



Northeast Kings Education Centre

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

Principal- Kevin Veinot

February 2019

MISSION STATEMENT

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

F E B R U A R Y

Dear Parent(s) / Guardian(s),

February is always a busy month here at school with second semester starting in our high school and prepping our students to register for their courses next year at the end of this month. We are starting to get near the end of second term in the Middle School and have our Middle School Student Led evening on Wednesday, February 13th from 6:30-8:30 PM this month. These will be led by your child showing you what they have been doing in their classes this term. I encourage you to attend.



High School students will receive their **report cards** on **Monday, February 11th**

We enter a very important time of year with **Course Registration** for the 2019-2020 school year. Students in Grades 9-11 will receive Course Registration information by February 19th. 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 registration information. We are having a Course Fair on Tuesday, February 12th explaining our elective courses to our students. Please take the time to thoroughly read the registration information and access the student registration handbook posted on our school web site. 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 of 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 our African Nova Scotian communities.

2019 African Heritage Month Theme: Our History is Your History



The 2019 provincial theme, Our History is Your History, recognizes the unique story of African Nova Scotians and how this story is interwoven throughout the past, present and future of all Nova Scotians. The theme reminds us that when we all acknowledge and understand the truths of our shared history through awareness, cooperation, dialogue and learning, we will be able to facilitate positive change in Nova Scotia.



Family: Safe Place Lorne Julien Freedom Family Dr. Henry Bishop

We just hung our original painting from Lorne Julien and the lithograph done by Dr. Henry Bishop in our lobby. Lorne Julien is the Mi'kmaq artist that designed our seven sacred teachings mural with our students over the break creating the large mural in our east stairwell. Dr. Bishop has been a strong supporter of our students of African descent and is presently working with our male students of African descent with an empowerment and drumming mentorship over the next seven weeks. These two paintings are hung on both sides of our main entrance doors. These paintings signify our collective efforts to give our school a "family" feel and be seen and felt as a "safe place" and "free" of barriers to all who enters our school. There is an engraved plate that will title and recognize the artists and will be mounted below the painting in the near future. Take a look at these beautiful Mi'kmaq and African Nova Scotian representations of what we all strive to do in our capacity as a member of the Northeast Kings Education Centre staff family—nurture and build strong relationships with all the students and family members in our communities.

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 respectful and informed approach of expectations being discussed proactively before poor decisions are made. It's all about being proactive and consistent. It sounds simple but it can be very complex.

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, 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 disrespect and possibly 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, or even suspension.

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.

Kevin Veinot
Principal

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

Dear Parent(s) / Guardian(s),
Mother Nature has been less than cooperative and unfortunately January weather has resulted in time away from class. Students have been working hard to catch-up while in class. Please check with your child regarding homework and special project work. Weather is beyond our control, but we continue to work hard with students and stress the importance of extra effort and task completion while in class and at home. During the winter months the days are shorter and the weather makes it more challenging to get outside during free time at school. Whenever possible after school and in the evenings, please encourage your child to get outside for fresh air and exercise. Regular activity and exercise help energize academic efforts during the day and help with student engagement.

February is African Heritage Month. While diversity within the curriculum is an ongoing priority throughout the school year, February is an additional opportunity to examine and celebrate the contributions of African Canadians. Just this week Dr. Henry Bishop visited Northeast Kings Education Centre and led a drumming session with several students in grade 6-12. Student Support Worker, Ms. Clements continues to be active facilitating classroom activities and support for students. During November, Middle School students attended an African dance and culture workshop that was an enlightening learning experience for students and staff.

During the holiday break, students and Mi'kmaq Artist Lorne Julien from the Millbrook First Nation created a mural of the Seven Sacred Teachings in the east end entrance of the building. The Seven Sacred Teachings represented in the artistic mural are an important symbol of the guiding principles, cultural values, beliefs, and practices of the Mi'kmaq & other First Nation Peoples. The symbols represented in the mural also reinforce the importance of respect and understanding for all students and staff.

During the coming weeks and months, grade 7 & 8 students will be activity engaged in project based learning (PBL) activities that reflect the new provincial curriculum for these grade levels. PBL is an expectation for all students. Curriculum outcomes are taught, examined and assessed with equal importance as previously assessed outcomes. PBL work is intended to be collaborative and requires students to examine a variety of curricular topics across the curriculum. Significant time and preparation has been spent preparing these units of study and student participation and commitment is absolutely necessary. Assessment of student learning will be evaluated during each PBL activity and will continue to represent a significant portion of student learning time in their daily schedule. If you have questions about project based learning, please contact your child's teacher, or school administration.

In addition to academics, students continue to participate in a variety of extracurricular activities. Middle Level Titans are involved in robotics, junior hockey, basketball, badminton, tech crew, cheerleading and the after school program. Recognizing the importance of physical fitness and being outside, classes are participating in our annual skating and broomball program as an extension of healthy active living and physical education class. 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. Wednesday, February 13th from 6:30pm-8:30pm is Middle School Student Led Conferences. This is an excellent opportunity to observe your child's academic progress. We look forward to seeing you during student led conferences.

I would like to remind parents of middle school students about the importance of 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 photo identification to the administration office to start your account.

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 March 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,
Greg Fox, Vice-Principal

NEWS FROM STUDENT SERVICES

Course Changes

Course changes may be made through Student Services until February 15th. 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 2019-2020

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. On the morning of February 12th students will have the opportunity to hear firsthand about a course they are interested in taking or want to know more about. Course recommendation forms and registration forms will be delivered to our students to help them make the most informed choices for their academic success. Completed and signed Course Registration forms are due February 22nd! Courses offered for next year are based on what the students choose! Students will plug in their choices for courses here in the library during the week of Feb 25th to Feb 28th.

GRAD INFO

NSCC

Students who are considering programs at the Nova Scotia Community College beginning September 2019 are encouraged to apply ASAP. Any grade 11 student who is considering NSCC programs for the following year (September 2020) are also able to apply at this time.

University Information

Many deadlines are fast approaching for University. Most applications are due by March 1st 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.

Scholarship Info

Many scholarship applications are coming into student services. Please come down and check it out!

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 keep a check on the Grad Google Classroom to be informed on who is visiting and when.

Opportunities for Students in High School

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 site with further information including the application form is: www.myexplore.ca. Deadline is Feb 28th.

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 27th to July 5th at the Nova Scotia Agricultural/Dal Campus in Truro. Students must have completed grade 10 or 11 by June 21st and be 15-18 years old. Please see Mrs Pineo-Sponagle if interested.

PHYS. ED DEPARTMENT

The Phys. Ed Department is always looking for lightly worn sneakers, athletic pants, shorts and t-shirts. They are greatly appreciated and used by many students throughout the year during Physical Education class time.

DO (DISCOVERING OPPORTUNITIES)

Discovering Opportunities (DO) is a program that is offered for students entering grade 9 at NKEC. It is a privilege for NKEC to be able to offer this program and is the only school in the AVRSB that does so.

Students attend the core courses as a small cohort of 20 students and have two lead teachers. DO is in an integrated project-based environment. Students participate in activities to enhance personal growth, academic skills, and personal and career goal setting.

Students that make an excellent fit for the program are those who would fit some of the following criteria:

- Feel disconnected from learning, for a variety of reasons and/or are not meeting their full academic potential.
- Would contribute to positive group dynamics.
- Would benefit from being part of a close-knit learning community.
- See little connection between the classroom and real life.
- Could benefit from more opportunities for empowerment.
- Be prepared to commit to this alternative learning approach and participate in all parts of the DO program.

Grade 8 students at KCA and NKEC will be receiving a presentation regarding the DO program and hear from some students who are part of the current NKEC DO group. ...

Additional information for parents of Grade 8 students who are interested in DO will be included in the Grade 8 to 9 Parent Info Session at NKEC, Tuesday, March 26th, 6:30-7:30. Students wishing to be considered for interviews must submit an application by Friday, March 29th. Applications are available from the Grade 8 homeroom teachers, school administrator, Mr. Sanford (Rm. 204) or Mrs. Cunningham (Rm. 202).

MARCH BREAK TRIP

Hey! Are you part of the Class of 19 or 20? Go to eftours.ca and check out tour # 1933661kh (London, Paris, Florence, and Rome) The Classes of 20 or 21 can check out tour number 2082557xa (Italy, Monaco, France, and Spain! The Mediterranean Coast) fpriddle@gnsps.ca if you have any questions

MIDDLE SCHOOL SKATING PROGRAM

A donation of new or used skates for our middle school skating program would be greatly appreciated. We are in need of hockey skates sizes 9-13.

GRAD NEWS

The 2nd hoodie order will be sent it at the end of February. Sample sweaters are available to be tried on at lunch in room 207 (Ms Faber's room). This is the FINAL chance to order grad hoodies for 2018/2019.

NKEC ATHLETICS

Our basketball and hockey teams are all meeting with success as I write this article. The boys' hockey team lost in the semi-final of the Art Lightfoot and continue to represent the school very well. They host Middleton this Friday night in Canning. The girls' hockey team is coming off a 2-0 loss to the undefeated Avalanche from Avonview and are consistently showing that they are in the mix this year. Our junior hockey teams are very strong and continue to show dominance in their games. Our senior girls' basketball team is 5-2 in league play and will enter regionals next weekend at West Kings as the #2 seed from the valley. The senior boys are 3-2 and are in a logjam for seeds 3-5 in a very competitive league. Our JV boys are hosting a challenge game Thursday against Parkview, with the winner qualifying for regionals this weekend at Horton. Our junior girls' team defeated West Hants 46-30 in the district semi-final and will play in the championship next week against Kings Edgehill. Our junior boys play Horton today in their district semi-final.

Our girls curling team will participate in regionals in Berwick on February 22/23 and our cheer team is practicing twice a week working on their routine for regionals. Our ski team and snowboarders are in the middle of their 3 race regionals, sending our biggest group in years. Good luck to all student athletes.

There have been numerous incidents in Nova Scotia and Western Region of officials receiving varying levels of abuse from spectators. From what I have seen and heard, our parents do a very good job in this area. I want to remind everyone that this needs to continue, as we model what positive support looks like. As a spectator, it is paramount that we all realize we are not coaches or officials. I appreciate your efforts to date and expect it to continue moving forward. Student athletes, please be reminded that your first priority is to the classroom and that you are expected to be a strong school citizen who demonstrates leadership and humility.

Important Dates

FEBRUARY	
11	High School Report Cards Go Home
12	Early Dismissal 12:05 pm
13	Middle School Student Led 6:30-8:30 pm
15	Last Day For Course Changes
18	Heritage Day – NO SCHOOL
22	Student Course Registration Forms Due
26-28	Online Course Registration
MARCH	
7	Evening With The Arts
8	Middle School Marking Day – NO SCHOOL For Grades 6-8
8	March Newsletter
13	Middle School Report Cards Go Home
18-22	March Break
25	First Teaching Day after Break