



Northeast Kings Education Centre

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<http://www.nkec.ca>

Principal- Kevin Veinot

December 2020

MISSION STATEMENT

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



Compliments of the Season to You and Your Family!



What started out as a fresh new calendar year quickly turned itself into one of the most challenging years over the past century. With a global pandemic on top of us, many things came to a grinding stop. We are typically very busy people trying to handle our health, our family, our careers and other responsibilities. Our lives tend to be quite hectic throughout the year. Sometimes it can be quite overwhelming. All that changed on March 13, 2020 and we experienced an entirely different normal day. We were isolated, anxious, apprehensive and even scared of what was happening. We were forced to be alone, without friends, physical contact and socialization. It forced us to slow things down. A positive of this experience is that it gave us time to reflect on what is truly important to us. To cherish those things and not take them for granted. It is not over yet but we are seeing the proverbial light at the end of a tunnel with vaccines almost here. With the Kwanzaa, Christmas, and Hanukkah holidays rushing towards us, this year let's take what we learned from our isolation and truly value what these celebrations are for. Celebrations of life and the thankfulness we should have for that. My advice for you this Holiday Season is to make some time to sit back, to relax, and to reflect on what is most important – your health, your family and your friends. This year's celebrations will not be like last year's due to our pandemic but take the time to share with others what you are grateful for and let them know the reasons for your gratefulness.



We are so pleased that Public Health and the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development has declared our school safe for all students to return, starting this past Monday, December 7. It was based

on factors such as the overall public health status of our school community and surrounding areas, contact tracing and other public health measures, as well as the deep cleaning processes that has taken place. The measures we have in place for all students and staff have proven that what we are doing is working well. Public Health had requested almost 200 Covid tests be taken of our staff and students and only one came back positive. Wearing masks, washing and sanitizing hands frequently, disinfecting student desks and high contact places frequently, and physical distancing whenever possible have shown us that they are effective in preventing the spread of the virus. Thank you for reinforcing with your child the importance of them wearing their mask and meeting all safety expectations we have for them while at our school.



Thank you to all staff and students for supporting virtual learning at home during the eight days we had to close our doors to our students. We had a huge turnout of students with almost every student participating virtually! We had over 90% of our high school students participate in their e-learning time

and about 75% of our Middle School students participating! That is quite the accomplishment! We are proud of how our Titan family has helped each other get through these challenging days. Our teachers and support staff were so excited to have your child back in their seat on this week to teach and support them. I spoke to about 15 students and every one of them were so glad to be back in school. School is a

place where students are to learn but also a place to socialize and grow as a young adult citizen.

The Christmas spirit is alive and well at our Northeast Kings Education Centre campus and surrounding communities. We see examples of students showing goodwill to each other, each and every day. The Student's Council makes generous donations to the Food Bank and our Breakfast Program throughout the year. Here at Northeast Kings Education Centre we have many learning opportunities that we provide to our students to make their education here a positive and rewarding experience. The annual "Christmas Angel Tree" in Student Services is very well supported, providing gifts to many girls and boys in our surrounding communities. Our Breakfast and Lunch Programs coordinated by both staff and student volunteers continues to provide nutritious food to many of our students daily. We are receiving wonderful donations from our students, staff and community members to support our school community. We are very fortunate to have such wonderful community citizens that recognize the various needs and supports that are necessary to make our school community feel welcome, safe and secure to our students. I personally want to thank you all for your great generosity that you have shown in many forms over the first four months of this school year.



We have met with all interested and curious grade nine students regarding our AP Capstone Program for next year to inform them about the Program and give them information about our rigorous academic courses available to our students with academic prowess and strong work ethic. We will have a parent/guardian meeting this month for our interested grade nine students' parents/guardians so they can be fully informed of what our AP Capstone Program is all about and help their child in the course selection process that has started already.

December is just like any other month here at school with regards to trying to keep the communication lines open to our many families. We just had our first ever virtual parent-teacher interviews and had almost 330 families present! Thanks for taking such a vested interest in your child's education. It was great to hear from you all! We are always providing an opportunity for parents and guardians to gain information about their child at Northeast Kings. Access to the Parent Portal is another great way for you to track your child's grades and attendance. This is a way that school and home can be more informed about how each child is doing at our school. Our staff family is working very hard at providing a positive academic climate in which learning is a priority for all of our students.



We have added some additional signage at our front entrance to our school this month to show everyone who enters our school who we are and that we are proud of our "HOME".

Our students are a "family" of respectful Titan citizens and they reinforce this image every day at our school. Sure, there are some bumps along the way as they grow as a Titan and we deal with these bumps, but over the four or seven years that students are in our school, we see very positive growth from every student as we help support them in becoming young adults and make their way into our communities as respectful citizens.

On another note, far too often our communities are hit with tragedy during this winter season involving motor vehicles. Please speak to your child about the dangers of driving on slippery roads, texting, drinking and driving or getting into a vehicle with someone under the influence of alcohol or drugs. One's decision based on poor judgment can result in a lifetime of heartache. Please keep this in mind as you relax and enjoy some good cheer with your family and friends during the holidays.

On behalf of the students and staff at Northeast Kings Education Centre, please accept our sincere wishes of a Happy Holiday Season and a Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

Sincerely,
Kevin Veinot
Principal



MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

Welcome to December! It has been a unique journey since school started in September and I would like to express my gratitude to all our middle school families who provided immense support during our recent online learning.

Recently, students received their term one report card. This assessment provides an accurate representation of your child's academic progress. While report cards reveal important information, parent-teacher interviews provide even more insight regarding your child's overall success. I am hopeful that all parents and/ or guardians were able to participate in the parent teacher appointments to discuss your child's progress. If a virtual meeting time was not available please contact your child's teacher by telephone, a hand written note, or email. Parent and school communication is incredibly important and will help ensure student success.

Northeast Kings Education Centre continues to promote the use of the parent/student portal. This online resource provides specific information regarding attendance, assignment due dates and student assessment results. If you would like to sign-up for the portal, please contact the school office for more information.

The NKEC Library's virtual Scholastic book fair has been extended! You can now shop at the library's online Scholastic Book Fair 24/7 until Sunday, December 13th at midnight. The link to the store can be found on the NKEC homepage and the library's website.

The majority of students are working hard in class and taking advantage of learning opportunities. Please encourage your child to ask for academic help at school when necessary and to advocate for themselves when a situation may arise. Reviewing concepts at home, reading and completing homework daily help extend learning at home.

With only a week of school remaining until the holiday season, we continue to remind students and reinforce Northeast Kings Education Centre's Expectations for Success and Our school's new COVID-19 protocols. We will continue to provide consistent reminders in the days ahead to ensure students work hard and continue to be respectful citizens. Thank you for your help reinforcing similar expectations at home.

As we approach the holiday season I hope that you and your family have a restful holiday and as a staff, we look forward to students returning to school in the New Year.

Sincerely,
Pete Gebhardt
Vice-Principal

NEWS FROM AVRCE

How do I find out if school is cancelled?

AVRCE shares information in several ways when school is cancelled due to weather or road conditions.

Parents/Guardians: AVRCE will text/email you using PowerSchool and the contact information you provided to your school in September. Let the school know if your email or phone number changes.

School Community Members (grandparents, childcare providers, etc.): You can sign up for Notify Me texts/emails on the AVRCE website. If you signed up before, your information is still on file (message delivery timing will depend on your mobile service provider).

AVRCE also shares announcements on:

- * www.avrce.ca
- * @AVRCE_NS on Twitter
- * AVRCE phone line 902-538-4600 or toll-free 1-800-850-3887
- * Local media (AVR Network, Magic 94.9, 89.3 K-Rock, CBC Radio 1, CTV Morning Live Atlantic)

For more information, visit www.avrce.ca/storm-daysschool-cancellations

NEWS FROM STUDENT SERVICES

Scholarships

Scholarship information is now available at Student Services for the Schulich Leader Scholarship (Preliminary Essay due to Ms. Garland by January 15th), along with several others!

For scholarship information please check the whiteboard at school by

student services as well as our scholarship info box in the Student Services Office.

NEWS FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT



Thank you to everyone who has been a true supporter for the NKEC Music Department during this rough time of Covid-19. We did receive our refund from the cancelled trip and hopefully another trip can be scheduled next year.

Unfortunately, we have suspended our after school rehearsals until after the break in order to help flatten our second wave. Students have instruments at home and new music was passed out to everyone affected prior to making this decision. We will continue to make arrangements and plans to send out a virtual concert to our family and friends, once we have returned from break.

On behalf of everyone in the Music Department, please have a safe and joyous holiday season and above all: MASK UP!!

ATHLETICS



Greetings and best wishes for a safe and healthy holiday season to all of our coaches, student-athletes and families from the Athletic Department at Northeast Kings Education Center. We are currently in quiet times athletically in hopes that things will look better for us in

the New Year. Our teams can continue to practice and are always asked to do so with caution and public safety in mind. We want to thank the coaches for their continued efforts during these challenging times, as their main objectives right now are to facilitate for the student-athletes valuable practice time, needed physical activity and welcomed socialization. That has to be our mandate at this time and we thank everyone for understanding. Please take care of yourselves and those around you.

Hoping for a promising 2021!

NKEC CHRISTMAS ANGEL TREE

This year NKEC is proud to be supporting the Christmas Angel Tree Program. This program allows families, who may not be able to, the opportunity to have gifts under the tree on Christmas Day. If you would like to donate a toy, clothing, or gift card, please come to the Christmas Angel Tree located in Student Services and choose a gift to buy. The gifts must be new. Bring the gift back into student services and we will deliver them to the Salvation Army to distribute them in the community. Thank you for your kindness and your support!



GRAD NEWS



The deadline to order grad sweatshirts for the holidays has passed but you can still order them throughout the year at <http://nkec.ca/content/grad-info>.

MARCH BREAK TRIP

Are you currently in grades 10 or 11 and interested in touring Greece during March Break 2022 with a 100% refund guarantee? Visit eftours.ca and look at tour #2348451ph. Current grade 9 and 10 students can check out tour # 2429265vk for 2023 also! Contact friddle@gnspecs.ca or drop by room 213 for more details.

YEARBOOK

Do you know a student or 2020 grad who has not picked up their 2020 yearbook yet? Contact Mr. Priddle at friddle@gnspecs.ca to arrange to pick up your book.

Would you like to support our yearbook and advertise your business? Place an ad starting at \$50. Contact friddle@gnspecs.ca for details.



Dates to Remember

DECEMBER – DECEMBRE – KESIKEWIKUS	
18	Last Teaching Day before Winter Break
JANUARY – JANVIER - PENAMUJUIKUS	
11	First Teaching Day after Winter Break
12-14	Grad Photo Retakes and Friends/Hobbies Photos
15	January Newsletter
25	First Day of Exams (High School)
28	Last Day of Exams (High School)
29	Marking Day/Site-Based In Service – No School Gr. 6-12



Want to shape the health of your community?

Join your local Community Health Board!

Now Accepting Application for Youth Volunteers

CHB members help create a healthy community through:

- Community Health Planning
- Health and Wellness Promotion
- Community Leadership
- Distribution of Wellness Fund Grants to Community Organizations
- Providing guidance to Nova Scotia Health



To volunteer, contact: WesternCHBs@nshealth.ca

The Community Health Board is committed to being a group that is free of discrimination, values diversity and is representative of all our communities. Nova Scotia Health's Priority Populations are defined as follows: Indigenous Peoples; People of African Descent; Persons with Disabilities; immigrants; and persons belonging to 2SLGBTQIA+. Members of these groups are encouraged to self-identify.

CHB Priorities:



Housing



Community Connection



Food Security



Recreation & Wellness