

# CENTRAL NEWS

February 2015

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## Principal's Message

Greetings from Stratford Central.

Semester 1 has come to a close. This past Semester has been very successful. Academically, most students earned all their credits with excellent results! Please examine the report card and have a conversation with your son/daughter. High medians in courses indicate that the students were very engaged and motivated to perform to the best of their abilities. We will look for similar end results during Semester 2.

At this time, on behalf of the school, I extend thanks to Mr. Gates, Ms. DeBoer, Ms. Basisto and Ms. Klemp for their services during Semester 1. All have moved on to other assignments at different schools for Semester 2. I would like to welcome Ms. VanLeeuwen, Ms. McDermott and Ms. Wilson to our school. They will be teaching in the Canadian/World Studies, Special Education, English, French, and Social Science Departments.

During this Semester, our school hosted over 30 international students. Many of those students have now returned home with some insight into Canadian culture as well as our brand of education. We wish them well and look forward to hosting other international students.

School Council has been examining issues related to learning Mathematics as well as dialoguing about issues connected to mental health. To that end, the school is looking at hosting a separate night on each of these events. March 3 will be an evening with a guest speaker on "Strategies to Empower Your Children". The next School Council meeting is scheduled for Feb 17 at 7:00 p.m. New members are always welcome.

Recently, in consultation with the School Board Office, we decided to sand/salt the snow hill. We took this action to maintain safety, as the hill had become excessively icy. If the hill becomes too icy in the future, we will try to get the message out about dressing the hill in advance of the actual sanding.

We also know there are concerns pertaining to the metal stairs that lead to the parking lot. These stairs are to be examined by an engineering firm. That firm will then provide the School Board Office with recommendations.

Lastly, our school is starting to explore a partnership in the arts involving the Stratford Festival. If this partnership moves forward, opportunities for students will ensue.

As Principal of this school, I continue to be impressed with the student and staff engagement in education. Please contact the school with any concerns.

Regards,  
Kevin Mills, Principal

## Dates to Remember

- Tues., Feb. 10 - Grad Photo Absentee & Retakes
- Mon., Feb. 16 - Family Day Holiday
- Feb. 20/Mar. 3 - Immunization Clinic
- Mar. 5 & 6 - Theatre Central Sears Performance
- Fri., Mar. 13 - Interim Report Card
- Mar. 16 - 20 - March Break
- Thurs., Mar. 26 - Gr. 10 Literacy Test
- Thurs. Mar. 26 - Gr. 9-12 Parent's Night
- Apr. 3-6 - Easter Holiday
- Thurs., Apr. 23 - First Provincial Report Card
- Fri., Apr. 24 - Professional Development Day

## Student Services

Course Selections 2015/16 - ONLINE REGISTRATION  
Registration information sessions for grades 9-12 will take place between February 5-12. A list all of the courses offered next year has been distributed to students in mid-January to give students an opportunity to plan ahead. The course calendar is available online at <http://scss.amdsb.ca/>. The link is located in the middle of the school webpage.

Students will be selecting courses online again this year. Every student in grades 9-11 will attend an information session in early-February. Students will

learn how to navigate around the online site and be provided with information about post-secondary course requirements. The site that parents and students will use in order to submit their course selections is <http://www.myblueprint.ca/>. Students will need their OEN (Ontario Education Number) in order to login the first time and this number will be provided during the information session. Counsellors will be available during some lunch breaks to assist students who have questions.

#### Parent's Night: Information Session for Grade 10 and Grade 11 Parents

March 26 is Parent's Night for Semester two classes. During Parent's Night, Guidance Counsellors will offer an information session in Room 210 at 6:30 p.m. The session is intended for parents who wish to learn more about some of the research tools available for post-secondary destinations.

#### Summer School- Make-Up Credits

Summer School will be available in July 2015 but registration forms will not be available in Student Services until late May. New credit courses are available online and there are usually only two different courses (ENG3U and Careers/Civics) available. Students interested in earning new credits should book an appointment with their counsellor.

#### Community Service Hours

As part of their diploma requirement, all students are required to accumulate forty hours of community service outside of class time. Students who are intending to graduate this year should submit their hours to Student Services by May 15. Grade nine and ten students are encouraged to complete most of their hours prior to grade eleven. Many volunteer opportunities come to the school and are announced and posted for students.

#### **Theatre Central**

Congratulations to the cast and crew for their early December performances of *Waiting for Godot*. The actors successfully rose to the challenge of a difficult play, under the artistic stewardship of Ms. Stotts-Jones. It was a unique experience, with two casts: one all male, one all female.

Currently, we are in rehearsals for the Sears Drama Festival. This year's entry, *Fighting with Monsters*, is written and directed by student Callum Hutchinson with Mrs. Niescier as artistic advisor. Public performances run March 5 & 6 at 7:00 p.m. at SCSS James Reaney Auditorium. Our performance at district level in Goderich, at GDCL, is on March 26 at 7:00 p.m.

#### **Forget-Me-Not Theatre**

We presented our domestic violence awareness piece on Dec. 5 at Knox Presbyterian Church - the performance was a part of an event to commemorate the shootings at Polytechnique in Montreal. It was an incredibly moving evening which consisted of our work, a slide show of those women killed in the shooting, guest speakers from the Police Dept. and guest speakers with personal domestic violence experience.

Currently, we are busy writing a play about mental health, specifically depression. We hope to share the piece with community groups before the end of the school year or at the beginning of next school year. In November, Lindsay Price from *Theatrefolk* in Toronto did a workshop with us to help us begin shaping our ideas into play form. The students are incredibly dedicated to the work, bringing an honest voice to it.

#### **Dance Central**

Dance Central had a busy first semester rehearsing 11 times per week in preparation for the December dance showcase - *Raising the Barre*. The students performed two fantastic evenings of dance!! I would like to thank the various owners of Stratford and area businesses who generously donated gifts for our silent auctions (and thank those who purchased the items). We have raised enough money to pay for the transportation for a field trip to the School of Toronto Dance Theatre. Students will be able to take a Graham/Laban class and watch a performance by Canada's premiere modern dance company. Dance Central dancers have begun the new semester by rehearsing a new piece to perform in the Stratford Kiwanis Festival in May. We love to dance at Central!

#### **Forest of Reading: Promoting Literacy**

In the Library, we are currently running the Forest of Reading program, so if you like to read, vote, and win prizes, then you should participate! This year's best Canadian young adult fiction and non-fiction is in our library. Pick four of the books to read, get the teacher who has read the book to sign your bookmark, vote at the end of April for your favourite (along with students across Canada), and then enter draws for an iTunes card or Fanfare Books gift card. Drop into the library and get started reading today!