

CENTRAL NEWS

June 2016

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Principal's Message

Greetings Stratford Central!

The students at SCSS should be proud of their accomplishments this past school year. Once again, students at our school participated in a variety of events in large numbers. Roughly 60-70% of the student body participated in outside-class activities related to the arts, athletics, academics (contests), and/or in clubs. New clubs and activities included RamsBeing, RamsCare, and Community Central.

Over the course of the school year, students and staff addressed the sensitive issue of mental health. As stated, RamsBeing and RamsCare were 2 school clubs dedicated to promoting positive mental health. In addition, courses led by Mr. and Mrs. Wilson dug into this topic deeper. Ms. Black promoted "furry Fridays" where dogs came into the school to assist in reducing anxiety. Mrs. Donnelly and Mrs. Mari along with student leaders were instrumental in coordinating a wellness week along with a wellness day at the school. Over 50 workshops on wellness were provided to students on this day from experts in the community as well as the teaching staff. Throughout this journey, students were given a voice. Many students commented at how important this journey was with respect to our school culture. We hope to continue this journey in some capacity during the next school year.

During this past school year, space on the third floor was dedicated for the computer engineering and computer programming courses. The space was modified by staff and students to meet the needs of these 2 programs which included restaurant style booths (to promote collaboration), a storage area for robots etc. In addition, student success and special education joined forces within the school to work and collaborate out of room 202.

The school also embarked on fabricating other pieces of furniture. Mr. Wilson was the catalyst behind bringing stand up desks into our school. Mr. Hombach's students have been busy putting these types of desks together which in turn have been placed into classrooms throughout the school. The purpose of such a desk is to keep students more engaged as well as provide a stand up area to promote collaboration within the classroom.

The classes of Mr. Booker, Mr. Hombach and Ms. Zorgdrager were also busy re-designing the appearance of the school cafeteria. Restaurant style booths using church pews were built by our students. In addition, outside picnic tables were also built by our students. The visual art students were busy creating artwork to go into the cafeteria. We hope to have all these items in place for the fall of 2016.

Mr. Booker's class also worked closely with the World Festival of Children's Theatre. His students along with Avon Maitland District School Board personnel were busy broadcasting ("live streaming") some of the performances all over the world. This event was a great experience for our students.

Ms. Zorgdrager's classes recently held an art show at the University of Waterloo campus this past month. This show highlighted the work of our senior students and was a great success. We appreciate that the University of Waterloo allowed the school to use this space.

Ms. Ortelli and Mr. Weston also capped the year off with a year-end concert at this school. The students performed very well on this evening. Clearly participation in music

provides students with many growth and leadership opportunities.

During this past year as a school, staff and students have been adapting to using the ipad in their classes. Students in grade 9 and teaching staff experimented and grew with the use of this technology. Some classes used the technology extensively whereas other classes used the technology periodically to enhance learning and improve student engagement. The school also had 2 teacher trainers who assisted with this transition and implementation. The journey in this area has been interesting and we look forward to continuing this "ride" during the next school year.

Over the course of the school year over 30 international students from various countries as well as new students from Syria graced the halls of Stratford Central. All of these students added to our school culture this past year. We are expecting 50+ international students for the 2016-17 school year and we are excited to see what ideas this group will bring into our school.

Finally, I would like to extend my congratulations to three groups of students at SCSS. First, to our senior students who are not returning next year. I hope your years at SCSS have been positive and I wish you the best of luck in the future. Second, to the members of Student Council who put in countless hours over the entire school year in support of our student body. Thank you for your commitment and all your efforts. Lastly, to our returning students, all of whom have grown academically, socially and emotionally. You are the future leaders in the school and in our society. I look forward to welcoming all of you back in September.

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test

During the 2016-2017 school year students will be provided two (2) opportunities to participate in the OSSLT. The first round will take place on October 20th where students are expected to complete this test using a computer. If students are successful on this task, then they are exempt from participating on this test during March 2017. During March 2017, students will have a choice of completing this test using pen and paper, or using a computer.

Departing Staff Members

The staff and students of SCSS are sad to see the departure of the following staff members:

Rebecca Wilson, Jaime Eckel, Travis Johnson, Jennifer Wallace, Nancy Stotts Jones, Wendy Wharran, Merissa Thompson, Frank Etwell.

Nancy and Wendy are retiring after many years of service.

Good luck to all in the future.

New Staff Members Coming to SCSS

Sherry Miller (English)
Michelle Carter (Visual Arts)

We look forward to working with these teachers in the future.

A reminder that the 2016-17 school year begins on Sept 6, 2016.

Regards,
K. Mills, Principal.

Dates to Remember 2016-2017

Tues., Sept. 6	- First Day of Classes
Wed., Sept. 14	- School Day Photos
Fri., Sept. 23	- Professional Development Day
Fri., Oct. 7	- Interim Report Card
Mon., Oct. 10	- Thanksgiving Day Holiday
Thurs., Oct. 13	- Gr. 9-12 Parent's Night
Tues., Oct. 25	- School Photo Retakes/Absentees
Fri., Nov. 4	- Professional Development Day
Fri., Nov. 11	- Remembrance Day Assembly
Fri., Nov. 18	- First Provincial Report Card
Fri., Nov. 25	- Commencement
Fri., Dec. 2	- Professional Development Day
Dec. 19-23	- Grade 12 Grad Photos
Dec. 26-Jan. 6	- Christmas Holidays
Jan. 26-Feb. 1	- Semester I Final Exams
Thurs., Feb. 2	- Professional Development Day
Fri., Feb. 3	- First Day of Semester II
Fri., Feb. 10	- Semester I Final Report Card
Fri., Feb. 10	- School Photos ('new' students)
Mon., Feb. 13	- Grad Photo Absentee & Retakes
Mon., Feb. 20	- Family Day Holiday
Fri., Mar. 10	- Interim Report Card
Mar. 13-17	- Spring Break
Thurs., Mar. 23	- Gr. 9-12 Parent's Night
Apr. 14-17	- Easter Holidays
Fri., Apr. 28	- First Provincial Report Card
Mon., May 8	- Professional Development Day
Mon., May 22	- Victoria Day Holiday
Fri., June 9	- Professional Development Day
June 23-29	- Semester II Final Exams

Student Services

Summer School: Summer School will be held at Northwestern S.S., July 5-22 from 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Students who are one or two credits short of graduation are eligible to take a summer Co-op OR a course through the Centre for Employment and Learning.

Community Service Hours: Students are encouraged to work on community service hours during the summer. Please keep in mind that these hours must be at **non-profit events** or with **non-profit organizations**. Forms are available in Student Services. Some students have been volunteering at businesses and these hours will not count toward the 40 required hours. Please see Mr. Cassone, Ms. Donnelly or Ms. Brine if you have any questions.

Timetable Adjustments: Appointments are available from August 29 - September 2. Please call Bonnie Fawcett at the school (519-271-4500 x418) on or after August 23 to book an appointment with a guidance counsellor. It is highly recommended that students see a counsellor in August and do not wait until September if they are looking to change a timetable.

Liaison Visits: University and College liaison representatives will be in the school in September and October. We schedule these sessions during the lunch hours whenever possible so that students do not miss class. Students and parents are encouraged to visit Universities and Colleges during the summer. Tours can be booked online or by phone.

Online Courses: Students are able to take online courses throughout the summer or during the 2016-17 school year. Students are encouraged to book an appointment with their counsellor to discuss options if this is of interest.

Websites:

www.myblueprint.ca (Interest Inventories and other post secondary tools)
www.successforlife.ca (Board Info - OYAP, apprenticeship, dual credits, SHSM, ...)
www.electronicinfo.ca (University programs in Ontario)
www.ontariocolleges.ca (College programs in Ontario)
www.studentawards.com (Scholarships)
www.jvis.com (Interest inventory - pay site)

The school website: <http://scss.amdsb.ca/> (go to For Students, then Student Services) will provide many other links for student planning.

ADA 3M/4M

At the end of May, the senior drama class supported The House of Blessing with monies raised from our final Lunchbox Theatre Psyikea episode. Highlights from the episode included a Midsummer Night's Dream-like love triangle, a seance to speak with the recently demised Assistant Store Manager, and the revelation that Greg, the custodian, was really the President of Psyikea, on a mental health break! Students and staff enjoyed the once-a-month installments, and the final episode was particularly creative (and 25 pages in length!). It was a collaboration like no other!

Theatre Central

On June 1st, we held a beautiful TC Gala, with the room transformed by our talented and hard-working Theatre Central Executive. It was a new idea to open the Gala to the public and use the evening as an opportunity to raise funds for our auditorium. We will certainly explore more fundraisers for this purpose in the new school year. Looking forward to working with the newly-elected Executive in the Fall!

Forget-Me-Not Theatre

With Mental Health Awareness being such an important and highlighted focus this year, Forget-Me-Not Theatre is excited about pursuing further writing and performances about this topic in the new school year. We look forward to opportunities to work with members of the community to be available to do more performances outside of school.

Visual Arts

Blake Keen was presented with a prestigious bronze medal at the provincial level in the Legion's black and white Remembrance Day poster contest. Other winners included Victoria Dewar, Ariana Sprott and Sienna Kasler. Josslyn Hagen was a prize winner in the Blyth Festival Student art show. This is a competitive art contest and she won with her mixed media portrait submission.

The grade twelves wrapped up the semester with an impressive year-end art show at the University of Waterloo, Stratford Campus. Students had many artworks of different styles, sizes and materials. It was well received and attended and began a rewarding collaboration with UW.

Public Library

Join us this summer for all kinds of fun at Stratford Public Library! We have something for everyone: books, ebooks, DVDs, magazines, music, and more. And to top it all off, activities for students of all ages.

Preschool – 12yrs: Think outside the box and join us for Wild! summer reading programs. Day, evening, and Saturday programs will be held at the Library and in locations across Stratford.

13 – 101yrs: Sign up for our summer reading rewards program – read anything you choose and be entered to win cool prizes!

High School students: looking for volunteer hours? We have opportunities such as Tech Tutors and Reading Buddies! Check out our website for more details: www.stratford.library.on.ca/volunteer.

For more details on any of our programs or services, contact 519-271-0220 or www.stratford.library.on.ca

Open up your world at the Stratford Public Library!

Transportation Services



Just a reminder to all Parents/Guardians, if your child(ren) is(are) eligible for transportation you are responsible for looking up your child(ren)'s busing information for the 2016/2017 school year. The busing information for the 2016/2017 school year will be available on the Huron Perth Student Transportation website (www.ourschoolbuses.ca) mid-August. Please check the Huron Perth Student Transportation Services website frequently in the last week leading up to the first day of school as routes and times change daily during the last week.

To look up your child's bus information:

- Go to the Huron Perth Student Transportation Services website at <http://ourschoolbuses.ca/busplanner-web/>

Once you have entered the website:

- Select the "Busplanner Web" icon
- Then select "Student Login" (Make sure you have selected the correct school year from the drop down arrow box in the top left hand corner of the page before you make any selections)

You will need the following to login:

- **Ontario Education Number (OEN)**
- This can be found on your child's latest report card and should have 9 numbers
- **Only include the numbers – do not include hyphens**
- If the report card only has 8 numbers then include a zero 0 before the 8 numbers
- **Date of Birth (Year/Month/Day)** (birthdate order format may be different on each computer)
- **House Address Number or 9-1-1 Address**
- **School Name**
- The School that the child will be attending in September 2016
- This can be selected from the pull-down list

When you gain access to the portal, you will be able to see such information as your **child's eligibility** for bus transportation, the **Bus Route Number**, **approximate morning pick-up time and location**, **approximate afternoon drop-off time and location**, **transfer bus information**, **School Bus Company** and more.



With SchoolCashOnline you'll be able to:

- ✓ Pay for your child's school fees online. Anytime, anywhere.
- ✓ Stop sending money with your child to school.
- ✓ Get automatic email notifications about school fees.
- ✓ Help us reduce the amount of cash coming through school doors.

» Fast ✓ Safe 👍 Convenient

Watch for more information from your school this fall

