

CENTRAL NEWS

October 2014

Principal's Message

Greetings from Stratford Central! As the new administrator at this school, I am looking forward to working with staff, students, parents and members of the community during the 2014-2015 school year. I wish to extend my thanks to all students and staff for welcoming me at this school. The first month has been very enjoyable and I am excited to be at this school. Clearly the students connect well to this school thanks to their efforts as well as the efforts of parents and staff.

Our focus as a school aligns with the goals of the Avon Maitland School Board namely:

1. To continue to build positive, inclusive learning environments
2. To continue to promote learning and growth involving 5 student outcomes (collaboration, communication, critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving).

All of us know that demands and skills in today's world change, sometimes rapidly. We are trying to prepare students for jobs and careers that may not exist yet. As a result, as a school, we feel the next best step for our students at graduation from Stratford Central is to be knowledgeable and proficient in the areas listed above.

As stated, we have had a great start to the school year and I am looking forward to the remainder of the journey this school year.

New Staff

Stratford Central welcomes the following people to our staff:

Katie Adams	Educational Assistant
Tawyna Basisto	Canada and World Studies, Social Sciences
Kaitlin Beer	Educational Assistant
Anca Bogorin	Math, Science
Molly Galloway	Educational Assistant
Sarah Hubbard	Learning For All Teacher
Katrina Klemp	Canada and World Studies, Special Education
Amalie Legace	Grade 7/8 Immersion
Jason Sippel	Grade 7/8
Emily Wagner	Educational Assistant
Jennifer Wallace	Visual Arts
Matt Weston	Music, English
Jane Wilkinson	French Immersion

International Students

Stratford Central currently is playing host to 30 international students. The international students will attend our school ranging from 4 weeks to the entire school year. The international students as well as many students from our school will learn and reflect on "culture" as the year progresses. Please join us on extending a warm welcome to these students.

Progress Report

The progress report was issued to all students on Friday, October 10th. The information contained within this report represents a snapshot as to how well your son/daughter is progressing within a course. **PARENTS AND STUDENTS SHOULD BE CONCERNED IF ACHIEVEMENT IN A CLASS IS CLASSIFIED AS "NEEDS IMPROVEMENT"**. Generally, as time progresses, rigor within courses becomes more demanding. If a student is having difficulty at this time, in any class, he/she should:

- a) seek help from the instructor
- b) see student services
- c) with their parent/guardian attend the parent-teacher evening scheduled on Thursday October 16 to discuss next steps

Commencement

A friendly reminder that commencement will take place on Friday November 7th beginning at 7:30 pm. The location for this venue is the Avon Theatre. We look forward to an exciting evening !

School Council

The purpose of school council is to bring together, once a month, the various stakeholders involved with this school to dialogue about issues facing our youth. This welcoming group will meet next at 7 pm on October 21st in the school library. We are always looking for new people to participate !

Traffic Congestion

To alleviate congestion (at times) in front of the courthouse and school, St. Andrew Street will be designated as one-way beginning on October 20th. All vehicles, after dropping off students at the school, will have to exit using Birmingham Street as of this date.

NGL 3.0

Stratford Central has been designated as a "next generation learning" school. Students in grades 7 and 8 will receive Apple iPad tablets in late October to assist with their learning. Students will be expected to take these devices with them into future grades moving forward.

EQAO

Stratford Central is very proud of the results generated by students from this school. These results represent the percentage of students earning a level 3 result or higher on a provincial assessment. Please refer to the following chart.

Grade 9 Mathematics		
Level of Program	School Results	Provincial Average
Applied	76%	47%
Academic	98%	85%

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (Grade 10)		
Level of Program	School Results	Provincial Average
Applied	55%	50%
Academic	99%	94%

Our school is performing above provincial averages on these assessments. Our academic students are performing at very high levels. Congratulations to the students and staff for attaining these results !

In addition, this past year represented the fifth consecutive year that students in applied level mathematics improved on this assessment. This is a tremendous accomplishment!

Good News Items.....(several are listed!)

Terry Fox walk and regatta organized by Student Council.....raised \$2000 for cancer research....fantastic!

In addition to extra-curricular athletics and arts.....over 20 other clubs are running at Central.....thanks to the efforts of staff and students.....great!

Community Donation to our tech engineering program from D and D Automation.....much appreciated!

Cooperative Education students have all been placed.....thanks to the goodwill of our community employers.....thank you!
Please contact the school with any questions or concerns.

Kevin Mills, Principal

Dates to Remember 2014

Mon., Oct. 13	- Thanksgiving Day Holiday	Fri., Nov. 14	- First Provincial Report Card
Thurs., Oct. 16	- Gr. 9-12 Parent's Night 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.	Tues., Dec. 2	- Christmas Food Drive
Oct. 22, 23	- Gr. 10 Change Days	Dec. 8-12	- Gr. 12 Grad Photos
Thurs., Oct. 30	- School Photo Retakes & Absentees	Dec. 12, 13	- DanceCentral Showcase
Fri., Nov. 7	- Professional Development Day	Tues., Dec. 16	- Music Dept. Christmas Concert
Tues Nov 11	- Remembrance Day Assembly	Dec. 22-Jan. 2	- Christmas/New Year Holidays

EngineeringCentral

Stratford Central's Engineering program is excited to announce that we have again partnered with a local business leader. D & D Automation has provided engineeringCentral with financial support and real-world learning opportunities for our students. This is the second year for our program, which teaches students computer engineering concepts including analog and digital electronics, robotics, programming, computer hardware and networking. It is also the second year of significant community involvement, as D & D and a number of other local businesses contributed resources or provided financial support. Our program could not provide the diversity of experience that it does without this business investment.

Last year, one of the culminating projects for engineering students was a robotics challenge, pitting us against professional engineers from D & D in a contest to build a robot that could follow a very curvy road that led to a set of 5 stairs. The robots then needed to climb the stairs and stop on top. We look forward to more friendly competition with D & D this year in order to further students' skills and to build relationships with local industries and employers.

The Arts Department

The Arts Department at Stratford Central is a busy place: two theatre companies, a dance troupe, five music ensembles, plus a talented group of visual artists who provide backdrops, sets and displays for our various functions.

Three of our grade twelve **Visual Arts** students are working at Factory163 for their co-op placement. Most recently, they helped with Culture Days and will be helping to organize art exhibits at Factory163. It is always appreciated when the community opens their doors to our students to give them an opportunity to get real life experiences in the arts.

Dance Central, our extra-curricular dance club, is in full swing with students rehearsing twelve dance pieces for our December showcase. Be sure to book **December 12th & 13th** on your calendars to come and see our show!

Forget-Me-Not Theatre is Central's social issues based drama club, under the umbrella of Theatre Central. Besides working on monologues for the Remembrance Day assembly, the troupe is putting together a piece which focuses on mental health, specifically depression. They have invited Lindsay Price, a playwright from Theatre folk, to come in and help shape the writing, with the intention of performing for groups in the community in the new year. This theatre company is passionate about raising awareness and working towards positive change!

LIGHTS, CAMERA...Theatre Central is well underway with rehearsals for this year's fall show, *Waiting for Godot*, under the direction of Ms. Stotts-Jones. The production will run **December 4th-6th**, with two casts: one male, one female. Meanwhile, theatre students are also busy writing or finding scripts for the Sears Drama Festival entry. In December, they will present their ideas to a teacher production team who will make one selection. The festival is hosted by GDCI and will run after March Break. Finally, in May, Theatre Central will be producing a children's theatre piece with puppets, based on the book, *The Hero of Hamblett*. A portion of the proceeds will be going to support The World Festival of Children's Theatre, hosted by Stratford in 2016...**ACTION!**

Students in the Music Department are busy preparing for a variety of upcoming performances. Because of the success of our spring coffee house, students are auditioning performance numbers for a fall coffee house to be held on **October 23** in the auditorium. On **October 27**, the **Jazz Band** will join other jazz bands from Stratford in a concert to help raise money for scholarships at the Kiwanis Festival of the Performing Arts. **Central Singers** will perform on **November 1** in a concert with Stratford artists Rant, Maggie Rant, Trent Severn, and others. At this concert, they will again perform the theme song for the 2016 World Festival of Children's Theatre. The **Symphonic Band** is busy preparing for Commencement on **November 7** and the Remembrance Day assembly on **November 11**. The grade nine **Concert Band** has begun rehearsals and will perform publicly for their first time at our Christmas Concert on **December 16**. Finally, the **Vocal Chords** is in the process of holding auditions and will be preparing a special concert for the spring.

Please join the Arts Department at any and all of our performances this year. We always love to fill the chairs in the audience and perform for the community!

Notes from the Library

A reminder to students and parents that Central's Library Catalogue is now online, so you can search for materials for research and recreational reading outside of school hours. Go directly to destiny.amdsb.ca or visit the school website, and click on "For Students" and then the Library tab. The catalogue link is at the bottom of the page (use your Novell login to gain access) and links to the databases are also on the page.

Research is now starting in many classes. Ms. Raleigh is always available to help students manoeuvre through the inquiry process and find reliable resources for research. Not sure how to use the databases, the most efficient way to search for credible and current sources? Stop in and ask for a quick tutorial.

Read a good book? Think we are missing materials for a specific research topic? We are always looking for suggestions of materials to add to the collection.

Change Day

Stratford Central is pleased to announce that we will be hosting 'Change Day' on Oct. 22 & Oct. 23 for all of our Grade 10 students. 'Change Day' is a locally-designed event, developed to facilitate the removal of barriers between students and promote empathy and understanding within our entire school community.

Student Services

Important Dates:

Thursday Oct 16 (Parent Night)

Information Session for Parents – Rm 210

6:45 - 7:15 p.m. - Applying to College / Scholarship Information

7:30 - 8:00 p.m. - Applying to University / Scholarship Information

Monday October 27th - 6:30 - 8:30 pm

University Information Program (UIP) at SCSS - all Ontario Universities will be represented
all students and parents welcome

University Information Night

This event will be held on Monday, Oct. 27, from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Students may bring their parents for an evening of three 30-minute sessions with Ontario Universities plus a 20-minute roam at the end. This is your chance to speak to/listen to a representative speak about an Ontario University you may be interested in attending.

School Website:

Student Services has updated their section on the website (stratfordcentral.ca) and it can be found in 'For Students' There are twenty-one new links that deal with post secondary applications, scholarships, diploma requirements, study tips and interest inventories.

College / University Visits

Representatives from universities and colleges visit SCSS to discuss programs and campus life. Students in grades eleven and twelve are encouraged to sign up in Student Services. The majority of these sessions run through the lunch hour. A list of the Liaison Visits can be found on the school website.

Application Process - University / College

Grade twelve students will attend an information session in the third or fourth week of October. Students will be notified of the schedule when it becomes available. Scholarship booklets will be distributed at this time. Students will be encouraged to complete the SCSS Awards Application Form and apply for outside scholarships. Information about OSAP (Ontario Student Assistance Program) will be presented in May.

Dates for equal consideration and costs for applying:

University: January 14, 2015 (\$140 for the first 3 choices, \$47 each additional choice)

College: February 1, 2015 (\$95 for up to five choices -no additional choices permitted)

Students require **ENG4U and five other university (4U or 4M) courses** to apply to university. Some universities have additional requirements i.e. at least 3 of the 6 courses be 4U or a restriction on the number of M courses from one subject area. Students are encouraged to speak with their Guidance Counsellor to discuss plans.

Awards:

In order to be eligible for an Ontario Scholar award at Commencement, students must have a minimum of an 80% average in six grade 12 courses.