

# West Hants Middle School



September 9, 2015  
Issue 1

Mrs. Wallace, Principal  
Mr. Miller, Vice Principal  
Mr. States, Vice Principal  
902-757-4100  
[www.whms.avrsb.ca](http://www.whms.avrsb.ca)

Please find lots of helpful information on our website at [www.whms.ednet.ns.ca](http://www.whms.ednet.ns.ca)

## Upcoming Events

Sept 3-9 - Gr. 7 IDU  
Sept 10 - Gr. 7 Class trip  
Sept 11 - Early Dismissal at 12:20  
Sept 14 - Gr 7 Student Led Conference @ 6:30pm/ Gr 8 & 9 Open House @ 7:00-8:00pm  
Sept 14 - Band Parent Meeting at 8:00pm at WHMS  
Sept 17 - Dance 7-9pm  
Sept 18 - PASTE Forms Due  
Sept 21 - Student Photo Day  
Sept 21 - Home & School Meet 7pm in Library  
Sept 23 - Terry Fox Run (rain date is Sept 24)  
Sept 24 - Beginner Band Clinic Gr 7's from 3:30-8:00pm  
Sept 25 - NO SCHOOL Inservice Day  
Sept 30 - Oct 1 - PASTE Mentor Training  
  
Oct 2 - Gr 8 Trip (tentative)  
Oct 5 - Band Parent Meeting 6:30pm at AVHS  
Oct 7 - Early Dismissal 12:20pm  
Oct 8 - PASTE Training 3:30-5:30pm  
Oct 9 - Gr 9 trip (tentative)

## 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.

## Principal's Message

A warm welcome to all students, parents and staff to the 2015-16 school year. I believe we have had a fairly smooth start to the school year. With 628 students registered in 23 classrooms, it makes for busy days. We held grade level assemblies on the first day and will celebrate Pink Day on Thursday (Stand Up Against Bullying Day). The Grade 7s will also be involved in a grade level class trip this week (Thursday).

On Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup> we will be inviting all families to WHMS for either an Open House or in the case of Grade 7s there will be an assembly in the gym and then Student-Led Conferences. At this point I will also have the opportunity to meet some of you!

Please visit WHMS, contact us by phone or email if you have any questions. To gain access to the Parent Portal, please email our main office at [whms@avrsb.ca](mailto:whms@avrsb.ca) and we will make sure you are set up.

## 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.

## Coaching

WHMS is in need of help with boys soccer. If you would like to volunteer your time, please contact Mr. Tye at 902-757-4100.

## Home & School

The first Home and School meeting will take place on Monday, Sept. 21<sup>st</sup>. Monthly meetings will be held the third Monday of each month. All are welcome.

## Electronic Newsletter

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 through email. If you would like a paper copy, please contact the office. Only those who have contacted us will receive a paper copy.

### Therapy Dog at School

Beginning in early October, Learning Centre students who work with Mrs. Darton will have a Therapy dog named Piper visit them one day each week.

Successful transition and entry of the dog into the school environment has been planned in accordance with the AVRSB "USE OF A SERVICE DOG BY A STUDENT" policy and administrative procedure and with input and consultation from the school staff. The dog will usually enter through the door at the end of the grade 8 hallway. He will use the stairwell to access room 2311, which is Mrs. Darton's Learning Centre. Piper will not usually have access to the school at large. The dog has been specially trained and is a certified companion/therapy dog. This is a working dog and will be easily identified as one by his distinctive handkerchief. Learning Centre students will be introduced to Piper on Meet the Teacher night September 14th. Rules for interacting with the dog will be reviewed at that time.

Should you wish further information or would like to speak further about the entry of a certified therapy dog into the school setting, please do not hesitate to contact the school directly, and ask to speak with either Mr. Tye or Mrs. Darton.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Tye and Mrs. Darton

### 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, can use the "Having Trouble Signing In?" link on the portal login page.**

### Guidance Department

Dear Students and Parents/Guardians,

Welcome and welcome back to West Hants Middle School! My name is Kelly Murphy, and I am the new School Counsellor until Ms. Wellwood returns in the spring. I am here to support your child through the wonderful, and sometimes challenging, middle school years.

Some people like football, others are passionate about reading, but what I find fascinating is talking to, connecting with, and helping young people. I would like the students here to think of my office as a warm and friendly place, where they are always welcome. My office is also a safe haven - a place where they can get help if they feel confused or worried.

Please feel free to call me, or stop in so that we can meet face to face. I am truly delighted to have the opportunity to serve you and our West Hants Middle School students!

Best regards,  
Kelly Murphy, M.Ed. (Counselling), B.Ed.  
902-757-4105



## News from Music Department

Hello band parents and guardians!

I'd like to draw your attention to a few key items and dates.

- If you could please return the Band Parent Association package (in the bright pink envelope) ASAP. This package can be returned to the WHMS office, myself (Ms. Brossoit), or mailed directly to the address on the envelope.
- **Monday, September 14, 8:00PM**
  - o Band Parent Association meeting at WHMS following the Open House
- **Thursday, September 24, 3:30-8:00PM**
  - o Beginner Band Clinic for Grade 7 band students
- **Monday, October 5, 6:30PM**
  - o Band Parent Association meeting at AVHS

For additional news and information, please visit <http://avhs-music.ednet.ns.ca/>

## Family Studies and Child Studies

The West Hants Middle School **Family Studies** programs are looking for donations.

Clothing and Textiles 7 could make use of needles, pins, thread, fabric and other sewing supplies.

Grade 8 Foods and Nutrition students are in need of kitchen equipment such as utensils, measuring devices and small appliances like blenders and electric skillets.

Child Studies 9 students doing the Real Care baby project are in need of infant carriers/car seats (expired carriers are okay for our purpose) and infant clothing. We would also benefit from donations of children's books and toys.

## Announcements

Daily school announcements will continue to be posted on the parent portal under Daily bulletin and on our school website whms.ednet.ns.ca. (until November 2015). We encourage all parents to create parent portal accounts and take advantage of all the features available.

## PASTE NEWS

PASTE Leadership will soon be underway once again at West Hants!! Applications will be available this week from homeroom teachers, and can be returned to the office on or before, September 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Physically Active, Ambassadors, Student Motivators, Technology, and Environment Teams** will be created by the end of the month. 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! Everyone welcome!

### Annapolis Valley Regional School Board Career Expo

Interested in a career that supports students? Come to the AVRSB Career Expo for information on upcoming casual/spare/permanent opportunities for:

- Educational Assistants
- Janitors
- Bus Drivers
- Cafeteria Workers

**October 5, 2015, 4:00 p.m. at L.E. Shaw Elementary School, 486 Oak Island Road, Avonport**

**October 7, 2015, 4:00 p.m. at Lawrencetown Consolidated School, 10 Middle Road, Lawrencetown**

At the Career Expo, you'll have the chance to...

- Meet with AVRSB Human Resources staff
- Learn about opportunities that match your skills and interests
- Find out how to apply online

To view current job listings and position descriptions, visit <http://avrsb.ca/job-listings>

For more information contact 902-538-4739 (Toll Free 1-800-850-3887)

### Are You A Parent?

(Unfortunately, children don't come with an instruction manual!)



**If you want to learn more about...**

- Increasing positive time with your child(ren)
- Feeling more confident in your parenting skills
- Adding new skills and strategies to your parenting 'tool box'

**The Incredible Years Parenting Program can help!**

The incredible years parenting program is for parents of school age children. This 12 week program will address a variety of topics to strengthen all of the great parenting skills that you already have and give you the opportunity for support from other parents.

**Please Call Lisa at Public Health Services  
798-2264**

**To register for our upcoming session starting on Tuesday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.**

### Update from the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development

The 2015-16 school year marks the start of many new and exciting changes in classrooms across the province as a result of Nova Scotia's Action Plan for Education introduced in January. The Action Plan was based on the feedback of more than 19,000 Nova Scotians, including teachers, students, school support staff, school boards, universities and the business community.

Some highlights this year include:

- \* a streamlined and innovative curriculum with a stronger focus on teaching math and literacy for primary to grade 3 students,
- \* new homework standards to support and enhance student learning at every grade level,
- \* a new school code of conduct that will apply to all schools,
- \* more hands-on learning activities for students to develop their technology skills, including Brilliant Labs and,
- \* more math mentors working with teachers to support higher student achievement
- \* a new career education framework for grades 4-12 students
- \* core French programs that use interactive and conversational teaching methods
- \* a new growth and development guide for families with four-year-olds to encourage early learning

For more details on changes coming in 2015-16 visit [ednet.ns.ca](http://ednet.ns.ca). Follow the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development on twitter @NSEducation.