

CENTRAL NEWS



HALIFAX CENTRAL JUNIOR HIGH

1787 Preston St. Halifax, N.S. B3H 3V7

Phone: 421-6777 Fax: 421-2868

e-mail: central@hrrsb.ca

website: halifaxcentral.ednet.ns.ca

Robert MacMillan-Principal

Jason Flinn - Vice Principal

Kathy Reinhardt – Secretary

Principal's Message

Dear families,

Our year is quickly coming to an end but yet there is so much on the agenda for the next eight weeks. Presently, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to Jason Flinn and Ashley Wry for taking on Track and Field so that our students could compete. This is a huge undertaking that involves lunch time, after school, evenings and weekends. Their commitment speaks volumes to who they are as educators and what they value. I know I speak for the community when I say "Thank you for your dedication and time given freely for our students." Special thanks is also extended to a group of parents who have volunteered their time to assist Jason and Ashley during competition days. Track and Field would not be possible without their involvement so a huge **Thank You** comes your way.

During my last communication to you at Easter, I neglected to acknowledge our Jewish families and friends who were also celebrating Passover. Passover is celebrated as a commemoration of Jewish liberation by God from slavery in Egypt and their freedom as a nation under the leadership of Moses. This eight day festival occurs from 15-22nd of the Hebrew month of Nissan, which landed on April 10–18, 2017. I hope this was an enjoyable time for those who observed Passover.

A number of our parents have volunteered their time to ensure our grade nines have a wonderful

May Date

May 8th – Home and School meeting – 6:00

May 9 – Music Trip – leave at 8:25/back at 8

May 10 – SAC Meeting – 6-7 p.m.

May 15 – Lesley Choyce visits gr. 8 classes

May 18th – Gr. 9 Trip mtg for parents – 6 p.m.

May 19th – PD Day – No Classes

May 22nd – Victoria Day – No Classes

May 25 – Gr. 6 Orientation (for next year's Gr. 7's) – 7 p.m.

May 30 – Spring Concert – 7 p.m.

Staff Phone numbers:

Main Office	Ext 0	
Safe Arrival	Ext 1	
V.P. – J. Flinn	Ext 2	
Prin.- R. MacMillan	Ext 3	
Guid.- C. MacDonald	Ext 4	
First Floor	Extension	Room
J. Keefe	5301104	Room 4
E. Cossett	5301103	Room 3
K. Chisholm	5301110	Room 7
A.Wry	5301107	Gym Off.
Second Floor	Extension	Room
A.Wry	5301209	Room 10
J. Boutilier	5301214	Room 14
J. Legate	5301210	Room 11
A.Shannon	5301212	St. Supp.
S. Mantin	5301206	Perf. Arts
A. Jessome	5301218	Room 18
B. Vaughan	5301219	Room 19
B. Mrezar	5301220	Room 20

end-of-year dance. This support means so much to us and I want to personally thank each of you for stepping up to the plate and taking an active role. I've been privy to some of the plans and it really looks like the evening will be very exciting!

Finally, I want to thank our staff for their unwavering support of our students and school during the difficult times we went through this past year as educators. Academics did not suffer as teachers concentrated and focused on what they do best...and that is teach. We also felt that support from our community which really meant a lot. We all remain hopeful for what next year brings.

Kind regards,

Robert MacMillan

Vice Principal's Message

Dear Halifax Central Community,

There have been numerous opportunities this Spring to see the collaborative success within our school. The Coffee House Event lived up to last year's hype as fifteen performances took to the stage and showcased their talents. Without the combined efforts of staff, students and parents the event could not have lifted so many spirits. Thank-you to all those who contributed their talents, time and resources.

As we prepare to bring our year to a close there remains so much more to be accomplished for our students. Just as our Home and School came together to eagerly serve, so has a wonderful group of parents to spearhead the Grade 9 Prom! A Prom Decorating committee comprised of students has been assembled as well and are waiting in the wings to mark three years of Halifax Central achievements with a night to remember.

It has been a highlight for me this year seeing unwavering quality teaching meeting unquenchable desires to learn. Exciting field trips, guest speakers and new activities to engage students are everyday occurrences. Supporting this climate is a community showing it is ready to navigate change and invest time and energy to support our school. It is so nice to see how the forces of our strong Hurricanes can be used to rebuild.

Sincerely,

Jason Flinn

Home and School

The next Home and School meeting is Monday, May 8th at 6 p.m. We would like to thank everyone for donating so generously to the Coffee House and Auction. It was one of the most successful fundraising events our school has ever encountered.

School Advisory Council – The next SAC meeting is May 10th from 6-7 p.m.

Art Club and NEWS– Thanks everyone for all the art supplies that you donated! We are now looking for green pop bottles and milk and bottle caps.

Over the next three weeks, our grade 8 students will have local artist Hannah Minzloff working with them on an photography project in art class. The students will each be creating a photographic self-portrait in the form of a triptych, revealing how they fit into their community. With this project the students do not include an image of their faces. This is both a challenge to their vision of a self-portrait, and a way to incorporate a discussion of safety & privacy in today's digital world, where the 'selfie' is dominant.

Polar Expressions Publishing Contest - Congratulations to all of the students who participated in the Polar Expressions Publishing Contest. The following students made it through the first round of the competition and they will have their work published: Genna B. (801), Julia S. (801) and Charlie B. (901). We are very excited for you!

Grade 9 Information

There will be a grade 9 trip meeting for all parents on Thursday, May 18th at 6 p.m. in the gymnasium. Please check the school's website for June dates, including final assessments, dance and closing ceremony.

Math

Congratulations to the top ten finishers in April's Caribou Math Contest:

Kayleigh D. (Gr 8), Noah M. (Gr. 8), Annika K. (Gr. 7), Julia S. (Gr. 8), Diana H. (Gr. 7), Kathleen C. (Gr. 7), Rowan N. (Gr. 7)

Grace F. (Gr. 7), Brogan B. (Gr. 8), Saher A. (Gr. 8)

The final Caribou Contest will be held on May 3rd & 4th. Good luck to all participants, and don't forget to practice the game 'Mastermind' ☺

Also to the top performers for the recent Caribou Contest:

Shivam A – 4th in the province and 40th in the country

Jake J – 9th in the province and 83rd in the country

Sehyeon Y – 10th in the province and 85th in the country

David F – 14th in the province and 95th in the country

Andrew S – 20th in the province and 133rd in the country

Allan Y – 22nd in the province and 135th in the country

Shaw N – 23rd in the province and 142nd in the country

Keira D – 24th in the province and 145th in the country

Badhan D – 25th in the province and 146th in the country

Jenna M – 27th in the province and 158th in the country

Owen C – 30th in the province and 166th in the country

Hannah S – 31st in the province and 167th in the country

Connor C – 33rd in the province and 172nd in the country

Yurek W-L – 34th in the province and 175th in the country

Sarah T – 37th in the province and 182nd in the country

Skills Canada NSCC IT - Skilled Futures in Technology Workshop **April 26th**

On April 26th, 6 grade 8 students (Anne C., Maxie G., Victoria F., Eddy Z., Thomas R. and Joaquin C.) participated in the Skilled Futures in Technology workshop presented by Skills Canada, Nova Scotia at the NSCC IT campus in Halifax.

Students had the chance to meet industry and student mentors while exploring a variety of technology sector careers in one day. Workshops included: Coding (Brilliant Labs), Robotic Systems Integration (Lockheed Martin), Game Development (Alpha Dog Games), IT Entrepreneurship (NSCC) and Lego Robotics (NSCC)

Visit <http://www.skillsns.ca> for more information.

Good Earth Update

Grade 7 News

Spring cleaning anyone? For the month of June the grade seven members of *The Good Earth Society* will be partaking in a Clothing Drive. We will start collecting clothing items on June 5th until June 9th. If you happen to be doing any spring cleaning around your house, we ask that you please drop off any clothing during school hours or send the clothing items in with your child. We will donate the clothes to three amazing organizations: Adsum House, Phoenix and Ark. You can donate things such as socks,

footwear, rain/winter jackets sweaters etc. Might we recommend the following book to support this purging process: The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up: The Japanese Art of Decluttering and Organizing, written by Marie Kondo.

Grade 8 News

The cookie-gram fundraiser was an amazing success - almost as good as the cookies. Most of the student body was very into the Easter themed fundraiser where they could buy cookies (made by Gr. 8 members of the Good Earth Society) and send them to their peers. This was in support of the Halifax Refugee Clinic. This organization provides legal representation for those claiming refugee status in Nova Scotia and ensures that they are given a fair opportunity to present their cases before the immigration and Refugee Board. Throughout the process, their rights and their integrity are fully respected and we were able to give them 100% of our profit, which amounted to \$207.40. We look forward to doing this again next year!

We would also like to thank everyone for your support and generous donations during the H&S Coffee House café on Thursday, April 27. We made \$475 from food and drink sales. Thank you to everyone who made treats, helped set up, sold the treats and especially those who purchased the snacks!

Grade 9 News

The grade 9's will be putting on a bake sale with pet themed sweets that will take place sometime in May. All proceeds will go to support the local SPCA foundation. The SPCA is a great organization that helps take care of animals until they find a new home. As it is a non-profit, it needs all the help it can get! So, with the purrrr-chase of a tasty pastry, you'll also be helping out local heroes. It's a win-win!

Music News

* HCJH Music Students will be participating in a one day music trip to Wolfville on Tuesday, May 9, 2017. Students will need to arrive at the school between 8:15 and 8:30 am to load the bus; wearing concert dress. (Black shirt and pants or skirt) We will be returning to the school in the evening at approximately 8:00 pm.

* HCJH Music Students will also be performing in a "Spring Concert" being held at the school on Tuesday, May 30, 2017 at 7:00pm. Students are asked to arrive at 6:30pm to warm up with their group. All families, friends and community members are invited to this concert which will feature performances by our Band, String Orchestra and Choir! Hope to see you there!

Battle of the Books

Kudos to the ***Battle of the Books*** team who placed 2nd in last week's finals! Congratulations to Kathleen C, Rowan N, Ella S, Kate B, Abby J, May G and Jack B

Grade 8 Guest Author

Lesley Choyce will visit grade 8 classrooms on the afternoon of May 15. Lesley will present to both classes, with each presentation lasting roughly 50 minutes. He will talk about creativity and such and will encourage questions. He is appearing as part of the Atlantic Book Awards Festival and has been shortlisted for the Ann Connor Brimer Award for Children's Literature for his YA book *Into the Wasteland*.

Let's Talk Science

Congratulations to the grade 8 students who participated in the ***Let's Talk Science*** challenge yesterday. You represented our school very well. An acknowledgement to the group who received a special spirit award for their behaviour during the day! Thanks to Mr. Mrezar, Ms. MacDonald and Dal volunteer, Laurence, for their amazing support!

The Coast's Smartphone Film Festival

Congratulations to Leilia F, Julia S and Genna B for entering The Coast's Smartphone Film Festival Contest. Their films were shown at the Halifax Central Library on Apr. 21. Awesome works girls!!

DRAFT Attendance Policy

Attendance issues as always related to student success. Please see the link below for the recently developed draft attendance policy being reviewed and discussed now:

https://www.ednet.ns.ca/sites/default/files/docs/student_attendance_and_engagement_policy_draft_for_discussion.pdf

A Good News Story!

Each summer, grade 9 students from around Nova Scotia are selected to attend a one-week unique leadership opportunity at Acadia University, called the Catapult Leadership Camp. Schools nominate possible candidates and from the hundreds they receive, only fifty are accepted. We are very pleased to announce ***Jackson Billard***, 902, was selected to attend the camp, one of only eighteen boys admitted. The mission of Catapult is to cultivate youth leaders who will make a positive difference in schools and communities across Nova Scotia. During the week, students will work with local and international leaders who are experts in the field of motivating teens. The program is high energy, interactive, inspirational, exciting and fun. The end result is a boost to self-confidence and self-empowerment as the students head off to start high school with strength and determination.