



Northeast Kings Education Centre

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Principal- Kevin Veinot

January 2019

MISSION STATEMENT

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

January

Dear Parent(s) and/or Guardian(s),

We hope that the start of 2019 found you healthy and happy and this continues throughout the year! We have high school exams starting on January 28th and we have been sending proactive messages to our students that they can be successful in all of their courses if they put a full commitment to their academics. We want our students to focus on the end goal from the start and not dwell on the obstacles that they have in front of them. Hopefully they can work on this goal and "succeed" in all that they take on for the remainder of the school year. Please support your child at home in getting them to start preparing for their exams now. 30 minutes of review a night now makes a big difference when it comes to exam time.



The Seven Sacred Teachings of the Mi'kmaq Mural: Over the winter break we had Mi'kmaq artist, Lorne Julien, from the Millbrook community at our school with 10 of our students of aboriginal descent and blooming art students working on a one of a kind mural of the seven sacred teachings of the Mi'kmaq. It was a great surprise to all students and staff when they returned to see the masterpiece! We will be having a smudging and blessing of our mural later this month from an elder from the Glooscap community.

Exams: Senior High exams will be written from Monday, January 28th through Thursday, January 31st. The exam schedule is out and posted on the school website. Please encourage your child to get organized and prepare for her/his exams. Friday, February 1st will be a marking day for high school staff and so there **will be no classes for all high school students**. It will be a professional development day for all Middle School staff so there will be no school for our middle school students.

Attendance: Consistent attendance at school is directly related to success at school. Our overall student attendance has improved since the new attendance policy has come into effect October 1st, 2017. We have gone from a daily absentee rate of 10-11% to a rate of about 7.5%. I am asking you as parents and guardians to please stress the importance of a good education and consistent school attendance to your son or daughter.

Anxiety: With end of course assessments and exams approaching, your child will be experiencing increased stress and anxiety. This is very typical and normal and it is a good thing for them to experience as they develop coping strategies for this stressor. Preparation is one of the best strategies to combat exam anxiety. Let your child know that their anxiety is normal and everyone experiences it regularly. Everyone needs to experience this stress because combating stress is a skill that everyone needs to be able to handle as they grow up. As parents, we do not want to try to eliminate all stressful situations from our children because that does not help them in developing skills to handle the stress from later stressors they will experience when they are on their own. Continue to reassure them that this feeling is normal and will pass with continued effort in preparing for their assessment.



AP Capstone Program for current grade nine students: We will be meeting this next week with any grade nine students that may be interested in becoming part of our rigorous academic AP Capstone Program for grade 10. Our AP Capstone program is the only one in the Maritime Provinces and it offers university caliber courses to our high school students. There will be a parent meeting regarding this program later this month after we meet with all grade nine students interested in joining this sensational academic program.

On behalf of the students and staff at Northeast Kings Education Centre we wish a very happy, healthy and prosperous 2019. There are a number of things happening at Northeast Kings Education Centre as we approach exam time in the High School and getting close to the end of term in the Middle School. Please take some time to read the newsletter and remain informed about what's happening at your daughter's or son's school. Also, keep an eye on the school website: <http://www.nkec.ca>

Kevin Veinot
Principal

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

Happy New Year Students, Parents & Guardians. As we begin 2019, we remind students to renew their academic focus. During the last four months students have made great progress academically and we wish to continue the same level of focus and work ethic moving forward. We are very pleased how grade six students have transitioned to the new routines of Northeast Kings during the fall months. Meanwhile, grade seven and eight students have done a terrific job this fall in the classroom, getting involved in their school community and modelling NKEC Expectations for Success.

Student leadership is an important aspect of school life at NKEC. Middle School Spirit Squad students continue to do great work. Prior to the holiday break, Spirit Squad students hosted and served a hot turkey dinner to all middle school students. The turkey dinner was a tremendous time of fellowship among students prior to the holiday break. Another group of grade eight student leaders are working with high school fitness leadership students to provide noon hour support at Glooscap Elementary School. Grade eight Titans help mentor elementary students during various noon hour physical activities and games. Working with students at Glooscap Elementary has been an excellent opportunity for middle school students to develop confidence, while giving back to the school community.

We encourage students to work hard in class, review concepts taught at home after each school day, complete homework as assigned, organize learning materials, practice mental math skills and read daily. Often 15-20 minutes of review at home can make a significant difference in a student's academic confidence. If students find themselves overwhelmed academically, please ensure your child has completed all of the strategies listed above. If they are still experiencing difficulty please encourage your child to seek support from their classroom teacher; often a few minutes at the end of class, or at recess/lunch a few times per week is enough time to get your child back on track. As the school year progresses, teachers will continue to promote independence, problem solving and critical thought. We want all students to work as independently as possible. Teachers and educational assistants always ask students to put forth their best effort and we look forward to observing student's continued academic growth.

A reminder that all middle school students have agendas that are used to track homework, assignment and test dates, and other important school related information. Please check your child's agenda regularly to ensure they are on the right track. The Remind App is another useful tool that several teachers use to communicate assignment information. In addition, the Parent Portal helps track student progress as well. If you would like additional information about any of the following communication tools, please contact your child's homeroom teacher.

In the months ahead I encourage every middle school student to get involved in an extracurricular activity at school. Maintaining an active role in the school community enhances a student's educational experience. The After School Program will occur most Fridays during the months of January, February and March. The program is free and transportation is available. Currently students are skating and playing broomball at the Canning Arena. Program forms are available in the main office. Jr. Girls & Boys basketball, middle level hockey, robotics, cheerleading, middle level drama, musical, badminton, and ski team are additional activities occurring during the winter months. Thank you to parents, community volunteers and staff members for volunteering time to support extracurricular programming. Running, or supporting a team, club, or special event requires time away from family and friends and as a school we are grateful for your commitment to NKEC Students.

During the winter months the frequency of colds, viruses and the flu typically increases. If your child is ill, please contact the school to provide absent notification. When your child is feeling better, please ensure that they communicate with their teachers to ensure concepts are reviewed and missed school work is completed. We encourage parents to contact teachers directly via email, or phone regarding missed school work if your child is away from school for more than a couple of school days. While illness is beyond anyone's control, we continue to reinforce the importance of consistent attendance. The provincial attendance policy requires greater transparency, accountability and monitoring of student attendance. Every effort is made by the school to collaborate with students and families to ensure regular attendance. Consistent attendance at school is directly related to success at school.

As the school year progresses, please continue to contact your child's teacher or school administration regarding your child's social, emotional and academic growth.

All the best in 2019!

Greg Fox,
Vice-Principal, Northeast Kings Education Centre

NEWS FROM STUDENT SERVICES

Course Changes - There will be Parent Course Selection Information Sessions on Monday **February 4th**. **Grade 9** parents meet at **6:30 pm** and **Grade 10 and 11** parents meet at **7:30 pm**. **Grade 9** parents interested in the O2 program will meet at **7:30 pm**. Storm date for these meetings is February 6th. This will be an opportunity for parents to learn about course selection and the registration process, as well as learning about the various course pathways gearing towards post-graduation goals. 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 student schedules.

Initial Course Information and Registration for 2018-2019

Over the course of the next few months students from grades 9 – 11 will be receiving information on the Course Selection Process for the next school 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 Fri. February 22nd!**

Applications for Universities/Colleges

Grade 12 students who will be applying for fall 2019 admission into university or college are encouraged to begin the process as soon as possible. Many deadlines are fast approaching and some are as early as February 1st.

Nova Scotia Recycles Contest (Now called Divert)

Wanted to remind everyone that the **final deadline for submissions for this year's Divert NS Contest is April 22nd, 2019**. Entries must be postmarked by this date, so please submit your entries as soon as possible. There are great prizes for all from grade P-12. Grade 12's are encouraged to write a research essay and would be eligible to win the grand prize of a \$5,000 scholarship. For more information check out the website: www.rfb.com.

Dr. P. Anthony Johnstone

The Dr. P. Anthony Johnstone Memorial Entrance Scholarship, a \$6,000.00 scholarship, is available to Nova Scotia students entering their first year of university. The province established the scholarship in 1991 to honour the life and work of the late Tony Johnstone, a long-time educator and human rights advocate who devoted his life to promoting multicultural understanding and social equality. To be eligible for the scholarship, a student must live in Nova Scotia, be graduating from high school and beginning an undergraduate degree program at a Maritime university in the fall. The applicant must also have demonstrated an interest in multiculturalism and human rights. **Due date: March 31st, 2019.**

Terry Fox Humanitarian Award

Terry Fox Humanitarian Awards are open to graduating secondary level students and those currently studying towards a first university degree or diploma in a Canadian post-secondary institution. To be considered, applicants must meet the following criteria: Involvement in voluntary humanitarian work. Undergraduates studying towards their first university degree or diploma at a Canadian post-secondary institution in Canada. Maintain a satisfactory academic standing and continued involvement in voluntary humanitarian and community work.

Due February 1st, 2019.

Kinette Club of Kentville and District

Students who are, or will be, attending a recognized post-secondary institution during the 2019-2020 school year, are encouraged to apply for the \$1,000 bursary. **Applications are due February 1st, 2019.**

GRAD PHOTO PROOFS & RETAKES

If you have not received your on-line proofs, please come in to Student Services. Lifetouch Photography will do Grad Photo Re-takes Mon. Jan 14th in the Library. To book your appointment please visit <http://www.lifetouch.ca/mygradphotos> or you can pick up a brochure in Student Services. If you missed having your grad photo taken or you would like to have re-takes, please book an appointment. Also, if you return your proofs at the time of your re-take appointment, you will not have to pay the sitting fee again. If you have any questions, please see one of the secretaries in Student Services.

GRAD NEWS

Happy New Year Grads. It's that time of year when we begin to collect your height for Grad gown sizing. Early Grads leaving after first semester should have their height submitted before leaving. All of them should be in by the end of April. Metric or Imperial measurements are both acceptable. They can be submitted to Patricia Schofield on Grad Google Classroom. Thank you.

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

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.

NKEC ATHLETICS REPORT

Happy New Year everyone. Our hockey and basketball teams are in mid-season form, with all 9 teams competing in league play and tournaments. Both of our senior basketball teams have tournaments this weekend, with the boys in Millwood and the girls in Amherst. Both teams are young and looking to find their stride in league play. Our junior boys' team is 2-2 and our junior girls' team is proving to be very strong this year. Our JV boys team won their first game and play at Horton this Friday. Our senior hockey teams are both very competitive, matching up very well with all teams in Western Region. Our two junior hockey teams are very strong, as our grade 9 team dominated at the first 3 on 3 tournament of the year.

Our cheer team is working hard on their routine, planning for regionals and provincials later in the year. We also have a boys and girls ski team, with 9 skiers in total at this time. This is wonderful growth in this sport for our school. A special thank you to all the coaches and teachers who are helping to make school sport an integral piece in the development of our NKEC students. I want to remind all coaches, student athletes and supporters that referee abuse or any displays of contradiction are not acceptable on any level. We need to model positive behaviour and the ability to work through adversity. As a school, we need to understand that officials are human and will make mistakes. How we handle those mistakes defines us as people and role models. Nothing is gained from using referees as a reason why we win or lose a game. In basketball, there are roughly 150 whistles in a game. If a ref gets 85% of the calls correct it means that they missed 22 calls during the game. 85% is very good when you look at the definition of success in society. We should be encouraging our refs with hopes of allowing more people to be interested in refereeing. We currently are suffering from shortages of officials across the province in many sports and research has shown that abuse of officials is the main reason why. We are very good at NKEC in this area, but let us aim to be even better.

NEWS FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT:

January usually is the quiet month for the Music Department, but this year we are making up our postponed Winter Concert by having it on **Sunday, January 13th @ 2:00 pm**. This is a free will offering at the door and we'll have 50/50 tickets available throughout the afternoon. Please make plans to come out and hear our Jr. Concert Band, Sr. Concert Band, North Mountain Concert Band and Sr. Jazz Band, as they present traditional music and holiday-themed music for your enjoyment!

We are also reading through new music and revisiting music already in the folders to decide what we would like to play for the Annapolis Valley Music Festival, Atlantic Band Festival and our end of the year concerts. Please keep encouraging your student to practice and work through the difficult parts of this music!

This is also a reminder that we will not have rehearsals for Sr. Concert or Sr. Jazz Bands during Exam week (January 24-31, 2019). Jr. Concert Band will continue to rehearse during their regular school days.

O2 (OPTIONS & OPPORTUNITIES)

During February all grade 9 students will attend a presentation regarding the O2 program. O2 is an academic, career-focused, high school program where students get to explore career options and opportunities through CO-OP or work placements while earning academic credits. This exciting academic program option for high school offers a preferred seat at NSCC in a program of choice or provides the opportunity to opt for university. While cohorted in a small class of 20 for some courses, every high school course is available to O2 students. O2 is a great academic option for hands-on learners that are looking for a different way to engage with and do high school.

An information session for parents of interested Grade 9 students will be held at NKEC on February 4th at 7:30. Students wishing to be considered for interviews must submit an application by February 5th. Applications are available at Student Services or can be downloaded from our school website.

MIDDLE SCHOOL KNITTING CLUB

The Middle School loom knitting club is looking for donations of yarn. The club will be knitting items to donate to various organizations. If you or anyone you know has yarn and would be willing to donate it please drop it off at Student Services or contact Angela Pound or Krista Duncan.

January	
13	Winter Concert 2:00 pm
14	Grad Photo Retakes
15	Early Dismissal 12:05
28-31	HS Exams* (<i>Jan 24 - NSVS exams</i>)
February	
1	NO SCHOOL Regional Shutdown
4	Second Semester Begins
4	Gr 9 to 10 Parent Info session 6:30 pm ** O2 Parent Info, Gr 10 to 11, Gr 11 to 12 Parent Info session 7:30 pm**
8	February Newsletter
8	HS Report Cards
12	Early Dismissal 12:05
13	MS Student Led 6:30-8:30 pm
15	Last Day for 2 nd Semester Course Changes

*in case of storm day everything will be pushed ahead one day

**storm date Feb 6