

St. Mary's Education Centre/ Academy

March 2018 Newsletter

Principal's Message:

February was a short yet busy month at St. Mary's Education Centre/Academy. A number of activities took place to recognise and celebrate African Heritage month. We are thankful to the Grade 3 class for creating the Kente Clothe bulletin board in the main lobby. We are anticipating a visit from student leaders from the St.F.X football team. They will visit classrooms to speak about the importance of African Heritage Month and lead discussions on racism and bullying.

March break will soon be upon us and I hope that students and staff have a chance to rest so that they are rejuvenated as we continue learning in the second half of the year.

The staff and students of St. Mary's Education Centre Academy appreciate the parental support show to staff and students and we would like to continue working with you to ensure the best learning opportunities possible for all the students.

Happy March!

Jack MacDonald
Principal

Parent/Teacher News

Playground Committee Fundraisers

Vesey Seed/Bulb campaign is underway. Orders are due no later than Friday, March 9th. Extra catalogues, order forms, and envelopes are available upon request from the office. 50% of all money will go towards our new playground. Thanks for your support & Happy gardening!

Donations from businesses/individuals for the new playground are greatly appreciated! Donations can be of any amount. Donations of \$100 (or more) will be acknowledged on our playground display board at SMECA. Join in this exciting project as we encourage 'play' at our school and within our community.

Cheques can be made payable to SMECA PTA.

ABCs

The pre-primary children have been exploring the alphabet by creating letter collages. Using natural and synthetic materials, the children demonstrated many skills such as cutting, pasting, measuring, and patterning. Our creative alphabet looks so fantastic on our wall.



The letters project has extended into other areas of play as well, with children identifying letters in books, outside, and more.

The group is beginning to understand key literacy and numeracy concepts and processes, such as the sounds of language, letter-sound relationships, concepts of print and the ways that texts are structured (NS Early Learning Curriculum Framework, 2017).

Primary/PrePrimary Orientation Day will take place on March 27th.

PATHS - Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies for P-6.

PATHS, a social-emotional learning program will be implemented in our P-6 classrooms this spring. Three of our teachers have been formally trained to deliver the program. All of our remaining P-6 teachers will become familiar with the program as well as prepare materials on March 28th. Stay tuned for more detailed parent information as the program is delivered.

The *PATHS*[®] curriculum is a comprehensive program for promoting emotional and social competencies and reducing aggression and behavior

problems in elementary school-aged children while simultaneously enhancing the educational process in the classroom. This innovative curriculum is designed to be used by educators and counselors in a multi-year, universal prevention model. For more info on this program you can visit their website.

<http://www.pathstraining.com/main/curriculum/>

Mental Health Services

Please check our website for a list of mental health services available to students and families. These services will be featured individually on our Facebook page throughout the spring.

Music Notes

We have had a great February, with lots of singing and music making.

Some of the High School students will be going to Antigonish on Monday, March 5th for an awesome masterclass and concert. We will be seeing Harold Mabern and Kirk MacDonald. Harold Mabern is a jazz pianist, and he has played with many greats, and one of the greats being Miles Davis. Kirk MacDonald is Saxophone player who has toured Canada and the USA. Students will get to watch, listen and experience some jazz studies with these two famous players.



We have also been invited to sit in and talk with music students and faculty and see them perform and get constructive comments. Details have been sent out with those students.

There will also be the next Winding River Op'ry in Sherbrooke on March 25th at the Lions Club. There is lots of talent from our school that will be performing. All proceeds are donated to the music program here at SMECA. \$10 - adults and \$5 for students.

Thanks,
Janet O'Brien
Music Teacher

Cafeteria News

On March 29th we will be having our Easter dinner at the cafeteria there will be Baked ham, scalloped potatoes, vegetables, cookie & milk for \$6.25. Could you please pre-order and have money in by March 23rd.

Lunch/Snack Choices

If you send in pre-prepared frozen dinners (such as Michelina's), please pre-cook at home. Staff can re-heat but there is not enough time to cook these items at school. Thanks for your cooperation.

International Club Potluck

The International Club invites you to a Potluck Dinner on Thursday, March 8th from 3:00 p.m. -4:00 p.m. in the school cafeteria. Bring a dish and come out and meet SMECA's International Students.

We look forward to seeing you. For further details contact Beth Horne at 902 522 2035.

Students Council News

Winter Carnival is right around the corner? Well that means theme days all week (next week) and fun on Friday! Theme days are as followed. On Friday there will be a free pancake breakfast for grades P-12 at different times. And for grades 7-12 there will be activities going on all day. Get ready to compete and show your spartan pride!!

P-6

Spartans Got Game

Monday: candyland (PJs)

Tuesday: Scrabble (wear the letter your name starts with)

Wednesday: Twister

(wacky(crazy) socks, hair,hat)

Thursday: Life (future career)

Friday: Battleship (class colours)

Primary-Green

One- Purple

Two- Blue

Three- Pink

Four/Five- Orange

Five/Six- Red

P-7

Monday - Spartan Attire

Tuesday - Athletes Vs Mathletes

Wednesday - Dynamic Duo / Group

Thursday - Greasers Vs Preps Vs Hicks

Friday - Team Colour

Graci Fleet

Student Council President

Graci's Lunchbox

With a generous donation of \$1,000.00 from the Municipality of the District of St. Mary's, SMECA is pleased to offer a new initiative aimed at promoting healthy eating amongst students. Students in grades 7-12 are invited to *Graci's Lunchbox* in room #221 on Days A and E to try snacks and lunch items free of charge.

ArtsSmart

Students in grades 4-6 would like to thank Mr. Fen Martin for visiting our classes and putting on an amazing workshop; "Creating with Clay." During the four day instruction students learned how to create everyday items from clay including mugs, small vases and bowls. They also learned about creating relief structures in the form of murals. The grade 5-6 class concentrated on creating a space themed relief piece while the grade 4/5 class created a Greek mythology themed relief piece based on the novel *Percy Jackson The Lightning Thief*. Mr. Martin will return to our school in May to unveil our finished work and hopefully create permanent



art pieces for our school!

WOW Book Challenge

The grade P-6 students have accepted the Wow Reading Challenge and are competing against St. Andrews Consolidated to see who can read the most books in the months of February and March. The students have read 2200 books since February 1st.



RCMP Presentation - Grades 7-12

We are pleased to have the Royal Canadian Mounted Police partner with us to support our students and provide instruction on many topics where they have expertise.

On Monday, March 5, the RCMP will provide individual grade workshops for grades 7-12 students. The topic will be "Weapons and the Law". Time will also be taken to discuss

career opportunities within the RCMP.

Live Different Presentation

St. Mary's Academy would like to welcome the group *Live Different* once again. The *Live Different* group travels the country sharing their life stories with the aim of spreading hope and self-esteem to its listeners. The organization was established as a Canadian charity in 2000 and began to operate internationally in 2005. From the beginning, they have been passionate about making a difference in people's lives through their youth empowerment presentations, humanitarian builds program, community projects, and academy program. Over the years, they have spoken to over 1.3 million students, visited over 3,000 schools from coast-to-coast, and completed over 500 projects internationally, including homes, schools, and clinics.

Live Different will visit St. Mary's on March 7th at 1:00 P.M. to share their stories with Grades 7 to 12. The band "Encore" will be performing with the *Live Different* team. Students will be able to purchase CDs and other merchandise. We look forward to having this amazing group of youth share their personal stories of hope and encouragement with us again at St. Mary's. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the school.

Grade 12 News

The graduating class is in the process of fundraising to help

assist in paying for their Grad Fees, Safe Grad and Prom events. They will be planning several activities over the next few months to accomplish their fundraising goal. Thank you to all who donate and help them in anyway.

Guidance News

Mid-Year Transcripts

Students who made early application to community college or university are reminded that updated transcripts *have been* sent to University and NSCC. See Mr. Wolf if you need to have *another* transcript forwarded.

Student Loans

Looking for information on student loans? Their website is: <http://http://novascotia.ca/studentassistance>

A representative from NS Student Loans will be with us to go through the process. It is scheduled to go in early April. Date TBA.

Scholarships

There are numerous scholarships and awards that come into the Guidance office and are posted weekly, in fact, almost daily this time of year. So please check back to the Guidance Page on the smeca.srsb.ca website often.

O2 News:

The Grade 10-12 O2 Students will be travelling on March 6th and March 21st to NSCC Strait Campus to view the Marine skills competition as well as the Skills Canada competition. At the

campus they will get a real good look at the several trades in the marine area as well as construction trades. The O2 students are also busy getting things ready for their Job shadow as well as their COOP placements coming up in the coming months.

Other News

March Break Fun Day

When: Thursday March 15 from 9:30am-2:30pm

Where: St. Mary's Education Centre & Academy

Who: Students in grade Primary - 6

Cost: FREE!!!!

Registration forms will be available at the Main Office or St. Mary's Recreation.

For more information please contact Liz MacIntosh at liz.macintosh@srsb.ca or Maggie MacLellan at St. Mary's Recreation (902) 522-2598. You can also send a Facebook message to the SchoolsPlus Guysborough County/Monastery page.

We look forward to seeing you there ☺

Get Winter Active!

If we get any more snow! We have the tools for you to embrace the cold weather and have some fun this winter. Stop by the Municipal Office in Sherbrooke during business hours and rent a pair of snowshoes. Pairs are only \$3 a day for rent of free for children's sizes.

Learn to Skate/Learn to Play Hockey

Learn to Skate and Intro Play Hockey Sessions will come to an end in March. The last day for the program will be March 16th. The group will also be hosting a Pizza Party on the 16th to celebrate a great year! We would like to send out a huge thank you to all of our parent volunteers who made this program possible.

After School Recreation Hockey

After School Recreation Hockey is an opportunity for kids to enjoy the sport of hockey no matter their skill level. Join us Wednesdays from 2:30-4:00 pm. Players are divided into "lines" based on their age so they will be able to play at their own speed and ability. Players must wear full hockey gear to participate. There is a limited amount of equipment available for participants to use at the rink. We are also accepting donations of hockey equipment. Call (902) 522-2598. The last session of the year will be March 14th.

After the Bell

After the Bell is a program for youth ages 13-18 to get active, make a difference in their community and have fun! This program will include lots of unique programs and activities. This program will be designed by

youth, for youth. In March, we will have a couple of exciting events so stay tuned! We have a Facebook group where information is posted, request to join "After the Bell" to keep up to date!

and took part to make this program a great success.

Open Gym

Open Gym from 6-7pm on Tuesdays at SMECA will end at the end of February. It will be resume in the fall so stay tuned!

March Break Camp

The Municipal Recreation Department will be hosting March Break Camps for Children in Grades Primary to Six. Stay tuned for our Municipal Facebook page for upcoming information and registration about the camps.

Kid Fit

Kid Fit is a free, physical activity based program for kids in grades primary to five. It includes fitness based games, a healthy snack and a creative activity. This program started in February and will continue into April. Forms (with a schedule) are posted on Facebook or can be picked up at the Municipal Office. **Note: Kid Fit will NOT take place during March Break.**

Take it Take it Craft Program at Recplex

The Friday Make It Take It Craft Program at the Recplex will come to an end February 23rd. Thank you for everyone who came out