

CENTRAL NEWS



HALIFAX CENTRAL JUNIOR HIGH

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

Phone: 421-6777 Fax: 421-2868

e-mail: central@hrsbc.ca

website: halifaxcentral.ednet.ns.ca

Robert MacMillan-Principal

Jason Flinn - Vice Principal

Kathy Reinhardt – Secretary

From the Desk of the Principal

Welcome to the 2016-2017 school year. As the month of September passes us by, we find ourselves hard at work as students get involved in extra-curricular activities, clubs and sports, as well as learning many different outcomes in each of their subjects. Engagement and excitement is evident as teachers and support staff work hard to ensure every student is successful.

This year we welcome Mr. Jason Flinn as vice principal. Mr. Flinn comes with an extensive background and has adapted quite quickly in fulfilling his duties in this new role. We also welcome Ms. Josie Boutilier—French/Family Studies, Ms. Kaitlin Chisholm—Art/Healthy Living, Mr. Adam Maher—Student Support Worker, Ms. Olga Cvikova—librarian, Mr. George Lloy—EPA and Ms. Char MacDonald—Guidance.

As principal, I encourage you to monitor PowerSchool on a regular basis for assessment and attendance information. Any concerns should be directed to the classroom teacher first. At Halifax Central, we believe parents/guardians play a vital role in their child's education. If, for any reason, you have unanswered questions, please reach out and we will do our best to solve any issues.

Throughout the school year, you will receive Alert Messages from me via email and phone. Such messages are meant to promote and inform our community about our many initiatives. On that note, I thank each of you in advance for supporting our school in the many things we do to provide our students a rich and diverse experience.

Here's to a great year ahead!

Robert MacMillan,

Principal

October Dates:

Oct 10th – Thanksgiving – No Classes

Oct 14th – Student Vote

Oct 24th – School Retake Day

Oct 24th - Gr. 7 Immunizations

Oct 27th – Dance – 6:30 – 9 p.m.

Oct 28th – Provincial Conference Day – No Classes

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
M. Maddalena	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
S. Mantin	5301206	Perf. Arts
A. Jessome	5301218	Room 18
B. Vaughan	5301219	Room 19
B. Mrezar	5301220	Room 20

From the Desk of the Vice-Principal

Hello Halifax Central Community,

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Jason Flinn and I am the new Vice Principal at Halifax Central. Being new to a school community has its challenges for both staff and students alike. Learning about the established traditions and culture of this school can seem at times daunting, but lucky for us we are new to Halifax Central. The warm welcome and attentive nature of returning staff and students have granted us a strong start to the 2016/2017 school year.

In my new role of Vice Principal I have been tasked with supporting an already committed administrative team and teaching staff. This can look like planning PD Days or making sure staff is supported when taking a lesson in a new and exciting direction. I have also been given the responsibility to support students through discipline. It is my belief that discipline is another opportunity for learning in a school and just like any concept it needs good communication to make it work. I have noticed how parents have taken their essential role in communicating expectations to their children very seriously and it shows in the way in which Halifax Central students treat each other and take on personal responsibility.

Adventurous teaching and genuine learning is happening at Halifax Central and it is a privilege to be here to witness it. I hope parents and students continue to approach me with their own support and concerns so that our experiences only get better.

Sincerely,

Jason Flinn

Sports

Halifax Central offers many opportunities for your son/daughter to participate in sports. The following chart indicates which teams will be offered this year



Halifax Central Sports Teams

Team	Try-outs will begin	Season
Soccer	September	Sept.- Oct.
Cross Country	September	Sept. - Oct.
Touch Football	September	Sept. - Oct.
Hockey	September	Oct. - Jan.
Volleyball	October	Oct. - Dec.
Basketball	December	Jan. - Feb.
Badminton	January	Feb. - Mar.
Track and Field	May	May- June
Softball	May	June

****Listen to the daily announcements, check the Sports Board, or use the school website for daily announcements for specific try-out dates and times****

School Clothing

School Clothing is available for purchase. Hooded sweatshirts are \$38.00, Full Zip Sweatshirts are \$35.00, Cotton T-shirts are \$15.00, Long sleeved T-Shirts are \$20.00, sweatpants are \$30.00 and hats are \$15.00. All items are in blue with gold. If you would like to purchase some spirit wear, just come to the office with your money or cheque (made payable to Halifax Central Junior High)

Guidance

I want to take a moment to introduce myself as the new Guidance Counsellor at Halifax Central Junior High. School counselors work as a team member with school staff, parents and the community to create a caring, supportive climate and atmosphere whereby young people can achieve academic success. School counseling programs are essential for students to achieve optimal personal growth, acquire positive social skills and values, set appropriate career goals and realize full academic potential to become productive, contributing members of the world community. Areas I specialize in are:

School Guidance Curriculum

- Academic skills support
- Organizational, study and test-taking skills
- Education in understanding self and others
- Coping strategies
- Peer relationships and effective social skills
- Communication, problem-solving, decision-making and conflict resolution
- Career awareness, exploration and planning
- Substance abuse education
- Multicultural/diversity awareness

Individual Student Planning

- Goal-setting/decision- making
- Academic planning
- Career planning
- Education in understanding of self, including strengths and weaknesses
- Transitions to new school/ community

Responsive Services

- Individual and small group counseling
- Individual/family/school crisis intervention
- Peer facilitation
- Consultation/collaboration
- Referrals

If you need help setting up your PowerSchool Parent Portal username/password please contact me and I can email you it. If you have any questions regarding guidance counselling or if I can be of assistance in any way please feel free to contact me anytime.

Thank You, Ms. Char MacDonald , Guidance Counsellor Phone 902-421-6777 #4

Student Vote 2016

During the month of October, the Grade 9 students at Halifax Central Junior High will participate in Student Vote 2016 in Social Studies class. The purpose of this program is to teach students through lessons and activities about democracy, government and the electoral process. The students are encouraged to research candidates and issues regarding the upcoming municipal election and have informed, engaging dialogue with their classmates and family members. They will then have an opportunity to experience the voting process. On Wednesday, October 14, 2016, students will head to the polls to vote for their candidate. Their classroom will be set up as a polling station with authentic election materials and some students will take on the roles of deputy returning officers and polling clerks. The ballots will be counted and the results will be kept confidential until after the polls close on election day.

Ms. Char MacDonald, MEd (Counselling), MEd (Curriculum), Guidance Counsellor
char.macdonald@hrsb.ca

Welcome to Good Earth!

Good Earth Society, as you may have guessed from the title, is all about making the world a better place. Our goal is to take on one initiative every month to help change the world for the better. Last year we donated cans to a local food bank, raised money for Ecuador through hot chocolate sales and by collecting/recycling bottles. But those things only scratch the surface. We've done many fundraisers in the past and we hope to keep on doing more. If you're interested in helping make the world a better place, then you should join us. We're always open to anybody that wants to join and everybody is welcome. We meet every Friday at lunch in Ms. Keefe's room. Join us and help change the world!

English Language Arts PLC

The ELA team is excited to be continuing our work on improving reading comprehension through critical thinking. The grade 7's have reviewed text features using non-fiction sources and have recently delved into a class novel whereby they practiced their analytical skills. The grade 8's are using picture books as part of a junior high infusion to develop students' understanding of reading strategies. Our grade 9's will be examining and critiquing pieces of literature within the context of short stories.

Megan Maddalena
Grade 7 & 9 English Language Arts Teacher
<http://mmaddalena.weebly.com/>

Math PLC

Halifax Central's Math PLC (Professional Learning Community) is continuing this year to focus our efforts on expanding and improving our students' abilities to engage and persevere with challenging math and logic based problems. In addition to the learning opportunities embedded

in the curriculum, students at Halifax Central will have numerous opportunities throughout the year to participate in a variety of math contests. All students are encouraged to complete these contests to the best of their ability, both as an enrichment experience as well as a chance to strengthen problem-solving skills and broaden math understanding by working through novel problem situations. In October, students will be doing the AMERICAN SCHOLASTIC MATHEMATICS ASSOCIATION (AMSA) contest, as well as the CARIBOU MATH CONTEST (<https://cariboutests.com/teachers/index.php>). Students are encouraged to visit the Caribou website where they will find previous contests that can be taken as practice.

From Student Support

All Halifax Central staff appreciate that every student brings their own, unique gifts and learning styles to school each day. Our support staff (Resource and Student Support) teachers are here to help ALL students who require additional help in any subject area: inside the classroom, in the Student Centre in small groups, or on a 1:1 basis, depending on their needs and recommendation of their classroom teachers. Please encourage your child to request support sooner than later, so minor challenges don't become bigger ones. Encourage your child to be assertive by self-advocating, as it's an invaluable skill that will serve them well throughout their lives. - Ms. Shannon and Mr. Maher (Support Staff)

The School Advisory Council (SAC)

The School Advisory Council (SAC) had its first meeting of the new school year on September 28, 2016. New and returning members were welcomed by Mr. MacMillan, Principal. The SAC membership is made up of the principal, teachers, students, parents and community representatives. Our new student representatives for grade 7 are Jack Baker and Kathleen Connolly. The SAC is responsible for providing all partners with a voice in decision-making at the school. Please see the school website for more information about the SAC.

We are looking to fill two vacancies on the SAC:

- one position for a parent, ideally a grade 7 parent who can commit to a renewable term, and
- one position for a community member.

Please contact Mr. MacMillan if you would like to volunteer.

Grade 9 Trip Information Session

Please join Mr. Flinn to hear about the proposed Grade 9 Trip Itinerary and projected cost per student. We will be meeting in the Halifax Central Gymnasium at 6:00pm on October 6th.

National Principals' Month

Great principals make great schools and they can have a profound impact on a school's students, teachers and the community as a whole. The Learning Partnership is pleased to announce October 2016 will be the inaugural National Principals' Month in Canada and they will be spearheading a public relations campaign to drive awareness about the crucial role principals play in schools and communities across Canada. During the month, and in tandem with TLP's Canada's Outstanding Principals nominations due the end of October, people are invited to spread the word about the campaign by highlighting outstanding principals in our board, sharing their stories, joining the conversation on Twitter with the #OutstandingPrincipals hashtag, and encouraging others to do the same. More information can be found on The Learning Partnership website at: <http://www.thelearningpartnership.ca/news/launching-national-principals-month-october-2016>

