

# CENTRAL NEWS

February 2017

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

Phone - (519) 271-4500

Fax - (519) 273-7118

R. MacSorley, Co-Principal

K. Mills, Co-Principal

S. Richardson, Vice-Principal (9-12)

## Principal's Message

### Greetings from Stratford Central

Semester 1 has come to a close at Stratford Central. Students are now participating in their semester 2 classes. This past semester, academically, has been very successful at Stratford Central with the vast majority of credits being earned by the student body. Well done!

Please examine all the information on the report card with your son/daughter. As a school, we are trying to prepare students for their next best step where ultimately each student continues to be a lifelong learner who contributes to society. All the information (marks, learning skills, comments, attendance, median) is important on the report card. Having your son/daughter reflect on this information with you as a parent/guardian will help as your son/daughter plans for his/her next steps. Pages 2-3 of the report card are available to track progress and to assist in planning for next steps. The course median reflects the mid-point mark within the course, and NOT the average mark in the course. Contact the school with any questions regarding the report card.

Aaron Gates (English) and Laura Whitehouse (Math) are the only teachers leaving Stratford Central at the end of semester 1. Stratford Central will continue to retain the services of Amanda Hartley (English), Michelle Carter (Visual Arts/Special Education), Jaime Eckel (Science/Social Sciences) and Mark Fisher (Science/Math). Heather Dalglish joins our staff to teach Dramatic Arts.

Recently Stratford Central held an open house inviting grade 6 and grade 8 students and parents to tour our facility. Our theme of "self exploration" was well received by all who attended on this evening. Special thanks to the students who acted as school ambassadors on this evening.

On March 2, staff and students will be part of an assembly that depicts the "do's and don'ts" of social media use presented by Ashley Sametz who is a threat intelligence professional working for the York Regional Police Service. Ashley's background is that she's become proficient with open source technology (facebook, twitter, etc.) and how it's being used in ways that impact criminal activity, both knowingly and unknowingly. During her career, she's seen a lot of incidents where teens or young people misuse social media and other social networking technology in ways that can have lifelong consequences.

**Parents from our school, Stratford Northwestern and Stratford St. Michael's will have an opportunity to see this presentation also on March 2 in the Drama room at Stratford Northwestern Secondary School beginning at 7 p.m.**

A gentle reminder to all parents and students that all grade 10 students and some grade 11 students will be participating in the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test on March 30. Unlike the fall, this test will be completed using pen and paper. Students will receive some additional prep for this assessment during the next two months.

During the first semester Stratford Central played host to over 40 international students coming from a variety of countries. This year a team of teachers and students reached out to these students in an effort to immerse them in our culture quicker by organizing activities such as skating, Christmas gift exchange etc. Roughly half of these students have left us at the end of the semester. The feedback we received from those departing international students was very positive.

School Council is chaired by Lisa Cousins. We meet every third Tuesday of every month. Our discussions centre around parental involvement/concerns on educational topics. Student and teacher voice is heard at each meeting. All are welcome to attend. Our next meeting is Tuesday, Feb. 21 at 7 p.m. in the school library.

Course selection for the 2017-18 school year is happening this month. The number of teachers, number of and types of courses are created based on student demand in this process. Students are reminded to select their course choices carefully. Students are placed into 8 courses during the timetabling process. To assist that process we will be asking students to select 10 courses which will include 2 alternative course selections. If there is a conflict when timetabling a student into a specific class, the alternative course will be used. Students, please select your courses carefully.

To assist with timetabling and to provide students with a greater number of course offerings at the grade 11-12 levels, Stratford Central and Stratford Northwestern have partnered to run a "concurrent program". Simply put, the concurrent program allows students to take courses at each school. A bus will run daily between both schools. Unique courses that reside at each school are

available to all students entering grades 11 and 12. Please see/contact Student Services for more information.

Lastly, I continue to be impressed with the level of student engagement at Stratford Central. We have a positive learning culture (students and staff) at our school. Please contact the school with any questions or concerns.

Regards,  
Kevin Mills, Principal.

### **Dates to Remember**

Fri., Feb. 10 - School Photos (new students)  
Wed., Feb. 15 - Grad Photo Absentee & Retakes  
Thurs., Feb. 16 - Immunization Clinic  
Mon., Feb. 20 - Family Day Holiday  
Tues., Feb. 21 - Parent Council Meeting 7-9pm  
Mar. 13-17 - Spring Break  
Tues., Mar. 21 - Parent Council Meeting 7-9pm  
Fri., Mar. 24 - Interim Report Cards issued  
Thurs., Mar. 30 - Parents' Night 6-8pm  
Thurs., Mar. 30 - Grade 10 Literacy Test  
Apr. 14-17 - Easter Holiday  
Tues., Apr. 18 - Parent Council Meeting 7-9pm  
Fri., Apr. 28 - First Provincial Report Card  
Mon., May 8 - Professional Development Day  
Tues., May 16 - Parent Council Meeting 7-9pm  
Wed., May 17 - Music Night 7-9pm  
Mon., May 22 - Victoria Day Holiday  
Fri., June 9 - Professional Development Day  
Tues., June 20 - Parent Council Meeting 7-9pm  
June 23-29 - Sem. II Final Exams  
Fri., June 30 - Professional Development Day

### **Reminder**

Please notify the office if:

- your child's medical information has changed
- you have new address information or your phone number has changed

### **Student Services**

#### Course Selections 2017/18 - ONLINE REGISTRATION

Registration information sessions for grade 9-12 will take place between February 7-14. 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 web page. Students are encouraged to submit on time and return the sign off sheet so they are not considered a 'late' registrant.

Students will be selecting courses online again this year. Every student in grade 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 Night: Information Session for Grade 10 and 11 Parents

March 23 is Parent Night for semester two classes. During Parent Night, guidance counsellors will offer an information session in Room 207 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 for "Make Up" Credits will be available in July 2017 but registration forms will not be available in Student Services until late May. ENG3U and ENG4U were the two 'New Credit' courses available online through AMDSB last summer but other Boards offer courses that are available to our students as well. 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.

#### **School Photos (new students)**

ADANAC Images will be here on February 10 to do student ID card photos. This is only for new second semester students or students who weren't here when photos were done in the fall. Photos will be done in the Library from 10:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. If you would also like to order a school portrait package on that day, students can pick up an order form in advance in the office.

#### **Graduation Photo Absentee & Retakes**

ADANAC Images will be back again to do grade 12 graduation portraits on Wednesday, Feb. 15. Students who weren't happy with their original graduation portraits and want a retake need to sign up for an appointment time in the office. You will have to surrender your original proofs at the camera and pay a \$5.00 mailing fee to have a retake. Students who missed the first chance to have their graduation portrait done can also sign up for one of these limited appointments. The photographer will not be coming back to our school again this year.

## Immunization Clinic

The Perth District Health Unit will be at Stratford Central Secondary School on Thursday, February 16, 2017 to offer an immunization clinic.

If it has been 10 years since a student's last needle against tetanus-diphtheria-pertussis, or they missed pertussis in their tetanus-diphtheria booster, they will be offered an Adacel or Boostrix vaccination. According to the Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA), students without a tetanus-diphtheria-pertussis booster, or a properly commissioned exemption, will be suspended from school.

While high school students are able to consent for themselves, we ask that parents/legal guardians discuss this vaccine with their child and encourage them to take advantage of the opportunity to get this vaccination at the school clinic. Should you decide to receive the Adacel or Boostrix vaccination at your doctor's office, please call the Health Unit at 519-271-7600 ext. 223 to report the vaccine given. You may also report vaccines by email: [immunization@pdhu.on.ca](mailto:immunization@pdhu.on.ca).

For more information, call Health Line at 519-271-7600 ext. 267, or toll-free at 1-877-271-7348 ext. 267, or visit [www.pdhu.on.ca](http://www.pdhu.on.ca).

# Stratford Central Cooperative Education



The grid contains 48 small photos of students in various work settings, each with a caption identifying their employer or organization. The captions are as follows:

- Felz Design Build
- MacDonald Carpentry
- Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance
- Ashes Stillwater Boats
- Mercer Hall
- Obeyes
- Hamlet P.S.
- Cedarcroft Place
- Perth Oxford Construction
- FIO Automotive
- Powermoodle
- Powermoodle
- Stratford Perth YMCA
- North Easthope P.S.
- The Computoc
- Hamlet Public School
- Expressway Ford
- Willoe Rentals Stratford Cycle
- Anthony's Body Piercing & Tattoo
- Irene Miller Photography Factory 434
- Hamlet P.S.
- Factory163/Gallery Stratford
- Stratford School of Hairdressing
- Local Community Food Co-op
- Bickell's Flooring & Decorating
- Stratford Festival Props
- Optimism Place
- Stratford Festival Digital Media
- Coventry Pet Hospital
- Kandy Cakes/Linley Law
- C.R. Plastic Products
- Anne Hathaway P.S.
- Bethel Pentecostal Church
- Community Living
- Stratford Festival Archives

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