



# HANTSPORT Connection



Welcome to Hantsport School visit us at <http://hantsport.ednet.ns.ca/>

11 School Street, P.O. Box 392

Hantsport, NS B0P 1P0

Back to School



**Report absences to 902-684-4000**

# SEPTEMBER 2016



## WELCOME BACK

## ICE CREAM SOCIAL AND MEET THE TEACHER

Thursday evening, September 15 (6:00 pm) please come to the school for an ice cream and meet the new and returning staff. After the ice cream, from 6:30—7:30 you can meet the teachers and also complete paperwork necessary for volunteering in the school (see note on page 2 of newsletter regarding volunteering). Sue Sypher will be here to help facilitate the Criminal Record checks and please remember that two pieces of ID are required.

**NUT FREE SCHOOL** We are now a peanut/nut free school, so please be considerate of this fact when packing snacks and lunches. See note later in newsletter regarding this.

## DATES TO REMEMBER IN SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER

- September 7 – First Day of School for students
- September 13 – School Photo Day
- September 15 – Anti Bully Day **WEAR PINK**
- September 15 - Ice Cream Social (6:00 pm) & Meet the Teacher (6:30 pm)
- September 21 – Home & School 7:00 pm
- September 23 - 11:30 am EARLY DISMISSAL **Spirit Day (Wear Black & Gold)**
- September 29—Terry Fox Walk
- September 30 – NO SCHOOL for students – Regional Shut Down Day



- October 10 – NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving
- October 13 – School Bus Evacuation Drill
- October 19 – 11:30 am EARLY DISMISSAL **Support Your Local Farmer Day**
- October 19 – Home & School 7:00 pm
- October 29 - NO SCHOOL for students Provincial Conference Day



Please note on your annual calendar that the date of the Christmas Concert has been moved to December 6 (with storm date of December 13).



# Cafeteria Notes

*Welcome Back Everyone!*

My name is Kathy Kenny (**Kitchen Kate!**) and I have the privilege of helping to get the long-awaited Hantsport School Cafeteria up and running this year. There are still a few kinks to iron out but in the next week I will have a definite start-up date and a delicious menu to offer to students and staff.

For the past 3 years I have been the Cafeteria Worker in Wolfville School and for 2 years previous to that I worked in Hantsport School as an EA. I am already familiar to many here and am looking forward to seeing you all again.

As many of you know, the function of the cafeteria is overseen by the School Board; however any and all expenses for the running of it must be met by other means i.e. revenues brought in by items sold or from the school itself. The expenses include any equipment needed, any food offered and my wage. As you can appreciate it can be difficult to keep a positive balance. The Board has given every cafeteria a formula to help calculate what the prices must be in order to keep us running smoothly.

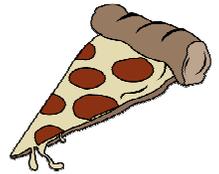
Most of the items sold will be made on site each day from fresh ingredients and I will be supporting local suppliers as much as possible. Unfortunately, no credit can be allowed. For now at least if you want to order from the cafeteria I will be accepting cash or cheque only.

If you have any questions, suggestions or recipes, please feel free to share them with me.

The easiest way to keep your cafeteria is to use it whenever you can.

Bon Appetit!

Kitchen Kate



## Welcome to New Staff

Welcome back to Ms. Hardy who has returned as the math and literacy specials for First Nations Students.

Educational Assistants—New and returning after an absence are Ms. O'Reilly, Mrs. MacKenzie and Ms. Lynn.

Our APSEA oral Interpreter is Ms. Redden.

We have three student teachers in the middle level. Please welcome Ms. Smith, Ms. Pace and Ms. Munden.

You're off to great places, today is your day, your mountain is waiting, so get on your way.

Dr. Seuss

### SCHOOL FEES

Grades Primary –5 - \$35 Supply Fee

Middle Level Grade 6– 8 \$ 25 student fee

Fees can be paid by cash or cheque payable to "Hantsport School" and are due as soon as possible.

If this is a problem please contact the office at 902-684-4000

# Student Attendance



Consistent student attendance is important. When a child is frequently absent from school he/she misses important learning experiences including specific skills and knowledge that may be necessary for further learning. The real danger of frequent absences from school is that students will develop gaps in their learning that will hinder future learning.

It is understood that there are legitimate reasons why students must miss school. When this occurs, the school will work with you to ensure your child does not fall behind. Please communicate these situations with the child's teacher and the school principal.

There are also many examples of students missing significant time when it is not necessary. Please take school attendance seriously. Be consistent in ensuring that your child values the importance of a good education. Make sure he/she goes to bed at a reasonable time and gets a good night's sleep. Plan your vacation at times that will have no impact, or at the least a minimal impact, on school attendance.

Do not hesitate to phone the school if you are encountering difficulties getting your child to attend school. Allow us to work with you to find solutions. We are willing to sit with you to look at your child's programming and school experiences as well as any other factors that may impact on your child attending school.

**PLEASE REPORT STUDENT ABSENCES TO 902-684-4000**

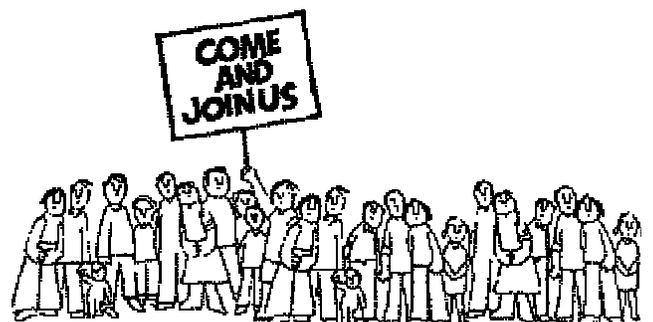
# AVRSB Volunteers in School Policy

The AVRSB has had a *Volunteers in Schools* Policy since 1999. As stated in this policy, the Board takes its obligation seriously to ensure safe environments for learning by taking all reasonable steps to minimize risks and threats to students. Because student safety is a top priority, in January 2015, this policy underwent an extensive review to ensure that any potential gaps in practice are closed or minimized. All recommendations for change were presented to our school community members and was circulated to our school stakeholders for the opportunity to respond to the proposed changes and to provide further input. To highlight some of the changes:

- clearly defines volunteers versus visitors;
- requires volunteers to complete a standard application form for any volunteering;
- will continue to require the completion of Criminal Records Check (including the Vulnerable Sector) and Child Abuse Registry checks prior to working with students but will now require re-checks be completed every (3) three years; and,
- as of January 8, 2015, will require all current volunteer to renew their Criminal Records Check (including the Vulnerable Sector) and Child Abuse Registry if it has been over (3) three years since it was last completed.

The recommended changes to the *Volunteers in Schools* policy are not to discourage volunteering in the AVRSB. It is to employ the best practices to ensure our policy is as effective as possible for decreasing the chances of student harm from volunteers. We will be reminding our volunteers throughout the remainder of the school year so that we are well prepared for such events, as Class Trips.

***If you require a Criminal Records Check*** for the first time for renewal, we will have Susan Sypher available here at the school on Thursday, September 15 evening during our Ice Cream Social and Meet the Teacher to assist in the paperwork required. In addition you can begin the paperwork required for the Child Abuse Registry. As noted above, both of these forms are required for those wishing to volunteer in the school even if it is just driving students to and from events. Also if you are a driver, you will require a J-form completed each year and these forms will be available as well.



# Physical Education Corner



Our gym floor has been sanded and repainted over the summer and it looks great! Just a reminder that to keep it looking that way we ask that no outdoor footwear be used on the floor. Students in all grades should have a pair of indoor sneakers for Physical Education class.

The following extra curricular programs will be offered this fall:

Boys and girls cross country running for grades 3-5 and a middle level grade 6-8 team.

Soccer for boys and girls in grades 6-8 will be starting next week and going until mid October

A girls volleyball team for grades 6-8 that begins at the 1st of Oct. and runs until the end of November.

*If you are interested in helping with any of the teams please see Mrs. Vandertoorn who will be at Hantsport School on Mondays and Wednesdays.*

## Home & School

**\*\*Attention all returning parents, and new families\*\***

We would love to have you come see what H&S is all about! We think you will be surprised at hearing of all the different ways we help enhance your child's experience at Hantsport School!

We meet the third Wednesday of every month at 7pm and would like to encourage parents to attend when their schedules permit. Stay informed, contribute ideas, volunteer for an event, become a class parent rep or an elected member of the board! Your level of commitment is up to you!

**Next meeting: September 21st 7pm**

**Playground update:**

We are now over \$25,000 towards our fundraising goal!

Thanks for your continuing support!

Home & School have partnered once again with **T.A.N. Coffee** to bring you our own unique "Hantsport Blend" gourmet coffee. \$13/bag regular or \$14/bag decaf, available in whole beans or ground. Orders are placed monthly and will be sent home with students the following week. **Orders are due no later than September 21st.**

**Save the Dates:**

**Friday October 21st** - Home & School presents **Hantsport Harvest Fest Kids Halloween Video Dance** with "DJ Doug"

**Saturday October 22nd** - Home & School's 2nd Annual **Harvest Fest Craft Fair**. To inquire about booking a table, please contact Kristy Webster (902)691-6841 or email [hantsporthands@gmail.com](mailto:hantsporthands@gmail.com)



## Musical Offerings 2016-17

For Middle School students (grades 6,7,8) the band program will again, this year, offer instruction in most woodwind, brass and percussion instruments plus bass guitar, double bass and electric/acoustic guitar. Keyboard also, for students who play piano at an intermediate level.

For students from grade 2 and up, violin, cello and double bass classes are available on Tuesdays during the noon break.

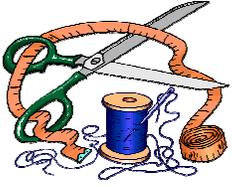
All students from grade 2 and older are welcome to sing in the Elementary Choir, which is held on Thursdays at the noon break.

Students have the opportunity to perform in school concerts, plus selected groups are invited to perform on the "Christmas Angels" show, the Annapolis Valley Music Festival, and to take bus trips to perform in other communities. Also, several other opportunities to perform in Hantsport usually happen every year.

I am looking forward to a great musical year in 2016/2017

Roger Taylor: Music Director, Hantsport School.

# Ms. B's Corner (MLE News)



Things are off to a busy start! It is great to see the students refreshed and ready to go!

**Family Studies** 7 students will be coming home with a supply list for fabric and sewing notions so that we may get our Textiles and Sewing Unit underway. Please look for this posted on Google Classroom or a paper copy within the next week.

**Donations of magazines** would be greatly appreciated by **Ms. Brothers**. Magazines featuring **foods, nature, scenery, sports, our country and world** would be super (no tabloids please), as students can use them for projects and assignments. Any magazines would be welcome, except for tabloids and the like. They can be dropped off at the school. **Please indicate Ms. Brothers' name on the bag/box.** Thanks in advance. J

**School dances** require planning and organization; a committee will be formed consisting of students committed to this. Parents are welcome, and encouraged, to chaperone our dances. A notice will be sent home regarding this.

With the start-up of a new school year, there are opportunities for students to become involved in committees and extra-curricular activities that interest them. Our school's **Citizenship Committee** will be formed, once again. This is an active group of students that work hard to raise awareness about social justice issues and to promote youth empowerment. These students make a difference for others within our school, our community and the great big world out there! Students from grades 6-8 are welcome to join and participate!

Students that are interested will also meet regularly to organize and promote cooperative, peaceful relationships among their peers and students at all grade levels via displays and awesome, inspiring presentations at assemblies, as well as, school wide activities during our **Bullying Awareness week** to be celebrated later this fall!

**The 17<sup>th</sup> World School Milk Day** also takes place this first month of school on the last Wednesday of September.. Classroom activities support this day!



**4-H:** Does your child love animals, agriculture, wood-working, crafts, cake decorating, nature, horse-back riding? Maybe 4-H is for your child and your family. For students interested in finding out more about 4-H or becoming a **4-H member**, look for information posted in the school lobby. 4-H is a community of young people across Canada who are learning leadership, citizenship and life skills. 4-H is about having fun, learning, exploring and discovering. In 4-H, young people make new friends, develop new skills, become leaders and help shape their communities. In our community '4-H-ers' meet at the Mount Denson hall on a regular basis. For more information, google 'Border Riders 4-H Club, Mount Denson, and there is a contact number.

**Open Farm Day** is being celebrated September 18th! Check out the website by googling 'Open Farm Day 2016' to see a list of participating farms!! This is an awesome opportunity for families to visit our local farms and see how they are run and where their food comes from too!

Notices regarding **Heritage Fair** will be sent home in the next few weeks. Heritage Fair will be held in the month of November; a set date will be posted in the future. But it is never too early to start thinking of a topic or idea.



**Agendas** are required in every middle level class, so that homework can be recorded. Each student must have their yellow homework folder with them, as well. It would be appreciated if these were checked regularly, as we work to have our students meet with success. Organization is key, as are consistent expectations, in fostering independence and responsibility.

Looking forward to our year,

Ms Brothers

**Hantsport School**



# **PEANUT / TREE NUT SMART SCHOOL**

*September 7, 2016*

Dear Parents/Guardians,

**We are a “PEANUT / TREE NUT SMART” school.**

We have students and one staff member with severe peanut/tree nut allergies. We also have other children who have peanut/tree nut sensitivities. We have consulted our School Board’s Nurse Coordinator of the Student Health Partnership Program to help us establish safe practices for anaphylactic shock.

**As a PEANUT / TREE NUT SMART school, no peanuts or tree nuts (or products containing peanuts or tree nuts) may be brought to school.**

It is necessary to guard against “cross contamination” as well as the eating of peanuts and tree nuts (**almonds, brazil nuts, cashews, hazel nuts, filberts, macadamia nuts, pecans, pine nuts, pistachios, chestnuts, hickory nuts, shea nuts, and walnuts**) and **any foods containing peanuts/tree nuts or their oils**. Cross contamination occurs when the child touches any surface that has peanut/tree nut butter or peanut/tree nut oil left on it. When this happens, the peanut/tree nut oils on the child’s hand may be transferred to the eyes or mouth where it is rapidly absorbed into the child’s bloodstream resulting in anaphylactic shock. Anaphylactic shock is a condition where the airways swell and suffocation occurs. This is very rapid, happening within minutes. In Canada, an average of twenty-four children die annually from cross contamination and exposure to peanut/tree nut butter and peanut/tree nut oil.

In the interest of safety, please check ingredient labels carefully to ensure that food items do not contain traces of nuts. We have reviewed our lunchroom menu and have removed sunflower seeds which can cause students to have anaphylactic shock. We have checked with the manufacturers and providers of our food items, and have been assured that they are peanut/tree nut free and have been produced in peanut/tree nut free environments.

Following these procedures will help us provide a safe environment for our students. We thank you for your cooperation in this very important matter.

**As a precautionary measure, we are adding sunflower seeds and pumpkin seeds to our list of items that should not be brought into our school (due to possible cross contamination during processing).**

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Colin Chase

Colin Chase, Principal