

# CENTRAL NEWS

January 2014

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## Principal's Message

This newsletter comes out as our first semester report cards get sent home (Friday, February 7<sup>th</sup>).

As we returned to classes after Christmas vacation, we enjoyed a historical two-day school closure at Stratford Central. With another "no bus day" as we began the exam schedule for our secondary students, we had a one-day delay of exams, which meant for a very rapid turnaround for teachers who were busy marking and entering marks for this report card.

As we finished semester one, we said "goodbye" and "happy retirement" to Mr. Tim Gilbert. Mr. Gilbert taught for 33 years with our School Board and headed up the Arts Department for the last several years. Mr. Gilbert's retirement marks a huge change in his life but also in the lives of many students at Central who enjoyed the good fortune of having him as their teacher and/or band conductor. Enjoy your well-deserved retirement, Mr. Gilbert! We'll miss you!!

As second semester begins, our students enjoy a whole new schedule of classes and a fresh start. Second semester seems to move incredibly quickly as we enjoy several holidays to break up the semester.

We welcome to staff a couple of new faces. Ms. DeBoer is teaching French while Ms. Black and her husband settle in with their wee son Hugo, who arrived on January 16<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Sippel has joined our Arts Dept. and Ms. Smith is new to our English Dept. this semester. We were also pleased to have Ms. Mari, Ms. Free, Mr. Fisher and Ms. Eckel continue with us into semester 2. Sadly, we bid goodbye to Mr. Good but hope that he returns to Central next school year.

Our students planning on pursuing post-secondary studies next year have just finished completing their on-line applications and have already begun to receive early offers of admission; this is an exciting time for those students (and their parents).

We've just begun the registration process for next school year so most of our returning secondary students are busy with course selections. Students requiring any support or advice when it comes to making decisions about next school year are urged to seek an appointment with their guidance counsellor.

Our Students' Council is making plans for a semi-formal Valentine's Dance to be held in our cafeteria on Friday, February 14<sup>th</sup>. Students need to show their student's

card to gain admission to the dance. Tickets for the dance will be on sale in our cafeteria during lunch time prior to the 14<sup>th</sup>.

After our first progress report comes out, there will be a semester 2 Parents' Night on March 20<sup>th</sup>, 5:30-7:30 p.m. All parents (and their students) are invited to attend. However, any time you have a concern about your son/daughter's progress, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

During the entire week of March 17-21<sup>st</sup>, our Interact Club will embark on a fundraising campaign which kicks off on the Monday with a school assembly.

The Literacy Test will be written by our grade 10 students on March 27<sup>th</sup> in the morning. Grade 9 students will write a practice test in the morning that will help determine their readiness to write the test in their grade 10 year. Senior students (ie, students in grades 11 and 12) will not attend classes in the morning. **There will be afternoon classes for all secondary students in the afternoon on March 27<sup>th</sup>.**

Be sure to check out our school website and my regular tweets regarding upcoming dates and events at Central.

Our School Council is always eager to welcome new parents. Our meetings focus around gaining information about what our kids are learning and experiencing at school and in their lives, in general. Our next meeting is on Wednesday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. in our Library and the topic is Children's Mental Health. Please consider joining us.

Sally Zehr, Principal

## Dates to Remember 2014

Tues. Feb. 11	Grad Photo Absentee & Retakes
Mon. Feb. 17	Family Day Holiday
Thurs. Mar. 6	Interim Report Card
Fri. Mar. 7	P.A. Day
Mar. 10 – 14	March Break
Thurs. Mar. 20	Gr. 9 -12 Parent's Night
Tues. Mar. 27	Gr. 10 Literacy Test
Thurs. Apr. 17	First Provincial Report Card
Apr. 18 – 21	Easter Holiday
Mon. May 19	Victoria Day Holiday
Tues. June 3	Music Night
Fri. June 6	P.A. Day
June 23 – 27	Semester 2 Final Exams
Fri. July 4	Final Provincial Report Card

## **Student Services**

### Course Selections 2014/15 - ONLINE REGISTRATION

Registration information sessions for grades 9-12 will take place in mid-February. The course calendar is available online at <http://scss.amdsb.ca/> for students who would like to plan ahead. 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 mid-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.

### New in 2014: Information Session for Grades 10 and 11 Parents

March 20 is Parent's Night for semester two classes. During Parent's Night, guidance counsellors will offer an information session in Room 209 at 7 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 2014 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 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 40 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 9 and 10 students are encouraged to complete most of their hours prior to grade 11. Many volunteer opportunities come to the school and are announced and posted for students.

## **Swim Team**

The Swim Team won the overall Huron-Perth championship banner with 31 swimmers participating. There are 20 swimmers who have qualified for WOSSAA to be held on Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>.

## **Central Athletic Association**

The holiday carnival was a huge success and fundraiser for our CAA. There was skating, hot chocolate and prizes donated from the community. C.A.A. also organized a "buy-out" for classes to support our Boys' Hockey Team which was held at the Allman Arena on Dec. 17, 2013.

## **Be The Change**

Be The Change club is collecting slightly used jeans for homeless teens until February 14, 2014. The project is called "Teens for Jeans." Students and parents are encouraged to clean out their closets. Ask friends and neighbours to do the same. Jeans may be dropped off at the main office or students can bring them to their homerooms.

## **Dance at Central**

The grade 9 dance class was busy this semester performing in two school assemblies and the Dance Central Showcase. The class completed the semester with an amazing array of performance pieces. For fun, we finished with a guest workshop of country line dancing!

Dancentral spent the fall and early winter choreographing and rehearsing for our fabulously successful December Dance Show - The Miracle of Dance! We have been busy fundraising to pay for transportation to North Bay in May to attend the four day Pulse Ontario Youth Dance Conference. We have held 2 silent auctions, a poinsettia fundraiser, a bake sale, run two bingos and have set up 3 date baskets for a February date raffle. Thank you to the Stratford businesses who have so generously donated their time and wares to our fundraisers. The conference should be an incredible experience for our dancers.

## **Yearbooks**

Last year Mr. Bradshaw's Yearbook class created a colourful, engaging and informative yearbook full of highlights and reflections from the school year. This year's course has just started and the creative, innovative, and spirited students in his class are ready to create another exceptional memento. If you missed out on purchasing one of these keepsakes last year, do not miss out this time! Yearbooks are now on sale for \$35 dollars, but after March Break, the price will rise to \$40 dollars. For purchasing, there are three options:

1. Mondays and Wednesdays, students may purchase a copy in the cafeteria at lunch: cash or cheques made out to the school are accepted.
2. Visit the school's website at [stratfordcentral.ca](http://stratfordcentral.ca), where you may purchase a copy with a credit card. A transaction fee of 5% will be added to the price for this service.
3. Senior students on spare may see Ms. Raleigh in the library.

Do not delay: buy yours today!