



# Northeast Kings Education Centre

1816 Bains Road, Canning, Nova Scotia B0P 1H0

Phone: 582-2040 Fax: 582-2044

<http://www.nkec.ednet.ns.ca>

Principal- Kevin Veinot

February 2016

## MISSION STATEMENT

Northeast Kings Education Centre believes in developing a learning environment that nurtures academic, physical, social and emotional growth.

**Dear Parent(s) / Guardian(s),**

## SCHOOL NEWS

February is always a busy month with much snow and this year is no different. We are starting to get near the end of second term in the Middle School and Second semester has just begun in the High School. High School students just received their **report cards on Wednesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>** due to the storm days. There will be an **Open House** in the High School on Wednesday, Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 – 7:30 pm. Parents of High School students are encouraged to drop in to meet their children's second semester teachers. Appointments are not required. These will be informal meetings, an opportunity to meet the teachers and pose questions. It is always important to make contact with your children's teachers to open important lines of communication. There will be a **Student Led parent conferences** in the Middle School on Wednesday, Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 – 8:00 pm. These will be led by your child showing you what they have been doing in their classes this term. I encourage you to attend.



We enter a very important time of year with **Course Registration** for the 2016-2017 school year. Students in Grades 9-11 will receive a Course Registration Handbook by February 16<sup>th</sup>. Your child will receive a course recommendation form for their Science, English and Math courses for grade 10 or 11 next year along with their handbook. We have been airing live videos explaining our

elective courses to our students in the mornings from February 10<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>. Please take the time to thoroughly read the student registration handbook. Course registration is extremely important and must be completed accurately and on time. Students who do not take the time to register

appropriately are often disappointed in September when courses they desire are unavailable.

February is African Heritage Month. **We are fortunate to have a rich diversity of ethnic backgrounds at Northeast Kings Education Centre. A celebration and recognition of all cultures throughout the year in our curriculum and in our school celebrations certainly enriches who we are. African**



**Heritage Month recognizes the culture, heritage and progress of African Nova Scotian communities.**

**2016 African Heritage Month Theme: Legacy of Commitment – They Fought to Fight**

When the First World War broke out in 1914, African Nova Scotians responded patriotically. The men of the community wanted to volunteer to serve overseas, yet most were rejected. Recruiters told them things like: "this is a white man's war" and Canada didn't want a "checkerboard army". The majority of Black men who wanted to serve in the military were told there was only one way: they had to form an entire segregated battalion. Black men from Nova Scotia, the rest of Canada, the United States, and the British West Indies formed the **No.2 Construction Battalion, C.E.F.** with the largest contingent coming from Nova Scotia. In March 1917, they went overseas to provide support on the Western Front in Europe. They assisted in forestry, dug trenches, built railroads, repaired roads, and laid barbed wire. The Battalion disbanded in 1920. This year during African Heritage Month, Nova Scotia commemorates the 100th anniversary of the Battalion and honour the legacy of commitment that was demonstrated.

For details on African Heritage Month events across Nova Scotia, visit the Nova Scotia Office of African Nova Scotian Affairs website, <https://ansa.novascotia.ca/african-heritage-month>



## PEBS (Positive Effective Behaviour Support)

If anyone said it was easy to bring up children, they couldn't have had children. It is often very challenging as they seek their identity and independence. There are struggles at home and

at school. In the long run, they usually come around and it can be a very rewarding experience for parents, guardians, and teachers. Please remember, although we need to be respectful and teach our teenagers about respect, we are not their best friend. We need to develop consistent messages and structures and to abide by them. At school, we attempt to do this through a program called PEBS. It's all about being proactive and consistent. Take a look at PEBS on the school website and how it may work at home.



As technology becomes a bigger part of our children's daily lifestyles, we are witnessing both the benefits and the challenges. Our children are just a click away from accessing tremendous volumes of information. Specific technologies, software, and online resources can provide wonderful educational supports. There are many benefits to communication as social networking software creates a much smaller world and people are able to communicate much more easily. Unfortunately, technology has also created challenges around communication. One of these challenges that schools are facing more often is around students posting inappropriate comments using electronic public communication, including Twitter, Facebook, Snapchat, email, texting, etc. It can often be challenging for a school administrator to fully understand the circumstances surrounding an electronic posting. Quite often, these comments equate to cyber-bullying. The basic direction for school administrators is that if a comment is posted electronically on any form of public electronic communication, and has a negative impact on the

daily functioning of the school, then it can be considered a school issue. Students will often counter that he/she didn't post at school and that the issue has nothing to do with school. While parents/guardians have an important role in educating their children around the responsible use of technology and social media, schools understand they also play an important part in that process. So, in spite of where the posting happened, the school may take action if the posting impacts on the daily functioning of the school. Such action **could** be in a variety of forms, such as; communication with the student and/or home, possible disciplinary measures may result, recommendation for counseling, referral to outside agencies, mediation, etc.

This will continue to be a challenge for families and schools. We encourage all parents and guardians to work with us in the important job of educating our youth in the appropriate use of online technologies, in particular social networking such as Facebook and Twitter. There is nothing wrong with you asking your child to give you access to their social media accounts so you can see what they and their friends are posting for all to view.

Have a great February. Stay safe and warm and get actively involved with your child's education. Spring is only five weeks away!!

Check out our **school website** at: <http://www.nkec.ca> Also, please be reminded that we are a **nut-smart and scent-smart facility**. Students, staff and visitors must respect each other by not wearing scented products or try not to bring nut products to school or clean up after you finish eating a nut product. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Kevin Veinot, Principal

## MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

Dear Parent(s) / Guardian(s),

It is exciting to see Northeast Kings Middle Level Titans involved in so many aspects of school life. January and the beginning of February has been a very busy time for students and staff. Academics, extracurricular involvement, physical activity and service learning engagements have been the focus of recent weeks in the middle school.

In addition to academics, students continue to participate in a variety of extracurricular activities. Middle Level Titans are involved in robotics, junior hockey, table tennis, basketball, badminton, archery, snowshoeing, tech crew and cheerleading. Recognizing the importance of physical fitness and being outside, classes are participating in skating, broomball and snowshoeing activities as an extension of healthy active living class and physical education. Each day, a considerable amount of my time is spent in classrooms observing, assisting students and communicating with staff. I continue to be impressed by the level of engaging curriculum and thought provoking activities teachers implement as part of the learning process for students in grades six, seven and eight. Teachers, guidance and educational assistants are working hard to meet the academic, social and emotional need of all students. We continue to motivate and encourage all learners to put forth their best effort daily at school. We ask all students to try their best.

I continue to encourage students to work hard in class, practice specific skills such as mental math computation, read on a regular basis and complete assigned homework. Patterning of such foundational skills and academic habits results in improved student confidence.

I would like to remind parents of middle school students to come in and get set up for the parent portal. It is an invaluable tool to keep an eye on student grades and attendance. If you are not signed up yet, please bring a photo identification to the administration office and we can get you set up..

February 1<sup>st</sup> marked the beginning of African Heritage Month, but during the entire school year, teachers and students continue to explore and present engaging curriculum reflective of African-Canadian accomplishment and contribution. Through curriculum, yearlong programming and celebrations, cultural diversity enriches our school community and student learning experiences. Middle Level Youth in Action Committee continue to work on various initiatives within the school and community. Service based learning is an excellent opportunity for students and provides an opportunity for students to be active in our community. A special thanks to Ms. Roy and the Youth in Action Committee for her ongoing efforts with this group of students.

Has your child lost, or misplaced an item at school? The school lost and found container is overflowing with jackets, shoes, snow pants and many other clothing items. Please encourage your child to check the lost and found box for items belonging to them. With winter weather conditions, mid-day school closures occur. Please ensure your child knows where to go in the event of an early closure and is familiar with phone numbers, addresses and bussing details necessary to get home safely. If there are details you would like the school to be aware of, please contact Student Services.

As we approach April and the next round of report cards, I ask students to continue working hard and be mindful of PEBS Expectations for Success. Also, it is important that students continue to seek extra help if they are feeling overwhelmed. Together, academic success can be achieved!

Please keep in touch,

Pete Gebhardt, Vice Principal

## NEWS FROM STUDENT SERVICES

### Course Changes

Course changes may be made through Student Services until **February 19**. Students must have a course change form signed by a parent or guardian

and have an acceptable reason to request the change. All course changes are subject to availability of space in the class, as well as space in the student schedule.

**Course Registration Information for 2016-2017**

Over the course of the next month and a half students from grades 9 – 11 will be receiving information on the Course Selection Process for next year. There will be presentations, video announcements, course handbooks, recommendation forms and registration forms delivered to our students to help them make the most informed choices for their academic success. Completed **Course Registration forms are due February 24<sup>th</sup>!** **Courses offered for next year are based on what the students choose! Students will plug in their choices for courses here in the middle school computer lab during the week of Feb 29<sup>th</sup> to March 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

**NSCC**

Students who are considering programs at the Nova Scotia Community College beginning September 2016 are encouraged to apply ASAP. Any grade 11 student who is considering NSCC programs for the following year (September 2016) are also able to apply at this time.

**University Information**

Many deadlines are fast approaching for University. Most applications are due by March 1<sup>st</sup> and this often includes applications for entrance scholarships. Please check with each university that you are applying to, to ensure proper forms have been sent in.

**Post-Secondary Visits**

Throughout the next few months we will have many visits from post-secondary institutions. Any visitors will be set up during high school lunch in the lobby. Please listen to the announcements daily to stay informed as to who is visiting.

**Opportunities to Learn French**

**Explore** is a \$2000 bursary for a five week summer French course to improve students' French proficiency at beginner, intermediate, and advanced levels. The course locations are in Québec/ Nova Scotia/ Ontario/ and New Brunswick, and most expenses are covered. The bursaries are available to Nova Scotia students and are determined by random selection. The website with further information including the application form is: [www.myexplore.ca](http://www.myexplore.ca). **Deadline is Feb 28<sup>th</sup>.**

**Legion Leadership Camp**

Students interested in developing leadership skills are encouraged to apply for acceptance into the Royal Canadian Legion Leadership Training Camp, running from June 27<sup>th</sup> to July 5<sup>th</sup> at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College in Truro. Students must have completed grade 10 or 11 by June 21<sup>st</sup> and be 15-18 years old. Please, see Ms Pineo if interested ASAP.

Emilie Pineo,

Student Services

**Grad Photo Retakes**

Attention Grads: this is your last chance to have your grad photo taken for the 2015-2016 yearbook and wall composite! If you need Grad Photo Retakes or you missed having your Grad Photos taken before Christmas, Lifetouch Photography will be here Wed., Feb. 17 and Thurs., Feb. 18. If you are having retakes, don't forget to bring in your proofs from your first session so that you do not have to pay the sitting fee again. To sign up for grad photos or retakes, please go to [www.lifetouch.ca/mygradphotos](http://www.lifetouch.ca/mygradphotos) to book your appointment.

The two options are as follows: Deluxe Sit Session - \$25.00 – 14-16 proofs, up to three backgrounds and it takes 20 minutes. Yearbook & Composite Session - \$10 – 4-6 proofs and it takes 5 minutes. In order to have your picture in the yearbook and on the wall composite, you must choose one of these two options. If you are interested in a Family and Friends session, please see Mrs. Zwicker (Student Services) or call [902-582-2050](tel:902-582-2050) for more information.

**Further Grad News**

There will be a meeting for parents/guardians interested in helping out with Safe Grad on Tuesday, March 29<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in room 104. If you are unable to attend and want to keep up to date on our planning/fundraising, make sure you are on our email list by emailing [jfaber@gnsps.ca](mailto:jfaber@gnsps.ca).

The 2<sup>nd</sup> and FINAL order of GRAD HOODIES and T - SHIRTS will be on sale during the month of Feb. Order forms are available from Ms. Faber in room 207. Sweatshirts are also available to be tried on in Ms. Faber's room at lunch time. The order will be sent in on March 1st and no other orders will be taken after that date!

**OTHER SCHOOL NEWS**



Chartwells has introduced a **NEW and CONVENIENT** way to purchase food at the school cafeteria with the **Zipthru DINE WITH US Reloadable Card!** Just like any gift card, a balance is loaded on a card and declines as purchases are made. The online function of this program provides convenience for parents to purchase, reload and monitor spending as well as set up an account to protect the remaining funds. In 4 easy steps you will be confident that your child has been provided with healthy meal options and a protected balance. This relieves the need for a packed lunch or carrying cash. Purchasing or reloading \$100 or more will give you an **ADDITION** of 10% bonus dollars directly added to your balance. Visit [www.zipthru-card.ca](http://www.zipthru-card.ca) to purchase an e-Certificate by email today. Present the printed e-Certificate to the cafeteria and receive a **Zipthru** card with the designated balance! For interesting facts visit [www.zipthru-card.ca](http://www.zipthru-card.ca).

**England Trip**

Do you want to tour England for 10 days over the March break in 2017? See [efours.ca](http://efours.ca) and tour number: 1725248RT to register. You must be in Grade 11 or 12 in the school year 2016/17. Contact [fpriddle@gnsps.ca](mailto:fpriddle@gnsps.ca) for more information. Sign up ASAP to confirm numbers and to secure your place on the tour.

**NKEC ATHLETICS REPORT**

NKEC Athletics

Happy February everyone. The school is very pleased with how well our teams are representing Northeast Kings Education Center. A consistent reminder regarding the importance that every student-athlete and adult representing our school does it the right way. This means your best effort, a desire to win but a sincere acceptance of defeat, strong sportsmanship and a positive energy by all participants. The life lessons are so much more

important than the sport itself. The sport is just an awesome opportunity to learn or strengthen those vital life skills.

We are in need of a badminton coach! We have a couple of parents who are willing to assist, but we need someone to take leadership of the program. If you are interested, please contact the school or email me at [dsanf@gnsps.ca](mailto:dsanf@gnsps.ca). Our four hockey teams are coming into their crunch time, as playoffs are around the corner. The senior girls' team is hosting regionals, while the boy's team is just coming off a second place finish at the Art Lightfoot Tournament. Good luck to all of all hockey teams as they prepare for districts or regionals. Our basketball teams are also heading toward regional play, with the senior girls participating next weekend at either CK or Avonview. Our boys team was rebuilding this year and will not qualify for regionals. Our boys JV team is off to regionals this weekend at Parkview, while the girls team fell just short of qualifying for their regional tournament. Our middle school teams are finishing the first round of district play downs, with hopes of advancing past the first stage. Our curling team had their regional cancelled last weekend and will be travelling to Barrington in two weeks. Good luck to the table tennis team coached by Mr. Craan, as they are starting their NSSAF season after a successful club year. Thank you to Mrs. Hall for starting a skiing/snowboarding club, giving a few students that extra opportunity to be active.

Thank you to all coaches, student-athletes, spectators, administration and staff for their support of our very busy Athletics Program. Our staff and administration allow our student-athletes to be dismissed at key times for games and tournaments, and this is something that is very much appreciated. Softball, Track and Field and Rugby are just around the corner, with coaches lined up and raring to go.

Dale Sanford

Athletic Director NKEC

Western Region Assistant Director

**AVRSB Virtual Advanced Placement (AP) Program (2016 – 2017)**



Course registration for the 2016 – 2017 school year is fast approaching. One option for students entering Grade 11 or 12 is the Virtual Advanced Placement (AP) Program offered by the AVRSB to provide

advanced courses for interested students. The AP courses are considered to be of a first year university level and can lead to a university credit or university advanced standing if the student is successful in the course. Currently the AVRSB offers AP Biology, Calculus, Chemistry, English Literature and Human Geography to Grade 11 and 12 students via the internet. The benefits to students are many. Students can study topics in greater depth as these are year-long courses. Students improve their chances of university acceptance and gaining scholarships and students are often exempt from high volume first year university courses. As well students in science courses can participate in labs that are not normally undertaken in their schools. AP courses are a great way to enhance your university application and scholarship opportunities. Students are encouraged to attend the AP orientation session when it is held at their school. More information can be found at <http://www.avrsbvap.myavrsb.ca/> or by contacting Student Services at your school. Come out and see what it is all about!!

**International student program**

Have you ever thought of hosting a student from another country??? We are currently looking for Homestay families for the NKEC area to host students. If this is something that you think you might be interested in please give me a call or send me an e-mail and I can answer any questions you might have!!

Below you will find some general information about the program:

- Length of stay-** usually 5 months or 10 months
- Students-** all grades 9-12 and sometimes younger
- Family-** you don't have to have children in order to be a host family, but if you do that is great!!) - you could be retired or even single... (we try to match you with a student who best fits your home situation)
- Host Family Pay-** you receive \$550 each month to host the student to help with the costs involved. **The Home-** an international student must have their own bedroom in the house. For information please contact Jennifer Pineo AVRSB Homestay Coordinator, [jpineo@avrsb.ca](mailto:jpineo@avrsb.ca), 680-6958

**Skates**

Our Middle School is looking for donations of skates. If you have any skates at home that you would like to donate, please drop them off at Student Services.

**LET'S GO SKATING!**

The NKEC Mini-Bus Fundraising Committee will be hosting 2 fun-filled family skate nights to raise funds for our new mini bus! There will be a freewill offering at the door, treats for sale, music, 50/50 tickets and so much more! Support your local school and have a great family outing at the same time. The following are the local skate locations and times: Canning Arena February 26<sup>th</sup>: 8-9pm, Kentville Arena March 4<sup>th</sup>: 8-9pm  
We hope to see you at one of these great family skates!

**Dates to Remember**



February	
15	Heritage day – NO SCHOOL
17/18	Grad Photo retakes
17	Open House for HS parents 6:30 pm
17	MS Student Led Conferences 6:30 pm
24	<b>NO</b> Early Dismissal – <b>regular day instead</b>
25	Student 2016/2017 Course Registration Forms due
29-Mar2	Online Course Registration
March	
10	MS Dance 6:30-20:30 pm
11	Newsletter
14-18	March Break
21	First Teaching Day after Break

