



Strait Area Education
Recreation Centre

SAERC News Letter

September 2017

304 Pitt Street
Unit 1 Port Hawkesbury, NS
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902-625-1929

Principal, Mr. R. Allen

Vice Principal, Mr. M. Maclsaac

Guidance, Mrs. C. Matheson

Principal's Message

I would like to take this moment to welcome staff and students back to SAERC. Of course, not all of our students are returning. We are fortunate to have a new group of grade 9's that have joined us as well as a large contingent of international students from around the globe!

The 2017-2018 year has the potential to be highly engaging and rewarding for both of these new groups. However, we cannot forget the grade 12's! Our 12's have entered their final year of high school. This part of your journey you are embarking upon is the most exciting part of your school career! I wish all of you a great deal of success and look forward to working with you.

As we move forward this year, I would like to draw the attention of our new students and parents to both Strait-Up, Power School and our own web page as our key communication tools. We will be relying upon these platforms as we share information with you during this year. If more at anytime you need to speak to your teacher, I would encourage you to reach out to them through email, which can be located on our schools' web site: saerc.ednet.ns.ca.

Please note that two letters (Demographic update, and Consent for Publication of Student Personal Information and Student Work) were sent home. Each of these letters are self-explanatory and need to be returned as soon as possible. Your efforts in this returning these forms is essential.

I would like to extend an invitation to our parents for this September 20th as SAERC will host our annual Meet the Teacher evening as an opportunity to meet with our teaching staff. While it is early in the year, and not really the time for specific feedback on performance, it is a great chance to meet your teachers and for ourselves to meet with you. Following the school presentation, we will be hosting a RCMP internet Safety presentation. The partnership we have with our local RCMP is quite strong and we are looking for continued community support for our youth and parents.

Thank you,

Mr. R. Allen

Vice Principal's Message

My name is Mike Maclsaac and I am the new Vice Principal for the 2017-2018 school year. I would like to welcome students, parents, staff and school community members to a new school year at SAERC! I am very excited to start the 2017-2018 school year in my new role as Vice Principal. I also look forward to working with Mr. Rob Allen as he returns to SAERC as our Principal, as well as our entire school staff. It is my mission to get to know all participants of our school community, and I value the opportunity to work in a collaborative environment to achieve our school goals. Please feel free to contact me at any time if you have any questions or concerns.

In keeping with the Strategic Plan of the SRSB, our number one goal is student achievement. This school year I will lead our Program Planning Team and to that end, it is vital that all stakeholders play an active role in the education of our students. School, home and community are key participants in preparing our students for the future. Students will be given every opportunity to explore ways that enable them to achieve to the best of their ability, some programming may include and not limited to - various types of assessment, extra support where available, and continued access to social and mental health

supports. Our school is very fortunate to have a wide variety of supports for our students, in addition, a wonderful staff to help our students attain their goals.

Students and parents are asked to continue to keep the lines of communication open to ensure that we can all work together to support the needs of our school. Please feel free to contact me at any time to share your questions/concerns.

Thank you,

Mr. MacIsaac

SAERC Guidance

The SAERC Guidance Office monitors students' academic requirements for graduation and post-secondary placement, as well as career and personal counselling for students in need. Personal counselling issues can include stress & anxiety, family conflicts, friendships, relationships, self-esteem/self-image, peer pressure, school, fears, decision-making, life transitions, grief, etc. Mental health issues are referred on to mental health professionals; however, guidance can remain as the students' on-site support.

The deadline to change courses is Wednesday, September 13/17. Grade 12 students are encouraged to make an appointment early in the school year to begin post-secondary discussions.

Thanks

Mrs. C. Matheson

Council to Improve Classroom Conditions

In accordance with Recommendation #31 of the Report of the Council to Improve Classroom Conditions (April 28, 2017), in an effort to minimize disruptions to student learning and the teaching day, teachers have up to two business days to respond to emails.

Important Dates

September 12, Toonie Tuesday.
September 13 Course Change Deadline.
September 13 & 14 Picture Days.
September 14 Stand up to Bullying Day
September 15 Grade 9 Lunch BBQ & Elections.
September 20 Meet the Teacher (6 PM)
September 27 SAERC Dance (8-11)
September 29 School In-service. No school.

Bus Passes

Parents are asked to ensure that your child has a note for a bus pass each day that it is required. Passes will only be issued if your child has a note containing the bus drivers name and date (with Civic address too). Students are asked to request passes before school and during lunch only. With the SRSB's transportation plan, routes may have been combined, reducing the number of seats available, and some requests may be denied.

Important Medical Information

Parents and guardians are asked to contact the school if your child has a medical condition or allergy, which we should be made aware of. This will allow us to take a proactive measure to ensure that your child is safe. Please note that no prescription or non-prescription medicine (i.e., Tylenol) will be warehoused or distributed. Please refer to SRSB policy IV-B-4 for further clarification.

Medical Conditions

The Strait Regional School Board is making every effort to support students and staff with severe allergies and scent sensitivities through staff training, various accommodations and information-sharing within our school communities.

As we begin a new school year, we are asking for your ongoing cooperation to foster a safe and healthy learning environment for all students and staff.

Throughout schools in the Strait Region, there are a number of students and staff who have severe and life-threatening allergies to food and scents. At our school, there are allergies to nuts and nut products, shellfish, kiwis and scent sensitivities. Therefore, we are asking that you avoid sending these products to school and avoid using scented products including perfumed laundry detergent, fabric softener, deodorant, perfumes/aftershaves, to name a few.

Avoiding the allergen is key to preventing an allergic reaction. Therefore, the best way to provide a safe environment is to enlist the support of our students, staff and parents/guardians. There are a number of measures that you and your child/children can take to ensure the safety of all members of our school community:

- Encourage your child to wash their hands with soap and water before eating and wash their hands and rinse their mouth after eating (including breakfast and snacks);
 - Read food labels and learn how to identify allergen ingredients. If you are unsure about a product, choose something else. For information on the many common names that identify allergen ingredients on food labels, refer to the Health Canada Fact Sheets at: <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/food-nutrition/food-safety/food-allergies-intolerances/food-allergies.html> In addition, please refer to the Food Allergy Canada (formerly Anaphylaxis Canada) website at <http://foodallergycanada.ca/>;
 - Teach your child not to share his/her food, drink or utensils with classmates;
 - Encourage your child to help clean his/her eating area after meals and snacks;
 - Allergies are serious! Never play tricks or dare friends with allergies to try foods;
 - Avoid products that have a scent/odour.
- For more information and resources, please visit the Canadians for a Safe Learning

Environment website at <http://www.casle.ca>; and

- Get help, if your friend with an allergy or scent sensitivity doesn't feel well.

We recognize that creating and maintaining an allergy-aware and scent-aware school takes effort and diligence on everyone's part. Thank you for your cooperation and assistance as we work together to make SAERC a safe, healthy and welcoming learning environment for all students, staff and families.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the school.

Head Lice Awareness

As we begin another school year, I would like to share some information with you in regards to the treatment and prevention of head lice that our school will be following.

Head lice are tiny insects and parasites of the human body which are most often attached to clean hair. They lay eggs called nits, which stick to the hair shaft, very close to the scalp. Head lice spread most easily through direct head-to-head contact or through articles used on the head or in the hair, such as hats, combs, brushes, ponytail holders, etc. Head lice occur mostly in children.

Based on Public Health Services information, the following sequence of treatment is recommended to break the head lice cycle: Please note that two treatments are required in order to completely break the head lice cycle:

- Two (2) head lice treatments, spread apart with a period of 7-10 days between treatments or as directed by the product.
- 1st treatment - kills live head lice.
- Some lice may hatch but they are adolescent nits that cannot lay eggs.
- Combing and nit removal is required on a daily basis.
- 2nd treatment - kills the adolescent nits and breaks the head lice cycle.

Please note the following guidelines that will be helpful in preventing the spread of head lice:

☑ Notify the school administration if your child has head lice and keep school administration informed about head lice issues as they arise;

- Check your child's head regularly.
 - once a week as part of your routine
 - after every sleepover
 - every day during lice outbreaks at school
- Keep long hair tied back or braided.
- Teach your child not to share personal items that are used on their head. This means things like brushes, combs, barrettes, headbands, elastics, towels, hats, helmets, toques, and scarves.
- Teach your child to put their hats and scarves in their coat sleeves or backpacks when they take them off at school.

When there is a suspected case of head lice, the Principal will notify the parent(s)/guardian(s). The student who is suspected of having live head lice will be sent home for treatment. The student may return to school after the first treatment in accordance with Public Health recommendations. A notice will be sent home to all parents/guardians of students in the affected class when there is a confirmed case of head lice. In some cases, a reminder notice will be sent home school wide.

Our school and the Strait Regional School Board is committed to following the recommendations of health care professionals and supporting school communities in the treatment and prevention of head lice. Our focus is on the treatment and prevention of head lice in an effort to support student attendance and full participation at school, in accordance with healthcare standards.

For more information, please find enclosed a copy the Strait Regional School Board

If at any time you require further support on this matter, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

School Insurance Program

Every eligible child attending public school in Nova Scotia is automatically insured by the School Insurance Program's Basic Plan student accident coverage. This coverage is provided without deductible and at no cost. Basic Plan

coverage can cover things such as physiotherapy, dental and medical equipment expenses, up to policy limits.

However, if parents/guardians wish to purchase additional coverage, the Gold Plan increases the time that your child is covered to 24/7 including summer vacations. Many of the specific loss accident payments are triple those of the Basic Plan.

Please visit www.sip.ca for policy & limit information and for more information on how to purchase the optional Gold Plan.

Volunteering At SAERC

Parents / Guardians, grandparents or community members who are interested in doing some volunteer work at SAERC either on a regular basis, or for special activities should contact the school.

The SRSB's transportation policy regarding students (IV-B-6) to extracurricular activities requires :

1. Completed criminal record check (these are good for three years).
2. A completed J-Form for transportation purposes.
3. Confidentiality form
4. Volunteer application form to be completed.

Parents are a key element in the successful delivery of extracurricular programs in the school.

We appreciate the help and contribution of our community members and support.

SAERC Coaching

Currently SAERC is looking to fill two coaching positions for:

- Boys Soccer
- Girls Basketball

If you are interested in volunteering and working with either of these teams, please contact the school's administration.