

CENTRAL NEWS

April 2017

60 St. Andrew Street, Stratford, ON N5A 1A3

Phone - (519) 271-4500
R. MacSorley, Co-Principal (7-8)

K. Mills, Co-Principal

Fax - (519) 273-7118
S. Richardson, Vice-Principal (9-12)

Principal's Message

Greetings from Stratford Central!

1. Report Card and Response Form

The information on this report tracks academic and learning skill progress to date during semester 2 (February-April). Please take time to read and reflect on all of the information contained within the report card. Reference pages 2-3 to assist with this process if necessary.

Page 2 is a response form that must be returned back to the school (signed) no later than Friday May 5. Please have your son/daughter return their response form to their period 1 teacher.

In addition, the school has received positive feedback regarding the purpose and distribution of progress reports earlier this semester. Progress reports were generated for students who were struggling academically and/or were not working to potential. More information was available on these reports than previous reports, to assist both students and parents with next steps. SCSS will continue with this format in the fall.

2. Health and Wellness

Staff and students continue to be proactive in terms of promoting positive mental health. This past year the school has created several wall murals that capture student voice. Most recently we have mounted a student mural outside in front of the school promoting 'Be yourself, Know yourself at Stratford Central'.

In addition to dog friendly fridays, accessing the zen den, staff and students have organized the following:

- The "Be" t-shirt campaign to promote the characteristics of resiliency
- The "Positive Compliments" campaign to promote the self-reflection and empathy
- Mental Health week where professionals will work with and speak to students about what constitutes positive mental health and the strategies to practice
- The "Poster" campaign which will promote positive mindset messages using our students and their voice (still to come)

Members of the teaching staff are engaged in a series of workshops that highlight on how to build positive mindset for themselves and for their students.

As an educator and a parent, our youth feel they are under pressure. Our hope is that our students will be equipped with some strategies to use as they move forward in life.

3. OSSLT

On March 30, over 200 students participated in writing the OSSLT (Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test). This test was a traditional paper and pen format. Results from that assessment will be available to schools usually by the end of June. Report Cards (in July) will reflect individual results.

4. Grade 9 Practice for the Literacy Test

On March 30, all of our grade 9 students were given several digitized packages that addressed strategies to use on the literacy test. These packages contained a video, and or charts that highlighted key points and practice questions to work through.

The school will use these results to help identify students who require some literacy help in addition to making some adjustments in our teaching practices.

5. Grade 9-12 Math Contests

Recently, Mr. Armstrong lead the way preparing our students to write math contests at each grade level. Impressive results !

SCSS won Zone Championships in the Pascal, Cayley and Fermat math contests. Our zone involves schools from South and Southwestern Ontario.

Grade 9 Highlights:

- SCSS won the zone.
- The top 5 students in the zone were from SCSS out of 191 participants.

Grade 10 Highlights:

- SCSS won the zone.
- The top 5 students in the zone were from SCSS out of 182 participants.

Grade 11 Highlights:

- SCSS won the zone.
- The top 2 students in the zone were from SCSS out of 111 participants.

6. Timetable

The school timetable for the 2017-18 school year is being created. We are projecting roughly 800 gr 9-12 students which is an increase for our school.

Part of our preparation and planning for 2017-18 included presenting our unique course offerings in grades 11-12 to students at NWSS (and vice-versa). This process is an attempt to expand the number of course offerings to students at both schools as well as reduce the number of "stacked" classes at the senior grades. There will be a bus transporting students back and forth to/from each school at noon hour.

Sometime during May, Student Services will begin to dialogue with students regarding course conflicts, and pathway choice as we get ready for the following school year. Please contact Student Services with any questions or concerns.

7. Sears Festival

Our students put together and performed a production on events surrounding Steven Truscott at the Sears Festival and for the public. Thanks to Mr. Linley and all the students who worked hard on this production.

The performance was excellent and well received by the public.

8. School Trips

Recently a group of students returned from Iceland. The trip was chaperoned by Mr. Leitch and Mrs. McConkey. Our school is fortunate that many teachers are willing to organize and chaperone such trips. This goodwill does not occur at every school. I encourage all parents and students to take advantage of that goodwill and opportunity during their time at this school.

Lastly, at SCSS, we will continue to foster growth opportunities for students. Please contact the school with any concerns.

Regards,
Kevin Mills, Principal

Dates to Remember

Fri., May 5 - Return Report Card Response Form
Mon., May 8 - Professional Development Day
Tues., May 16 - Parent Council Meeting 7:00pm
Wed., May 17 - Music Night 7-9pm
Mon., May 22 - Victoria Day Holiday
Fri., June 9 - Professional Development Day
June 23-29 - Semester 2 Final Exams
Fri., July 7 - Second Provincial Report Card

Student Services

Summer School

Summer school forms will be available in Student Services in mid May 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: may be available to students who: need co-op to complete their SHSM OR are one or two credits short of graduation. are behind in credits
Want a coop course in the summer

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, ENG4U and GLC2O (Careers) / CHV2O (Civics) will be offered as well. Other 'new-credit' courses are available at no cost in other school boards.

OSAP

On May 4, 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 2017-18

1. Students looking to change course selections should make an appointment with a counsellor as soon as possible.

2. New for 2017-18 Timetable- Students signed 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 2017-18 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 the timetable before the timetables are issued.

Food & Nutrition Classes

On April 6 many of the students in the grade 12 Food and Nutrition classes spent a day at the Stratford Chef school, where they learned about the programs offered there, and about the varied and exciting careers they could pursue with a culinary education. They also enjoyed a delicious asian-themed lunch which they prepared themselves under the tutelage of Chef School staff.



Parenting Class

The grade 11 parenting class recently learned about building literacy skills in young children under the guidance of Donna Feeney, Early Years Literacy Specialist.



Rain Barrel Fitness Room Fundraiser:

If you are thinking of buying a rain barrel this spring, please consider purchasing it through rainbarrel.ca/ramsfit.

Proceeds will go towards new equipment for our fitness room. The pick up date for the rain barrels is May 12 from 3:00 - 6:00 p.m. in the lower parking lot.

Please go to rainbarrel.ca/ramsfit for more information.

Exterior Mural

Monia Beringer, Charlotte Geiger, and Mrs. Carter completed the school's exterior mural. After six months and countless hours, the mural was installed on April 24th. The purpose of the art piece is to draw students attention to the words "Know You, Be You, and See Others". This corresponds with the current messages of the "Be Campaign". We want the student body to be aware of the importance of self awareness, self acceptance, and work toward transferring this growing development into accepting others as they are.

