



# Northeast Kings Education Centre

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<http://www.nkec.ca>

Principal- Kevin Veinot

February 2021

## 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),



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. We have a group of high school students who are organizing a media campaign to better educate all our students about recognizing and celebrating our differences and we are having a virtual presentation on Safe Schools and Antiracism by a Nationally renowned speaker Aubrey Noronha on April 9, 2021

### 2021 African Heritage Month: Ties that Bind; Faith, Family and Community



The 2021 African Heritage Month theme, Black History Matters: Listen, Learn, Share and Act, recognizes the important legacy of people of African descent and the long-standing history in the

development of Canada.

The theme brings focus and increased awareness of racialized issues of a community that has overcome great adversity for inclusion. It further calls on us to listen, learn, share and act to make society a better place.

Nova Scotia has over 50 historic African Nova Scotian communities with a long, deep, and complex history dating back over 400 years. African Heritage Month provides us with another opportunity to celebrate our culture, legacy, achievements, and contributions of people of African Descent – past and present.



**Family: Safe Place** Lorne Julien

**Freedom Family** Dr. Henry Bishop



We proudly hang 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 creating the large mural in our east stairwell. Dr. Bishop has been a strong supporter of our students of African descent.

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. 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.



High School students received their **report cards** on **Friday, February 5<sup>th</sup>**. We enter a very important time of year with **Course Registration** for the 2021-2022 school year. Our grade 9 students have completed their registration forms already. Students in Grades 10-11 will receive Course Registration information by February 18<sup>th</sup>. We are having videos all this week and next explaining our elective courses to our students. Please take the time to thoroughly read the registration information and access the student registration handbook that will be made available to our students. 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.



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, Snapchat, IG, 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),

Welcome to February and the official halfway point of the school year. Northeast Kings Education Centre believes in developing a learning environment that nurtures academic, physical, social and emotional growth. Our ongoing mission is to support students in all facets of school life. As we progress through the winter months we continue to encourage students to put 100% effort into all their academic work and be respectful.



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.

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 give the administration office a call and we will help get your account set up.

As we approach March and the next round of report cards, I ask students to continue working hard and be mindful of NKEC Expectations for Success and COVID-19 Protocols. 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

## NEWS FROM STUDENT SERVICES

### Course Changes



Course changes may be made through Student Services until **February 18th**. 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 2021-2022

Over the next month and a half, students from grades 10 – 11 will be receiving information on the Course Selection Process for next year. On the morning announcement students are hearing and watching many of the high school teachers giving info around the courses they teach. 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 25th! Courses offered for next year are based on what the students choose. Students will plug in their choices for courses here at school during the week of March 1<sup>st</sup>**.

### GRAD INFO

#### NSCC

Students who are considering programs at the Nova Scotia Community College beginning September 2020 are encouraged to apply ASAP. Any grade 11 student who is considering NSCC programs for the following year (September 2021) 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.

#### Scholarship Info

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

#### Post-Secondary Visits

This year because of the pandemic we are not able to have Post-Secondary Visits at school but many schools are doing this on-line. Please watch the Potential Grad Google Classroom for info on these events.

### ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT

Our basketball and hockey teams have returned to action with



all 8 teams playing a busy exhibition schedule. We are very hopeful that the senior teams will be able to get a completed regional process finished without any more interruptions. At this time, there are no plans for a provincial champion, as that will depend on future

decisions from our Health Authority. Best wishes to all of our teams and thank you to all the coaches putting in that extra valuable time for our students.

We had 40 student-athletes at our first badminton practice and table tennis, cheer and skiing/snowboarding are also practicing with hopes of future competition. We have a mixed curling team that will enter the regional format if curling rinks allow players from outside their area to play in their buildings. Such are the times, but we are privileged and thrilled to be offering what we can and many valuable lessons are being learned along this particular journey.

A reminder to all student-athletes to consistently represent yourself, your team and your school extremely well when competing in school sports. School sports are an extension of the school day and a wonderful opportunity to make a positive difference to your school. Take this obligation seriously and continue to represent Northeast Kings with class, a determined work ethic and positive sportsmanship.

Dale Sanford/Ross Bentley  
Co-Athletic Directors

### BADMINTON



Badminton will be starting this month! Due to Covid restrictions, our season had a delayed start, but will be extended. The club is open to anyone in middle or high school, and there is a small participation fee TBD.

Sr. Girls Softball tryouts will begin near the beginning of March. If interested, please listen for upcoming announcements and be sure to sign up. Thanks!

**TABLE TENNIS**

The NKEC table tennis team will be starting up soon. Practices will be starting on Thursdays after school the week of February 11th. This is open to anyone in grades 6-12. Please email Mr. Craan for more information.

**MARCH BREAK TRIP**



Students currently in grades 10 and 11 can book now to reserve one of a limited number of spots touring Greece during March Break 2022. Students can join in fundraising (now in progress) prior to signing up. Go to [eftours.ca](http://eftours.ca) and check out tour # 2348451ph for details and to sign up. Drop by room 213 or email [fpriddle@gnsps.ca](mailto:fpriddle@gnsps.ca) for further info.



**MUSIC DEPARTMENT**

This February is looking completely different for the NKEC Music Programs. Due to our restrictions from Covid-19, we're still operating at half levels for our Sr. Concert Band, Sr. Jazz Band and Middle School Band. Unfortunately, the adult band – North Mountain Concert Band – is still on hiatus until community members are allowed back in the building.



However, we have a bright spot to share with you all – we have a brand new baritone saxophone to use in the program! Thanks to the generosity of our administration and multiple fundraisers throughout the past few years, we were able to purchase this new instrument last week. Many thanks to all who have supported us and our many fundraisers – you've made a world of difference to our program.

**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](http://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-dayschool-cancellations](http://www.avrce.ca/storm-dayschool-cancellations)



FEBRUARY	
15	Heritage Day – No School
18	<b>Last Day for Course Changes</b>
18	<b>Course Fair – Grade 9-11</b>
25	High School Student Course Registration Forms Due
MARCH	
1-3	Grade 9-11 Course Registration
12	Middle School Marking Day – No School grades 6-8 only
12	Newsletter
12	Last Teaching Day before March Break
22	First Teaching Day after March Break
25	Parent Meeting (Grade 8 into 9) 6:30-7:30pm
25	Middle School Report Cards Due
29	Storm Date for Grade 8-9 Parent Meeting
31	Evening with the Arts – 6:30pm

