

# CENTRAL NEWS

November 2016

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 Secondary School.

### **Report Cards**

Report cards received by students on November 18, 2016 reflect student progress and achievement as of November 11, 2016. Please examine all the information on the report card with your son/daughter. On the second page please ensure the appropriate information is filled in. Sign off on the second page and have your son/daughter return the page back to the school as soon as possible (no later than November 25, 2016).

Please call the school to meet with a teacher or a school administrator to have any concerns addressed.

### **Remembrance Day**

On November 11th, 2016, Stratford Central held its annual Remembrance Day Assembly for all grade 7-12 students, staff and some members of the general public. The music from the school band was appreciated by all. The readings and slides presented by students were powerful and connected to the sacrifices made locally from our area. Thanks to Mrs. Ortelli and Mr. Leitch for helping to coordinate this event as well as the students for adding their talents to this assembly. Also, a thanks to the Stratford Police Pipe Band for their services at this assembly.

Assemblies such as these provide powerful memories for students, staff and the public (who attended) for the rest of their lives. Well done Stratford Central!

### **Commencement**

A reminder that Stratford Central will be holding its annual Commencement exercises at the Avon Theatre on Friday, November 25, beginning at 7:30 p.m. This event can only happen with cooperation and assistance from the school community. Stratford Central thanks in advance all those individuals, businesses, organizations and industry who contribute to this evening.

### **Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test**

Stratford Central was one of 800 schools that was to participate in the Ontario Secondary School "Digital" Literacy Test on October 20th. A tremendous amount of work went into preparing the students to participate on this day as well as organizing how this day would unfold. Unfortunately, most of our students could not download this assessment on that day. A cyber-attack occurred on the fileserver disseminating the assessment on that day.

Therefore we will continue to prepare students (all grade 10 and some grade 11 students) for the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test to be written in March 2017. Students will have the choice of using a computer OR pen/paper to complete this assessment at that time.

Grade 9 students had practice writing the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test during October in the school. Those assessments have been given back to students along with some feedback. Mrs. McConkey will begin to work with groups of students and teachers in Grade 9 to improve literacy skills over the course of this school year.

### **School Council**

School Council continues to meet on a regular basis at Stratford Central. The school council comprises parents representing students from grades 7-12, school administrators and representatives from the teaching staff as well as the student body. Our most recent meeting occurred on Tuesday, November 15. The topic for that evening centered around pathways for students, especially those students entering into grade 9 from grade 8. The school council chair for this year is Lisa Cousins.

Next meeting is Tuesday January 17, 2017 at 7pm in the school library. All are welcome!

### **International Students**

Stratford Central is hosting over 40 students from various countries at our school this semester. These students add their cultural experiences to our school community as well as learn a little bit about Canada as the year progresses. Community Central along with 3 staff members (Ms. Eckel, Ms. Wilkinson, Mrs. Raleigh) have been organizing events for this group both within the school and in our community. For example, many international students have never skated on ice before. These students will have that opportunity this semester thanks to the coordination put forth by these teachers (such as collecting ice skates for these students to use). Well done Central!

If parents have any questions or concerns, please contact the school.

Regards,  
Kevin Mills, Principal.

## Dates to Remember

- Fri., Nov. 25 - Commencement 2016  
Avon Theatre 7:30pm
- Fri., Dec. 2 - Professional Development Day
- Tues., Dec. 6 - Christmas Food Drive
- Dec. 8-10 - Theatre Central Fall Show
- Wed., Dec. 14 - Christmas Concert 7pm
- Dec. 19-23 - Gr. 12 Grad Photos
- Dec. 26-Jan. 6 - Christmas/New Year Holidays
- Mon., Jan. 16 - Gr. 6 & Gr. 8 Parent Information Night
- Jan. 26-Feb. 1 - Semester One Final Exams
- Thurs., Feb. 2 - Professional Development Day
- Fri., Feb. 3 - Second Semester Begins

## Student Services

### Applying to University or College?

1. OCAS Applications (College) - Equal Consideration  
Due Date: Feb 1, 2017
2. OUAC Applications (University) - Equal Consideration  
Due Date: Jan 11, 2017  
- Recommended last date to submit any program changes to OUAC: Feb 3, 2017  
\* students should apply over the Christmas Break if possible to avoid delays.  
OSAP (Ontario Student Assistance Program)  
Presentation - TBD May 2017
3. Students who will be applying to college and/or university need to come to Student Services to pick up a PIN number and an OEN number so that they are able to apply. When students come to Student Services, they should also ensure that their transcript of marks (provided to each student) is accurate.

### Registration Sessions for Current Students - 2017/18:

Students in grades 9-12 will be using <http://myblueprint.ca> to select courses for the **2017/2018 school year**.

Current Grade 11 & 12 students - sessions in early January (Deadline #1 TBD)

Current Grade 9 & 10 students - sessions between Feb 9-15. (Deadline #2 TBD)

Course calendars will be posted online to provide students and parents time to review courses. Students will then attend information sessions so that they are able to apply.

Students who are registering for grade 9 will be using a registration sheet and will not be using <http://myblueprint.ca/>.

### Semester Two Courses

Students will be provided with a paper copy of their semester two classes in January. Students who need to make a change to a timetable are encouraged to book an appointment with a counsellor.

### Stratford Central Open House 2017:

Central will be hosting an information evening for Grade 8 and Grade 6 parents and students on Monday January 16, 2017. There will also be school tours for incoming grade 8 students in December for the feeder schools and the Stratford Central Public School students.

### Websites:

Parents and students are encouraged to visit the School Website under the 'Student Services' link at <http://scss.amdsb.ca/student-services.html>. Numerous self assessment tools (both free and paid quizzes/assessments) can also be found on the Ontario School Counsellors' Association page.

## Theatre Central

We have many new faces in our club this year. As a result, we are running things a bit differently in first semester. We are holding Theatre Central on Tuesdays after school in the auditorium from 3:00-4:00pm. At this time, students can enjoy getting to know one another through warm-ups, exercises and workshops, all designed to build company spirit and experience. Auditions for the Sears Drama Festival will take place in December.