 7 Band Clinic.

Grade 7 Band students and guardians: please mark Wednesday September 28th on your calendar! There will be an important clinic from 3:30 pm to 8:00 pm where students will receive their instrument and be introduced to it by a specialist on their specific instrument. At 7:00 this same evening there is an important information meeting for parents new to our music program, followed by student demonstrations and performances on their new instruments. This fun and exciting experience is a vital foundation to our music program; all grade 7 music students should plan to be in attendance! More information will be coming home shortly.

### Important Music Dates:

Date	Time	Event
Wed. Sept. 28th	3:30 to 8:00pm	Grade 7 Band Clinic
Wed. Sept. 28th	7:00 to 8:00pm	Information Session and Demonstrations for Gr. 7 Parents
Tuesday Oct. 4th	7:30 to 8:45am	First Concert Band rehearsal
Thursday Oct. 6th	3:30 to 4:30pm	First Jazz Band Rehearsal

Please feel free to get in touch with me at any time. It is best to reach me by email at [smreid@nspes.ca](mailto:smreid@nspes.ca) or by leaving a message at the school (757-4100). I'm looking forward to an exciting school year filled with music!

Mr. Steve Reid

## NEW YEAR AND NEW INITIATIVES FOR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

As we head into year two of Nova Scotia's Action Plan for Education, there are many more exciting initiatives for students at all grade levels this school year.

This fall, students in grades primary to 3 will benefit from hands-on learning, including using floor robots to learn sequencing and programming. Students in grades 4-6 will benefit from Innovation and Exploration Kits that include Spheros and Makey Makey invention kits. Students in grades 7 to 12 will learn coding through events, such as the Hour of Code and STEAM Olympics, and courses, such as Computer Programming 12. Coding promotes problem solving, teamwork, critical thinking, creativity and innovation. These skills are not only related to learning math, science and the arts, but they are also directly linked to many careers, including computer programming and the marine industries.

With the province's first literacy strategy for students in all grades, there will be a greater focus on the teaching of reading and writing and the development of oral communication skills. Reading Recovery support has been increased for grade 1 students. Students in Grades 4 to 6 will have a renewed curriculum, with more time for literacy and math. Class caps are expanded to grades 4 to 6.

To help more students succeed in math, additional supports will be made available for both teachers and students. Career education outcomes will assist students as they begin thinking about their futures and the many possibilities ahead. To learn more about what is new this year, go to <http://novascotia.ca/educationactionplan/> to sign up for ongoing updates from the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

Dear Students and Parents/Guardians,

**Parent Opportunities:**

Ms. Wellwood has information about 2 free upcoming opportunities that may be of interest to parents/guardians:

(1) **Parenting Your Teenager - Walking the Middle Path 1 Day Workshop** - offered in the HRM through NS Health Authority on Sat. Oct 1st OR Sat. Nov 5th. Learn to better understand your teen, improve communication and help your family run more smoothly.

(2) **Parents as Career Coaches** - Monday Nov 21st at WHMS 6:30-8:30pm

This program will provide parents of students in grades 6 to 9, with the tools and information, to start their child on the career journey. Research clearly indicates that this is the ideal time to begin this process!

\*More information and registration process for both of these events is available by contacting Ms. Wellwood at [wellwoods@gnsps.ca](mailto:wellwoods@gnsps.ca)

## **PARENTS AS CAREER COACHES: Middle/Junior High**

**Parents as Career Coaches provides you with:**

- Information about what the career journey looks like, to help you deal with the many twists and turns that can occur.
- course selection information.
- Details on critical skills and personal qualities required to be both competitive and successful, in the work force.
- Information on websites, which will provide information on specific jobs, labour market demands, education/training requirements, salaries and much more.
- A parent guide designed to help you work with your children throughout their career journey.
- A student workbook, which provides your daughter or son with information and activities to:
  - Identify interests and skills
  - Research occupations

This very popular program has received consistently strong ratings, from parents, over the years. 97% of parents who attended the PACC Middle/Junior High program (2015-16 academic year) rated it as either "Excellent" or "Good".

**Here are a few comments, from parents, who have attended PACC Middle/Junior High:**

"I was at a loss, as to how to help my daughters; but, you've given me a path!!"

"I cannot thank you enough for this course. It was excellent and I feel like I got a lot out of it. It was very inspiring."

*"Excellent content, clear, easy to follow"*

*"Enjoyed the program. I am now more aware of different careers so I can help my children find the right one for them"*

*"I wish this would have been available, when I was in school. Great tool for kids to start their adult journey"*

*"I didn't know what to expect, but I found the program informative & helpful – a very positive approach to the "big unknown" of career choices. Very much enjoyed this session."*

**The Middle/Junior High program takes one evening to complete.**

Date: Monday, November 21, 2016

Time: 6:30 pm to 8:40 pm

Location: West Hants Middle School

**You can register for an upcoming session at [www.parentsascareercoaches.ca](http://www.parentsascareercoaches.ca) If you do not have internet access or do not wish to register on the website, please contact the school office to add your name to the session list.**