

CENTRAL NEWS

April 2015

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Principal's Message

Greetings Stratford Central.

Our school continues to be a busy place. I want to acknowledge and thank the staff and students for creating and maintaining an active learning culture at this school.

We have had some staff turnover. Ms. Krug has left on maternity leave. Ms. Eckel, and as of this week, Ms. Mari have taken over Ms. Krug's classes. Ms. Milley has joined us after a maternity leave this week and she will be working in Special Education and Visual Arts. That means Ms. Wallace has finished her tenure this year at SCSS. We thank Ms. Wallace for her service. Lastly, we expect Ms. Donnelly to return to us soon after her maternity leave as well. She will be replacing Mr. Fisher. The Science Department has been busy accommodating these teaching changes, thanks to the efforts of Ms. Ricard and her staff.

April also marks the midpoint of the second semester. On Thursday, April 23rd, all students in grades 9-12 received a Provincial Report Card. This report card reflects student achievement up to April 20th. Please examine the report carefully with your son/daughter. As a school, we are trying to develop skills in communication, collaboration, creativity, critical thinking and problem solving. Your son/daughter should reflect on their learning by examining and sharing their thoughts on the report card information.

On page 2, students are required to comment on their progress. Students need to determine what their next best step should be. Students can focus on academic achievement and/or work habits to produce a comment. Having students reflect on their learning and putting a next step in place is an important growth step. As a parent/guardian, please review this information and sign off on this page. Please have your son/daughter return this page back to the school as soon as possible.

Some teachers have requested a parent interview to discuss next steps. Please call the school to make arrangements with teachers, and, if necessary with school administration to have concerns addressed.

Lastly, School Council meets once a month to discuss educational issues and topics that may influence the culture at Stratford Central. Currently we are examining how parents can help their son/daughter at home with Math. Student and teacher representatives also attend these meetings so all viewpoints are represented. We always welcome new members. The next meeting is Tuesday, April 28th, at 7:00 pm in the Library.

Regards,
Kevin Mills, Principal

Dates to Remember

- Fri., Apr. 24 - Professional Development Day
- Tues., Apr. 28 - School Council Meeting 7:00pm
- Sat., May 2 - Parent Workshop-Anne Hathaway PS
- Mon., May 18 - Victoria Day Holiday
- May 28 & 29 - Theatre Central Spring Show
- Tues., June 2 - Music Night 7:00 p.m.
- Fri., June 5 - Professional Development Day
- June 19-26 - Semester 2 Final Exams

Student Services

Summer School

Summer school forms will be available in Student Services at the end of April and details (location, date, times) will be included with the application form. There are usually four types of courses available:

- a) Make-up credits: are available for some of the courses in English, Math, Science and Careers/Civics.
- b) Co-op: available to students who need Co-op to complete their SHSM OR for students who are one or two credits short of graduation.
- c) Transfer Course: for students who are looking to change from grade 9 Applied Math to grade 10 Academic Math.
- d) New credit courses - usually in ENG3U

OSAP

On May 14, there will be an OSAP (Ontario Student Assistance Program) presentation for students in grade 11 and 12. Students are encouraged to sign up in Student Services as the presentation is during period 2.

Timetables for 2015-16

1. Students looking to change course selections should make an appointment with a counsellor in April.
2. New for September 2015 - Students sign up for alternate courses when selecting courses. These courses will now be added to a student's timetable if a conflict exists with the student's original choices.
3. Timetables for the 2015-16 school year will be issued before exams begin in late June. Students who have one semester that is much heavier should book an appointment with a guidance counsellor to determine if there are other possibilities. Counsellors will see students who have a conflict in their timetable before the timetables are issued.

Theatre Central

The District level of the Sears Drama Festival was held from Wednesday, March 25 to Saturday, March 28 at GDCl. The cast and crew of our production, *Fighting with Monsters*, had an amazing performance and received an Award of Excellence for Creative Vision. Subsequently, we were shortlisted to be part of SOYTF (Southern Ontario Youth Theatre Festival), but had to decline due to our ever-busy schedule. We are currently in rehearsals for our spring show, *Trail Mix*, a collection of student-written and directed pieces, which we are presenting on May 28 and 29 at 7pm in the SCSS Reaney Auditorium. Tickets will be \$5.00 at the door. See you there!

Music Highlights

The music ensembles have been competing at area festivals. At MusicFest regionals, the Symphonic Band received a silver award and Central Singers received a gold award. At Kiwanis in Stratford, the grade nine Concert Band received second prize. The Symphonic Band received a first class honours with distinction, the band trophy and a cash award, plus the Harry Yeandle "Best Band of the Competition" award. The Jazz Band received a first prize, which included a trophy and cash award. The Central Singers received a first class honours with distinction along with a trophy and cash award, plus an invitation to send a recording to compete at provincials. Finally, the Vocal Chords received an award to top school ensemble on opening night of the Kiwanis Festival of the Performing Arts. Congratulations to all the hard working students.

Jazz Band and Vocal Chords recently performed for seniors at River Gardens and McCarthy Place Retirement Residences. Members are busily rehearsing because they will hold a concert of their repertoire on Sunday, April 26 at St Andrew's Presbyterian Church.

Central Singers and the Symphonic Band will travel to Toronto in May to compete in MusicFest Nationals. The groups are busily preparing and very excited for their excursion.

All ensembles, both secondary and elementary, will perform at the annual Music Night on Tuesday June 2 at 7:00 pm.

Multi-Year 2012-2017 Accessibility Plan

The Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Committee (AODA Committee) of the Avon Maitland District School Board has updated the 2012-2017 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan for the 2014/2015 school year. It outlines recent initiatives to remove barriers to accessibility as well as identifying barriers to be addressed during the current year. The Plan has been posted on the AMDSB website (www.yourschools.ca) and is also available to members of the public in alternative formats (Braille, large print, electronic) on request. We continue to welcome comments from the public and input that will assist us in identifying other barriers to address our Annual Accessibility Plan. There is a feedback form included with the plan which we invite members of the public to use. You can fax your feedback form to 519-527-0222 or 1-800-592-5437. You can also communicate your feedback directly to the AODA Chair by e-mail to cherpeac@fc.amdsb.ca.

Parent Workshop - Resiliency

On Saturday, May 2, the Avon Maitland Special Advisory Committee (SEAC) will be hosting a Learning for all Parent Workshop at Anne Hathaway Public School. There is no cost to attend but you must register. For more information or to register, please visit www.yourschools.ca or call 1-800-592-5437 ext. 114.

Co-operative Education Interviews



The Co-operative Education department is interviewing candidates for the 2015-16 school year during the last week of April. Call the Co-op department if you have any questions.