

# September's News

Richmond Education Centre/Academy



## Principal's Message

Welcome Back!

After a beautiful summer, we begin the 2017-2018 school year. On behalf of Vice Principal Jason MacLean and all our teaching and non-teaching staff, we hope each family had a restful and relaxing summer. The weather was very cooperative, and fall is turning out to be lovely as well.

This school year marks the fifth year we have come together as a grade five to 12 school. Our routines have become very well established, and students have found lots of advantages in having both older and younger grades in the same building. There have been some changes over the last five years, however, mostly around enroll-

ment. As of September 1st our current enrollment sits at 390, which is 22 fewer students than last year and 92 fewer than when we opened the doors to RECA in September of 2013.

Despite this enrollment drop, we have managed to maintain the same number of teachers and support staff as last year. Having said that, some of those positions have specific designations (e.g., math mentors), so there have been some changes to class composition as a result.

As we all know, last year was a challenging one which included job action by the NSTU. The resolution of that job action involved a new collective agreement that included

several provisions that change how teachers work in the public school system. One important difference relates to data entry and communication. For instance, the provincial policy now states that teachers have up to two business days to return calls and emails, and page two of this newsletter discusses how marks will be entered in PowerSchool this year.

You will receive much information over the next few days. While it may be hard to keep up, we strongly suggest that you try to read everything we send home so both home and school are on the same page. Feel free to call us anytime!

Sincerely,  
Lois Landry, Principal

September 1, 2017

Volume 5 Number 1

Inside this issue:

Principal's Message	1
Meet the Teacher Evening	1
Cumulative Marks in Portal	2
SAC and School Insurance	2
Safe Arrival Policy	3
Public Health/ Volunteers	3
Guidance News	4

Dates of Interest

- Last Day for Course Change (gr. 10-12): Mon., Sept. 11
- Anti-Bullying Day: Thurs., Sept. 14
- SAC meeting: Tue., Sept. 19 at 3:30 pm
- School Photos (Grades 5-12): Fri., Sept. 22
- Meet the Teacher Night: Tue., Sept. 26 at 6:30 pm
- Terry Fox Run: Thu., Sept. 28
- Inservice (no school): Fri., Sept. 29

## Meet the Teacher

Each year the staff at Richmond Education Centre/Academy hosts a "Meet the Teacher" night.

This year, our event will take place on Tuesday, September 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. As in previous years, we'll provide some information about the school and introduce

all staff members so that parents and guardians can put a face to names that

**Meet the Teacher Night:**

**Tue., September 26 at 6:30 pm**

their children will talk about and bring paperwork home from during the next ten months.

There are always a number of policies from the Department of Education and Early Childhood Education that impact students and their families, so this is a great opportunity to hear more about those.

We hope to see you there!

## Cumulative Marks in the Student/Parent Portal

The Parent/Student Portal provides valuable information related to how your child is doing in school. It provides attendance in real time, and there are updates on marks from each of their current classes.

There have been some changes to the system, though, as it relates to cumulative marks. In the past, when an individual assignment was corrected by the teacher, you would see that mark in the portal as soon as it was entered, as well as any change that assignment mark made in the cumu-

lative mark the student had in the course.

The first issue has not changed. As teachers enter marks, students and parents will be able to see those marks or go back to them later if they have forgotten how they did. What is changing is that the cumulative marks for grades 9 to 12 marks will not be always be visible. For students in grades 5 to 8, for instance, there is no cumulative mark—only an IP which stands for In Progress. This will be the default setting for grade 9 to 12

students as well, but there will be times when the students will be able to see their cumulative mark.

As you can imagine, there are a number of factors to consider before we finalize this policy, so from now until September 26, all marks (including the cumulative mark) will be visible in the portal. We'll present our plans for moving forward after that date at our Meet the Teacher session and provide a notice to parents about how and when cumulative marks will be accessible.

## School Advisory Council

The School Advisory Council (SAC) is a legally recognized body composed of the principal and representatives of parents, students, teachers, support staff and community members who work together to enhance the quality of education provided by the school.

The goal of the SAC is to bring educational partners together to im-

prove learning, participate in continuous school improvement, advise on school policies, and encourage

### First SAC Meeting:

**Tue., September 19th at 3:30 pm**

positive relations between school, families, and the extended school community.

Our SAC meets 6 to 7 times per year. Each year, we hold our first meeting at a date and time set by the previous council. At the first meeting, convenient times for council members are discussed and meeting dates for the remainder of the year are set. Please contact the school if you are interested in joining our School Advisory Council!

## School Insurance Program

Every eligible child attending public school in Nova Scotia is automatically insured by the School Insurance Program's Basic Plan student accident coverage. This coverage is provided without deductible and at no cost. Basic Plan coverage can cover things such as physiotherapy, dental and medi-

cal equipment expenses, up to policy limits.

However, if parents/guardians wish to purchase additional coverage, the Gold Plan increases the time that your child is covered to 24/7 including summer vacations. Many of



the specific loss accident payments are triple those of the Basic Plan.

Please visit [www.sip.ca](http://www.sip.ca) for policy & limit information

and for more information on how to purchase the optional Gold Plan.

## Safe Arrival Policy for Grades 5 and 6

If you have children in grade 5 or 6, please note that there is an important information bulletin in the package that went home with your children on the first day. It is from the Strait Regional School Board and outlines their new "Safe Arrival" policy.

Beginning this year, parents or guardians of students in grades 5 and 6 must let the school know by 9:30 am if their student is absent from school and why. That notification goes to our secretary, Shelley

Boudreau, who will compile a list of absent students in grades 5 and 6 for that day. If the school does not receive notification of the student's absence, we will call home to ensure the student is safe and accounted for.

There are other details in the document issued by the Board, but the underlying rationale for the policy is to promote and support regular school attendance with all partners (students, parents/guardians, teach-

ers, school administration, school support staff and outside agencies).

For this reason, it is essential that school staff have the most current phone numbers and contact information for each child.

You can reach us the following ways: [shelleya.boudreau@srsb.ca](mailto:shelleya.boudreau@srsb.ca) or by phone at (902) 345-4949.

Thanks for your support!

## Communicating with Public Health

Annually, students across Nova Scotia are offered services delivered by Public Health including the Grade 7 School Immunization Program, Pre-school Screening, Enhanced Vision Screening Program and the Fluoride Rinse Program. Public Health works with the education system to distribute information about these programs and to obtain

consent for student participation.

Occasionally, Public Health staff may need to contact parents/guardians if consent information is incomplete or unclear, or if a consent form has not been returned. Public Health will not contact you if you have signed a consent form indicating you do not wish to have your child participate

in one of these programs. The school board will share limited information (e.g., names of parents/guardians and students) with Public Health to support these public health services for students.

Please contact your local public health office or principal if you have any questions about programs or how information is shared.

## Call for Volunteers

The Fluoride Mouthrinse Program will be offered to students in your school. As in past years, the success of this valuable dental preventative program will depend on support from dedicated volunteers. The program is carried out once a week, at the beginning of the school day.

The entire process takes about one hour and volunteers are trained by the Public Health Dental Hygienist.

If you as a parent, guardian, aunt, uncle, grandparent or community member have time to donate please call me for more information about the program.

Sharon Hearn 902-625-4375



## Richmond Education Centre/Academy

3238 Whiteside Road  
PO Box 599  
Louisdale, NS B0E 1V0

Phone: (902) 345-4949  
Fax: (902) 345-4948  
E-mail: [lois.landry@srsb.ca](mailto:lois.landry@srsb.ca)



2017-2018

## Getting off to a Good Start

**1. Attendance:** It is very important to attend on a regular, daily basis - you can't win it if you're not in it.

**2. Punctuality:** Be on time for all classes and activities. This is a life skill! Learning how and what to do happens at the beginning of class.

**3. Early to Bed:** Getting 8-10 hours of sleep every night makes it easier to be alert in school each day - scientists say so - not just your parents and teachers.

**4. A Solid Breakfast:** Proper eating habits affect learning. Every if you don't think you feel hungry, your body needs you to fuel it. We offer a breakfast program every day (Mon/Wed for 5-8; Tues/Thurs for 9-12). Take advantage and put your brain in gear.

**5. Good Study Habits:** Use an agenda or your phone calendar to stay organized. Keep it up-to-date so you know what you have to do and when things are due. Keep scribblers and binders organized so you can find what you need, when you need it! Have a quiet place to study and work on assignments and projects.

**6. Listen! Ask!!** Contribute in class

by observing and listening to the teacher, and don't be afraid to ask questions or answer them.

**7. Get Help!!** Ask your teachers, your guidance counsellor, principal, vice-principal, or any staff member if you are experiencing difficulty. Ask about the peer tutoring program for extra help.

**8. Plan Your Day:** Know what books and materials you will need for each class, and make sure you have them before you get here. Keep your backpack and locker clutter free - clean them out on a weekly basis. Being prepared keeps you less stressed!

**COURSE CHANGE REQUESTS 2017-18:** The deadline to submit a SIGNED course change request form is **Mon., September 11, 2017**. Also, a reminder that submitting a form does not ensure your request will be granted. Course changes cannot take a person off track to graduate or program requirements (French Imm. and O2) and are also subject to class size restrictions.

**GRADS OF 2018:** Throughout the year, I will continuously meet with all potential grads regarding their

post-secondary plans. Check out the 'Graduating Students' page under the **Guidance** tab for more info!

**SCHOLARSHIPS & BURSARIES:** Although it might seem early, scholarships and bursaries will start being posted soon on the school website ([reca.srsb.ca](http://reca.srsb.ca)). Grads should make it a habit to check the site weekly for new postings.

**CAREER FAIR:** On **Monday, September 25th** the annual AARAO Tour Post-Secondary Career Fair will be held here at Richmond Academy (with Ecole Beauport students joining us). Grade 12 students will have access to the displays from 8:50-9:50 am, and Grade 11 students will have access from 9:50-10:55 am. There will be approximately 40 institutions here, which will provide a great opportunity for students to get much needed information as they consider their career path options.

Administration and guidance were As the school year progresses, please feel free to contact the guidance counselors at the school if you have any questions or concern. You can reach guidance at (902)345-4949 or by email: [margie.macmillan@srsb.ca](mailto:margie.macmillan@srsb.ca).

## Attachment to September Newsletter:

The Strait Regional School Board believes strongly in the need to protect the privacy of all students and recognizes the issues around the publishing of student images and personal student identifying information, especially on the public Internet and social media sites. However, the Board also believes that the showcasing of students, their work, activities and achievements, is an important part of school life and can be a very positive experience for students. Therefore, it is the practice of the Strait Regional School Board and its schools to have written informed consent from parents/guardians before any student identifying information, including name, grade, school, video/voice/audio recording, images (photos) of students and/or student work, is used in print, online and in social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.), and prior to any student media interviews.

As part of our efforts to celebrate the achievements of our students and to promote the school's various educational, sports and cultural events, media partners are invited to the school from time to time throughout the year to cover these activities so that our good news and success stories can be shared with our school communities. As such, there is a strong possibility that your son/daughter may be identified either by name, grade, school, video/voice/audio recording, images (photos) of students and/or student work, in print, online and in social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.), and prior to any student media interviews.

There are other times when one of our media partners may contact the school to profile a specific student, program or event that may involve a student(s) being interviewed, photographed, video recorded and/or audio recorded. In these types of instances, it is our practice to request written parent/guardian permission prior to granting the media request.

Students participating in extra-curricular activities or events where the public is invited (e.g., field trips, school concerts, sporting/team events, school fairs, etc.) may be photographed and/or reported on by the media or the general public. If photography or video recording occurs at these types of events, it is not possible for the school or School Board to control the use of such recordings and therefore privacy cannot be expected at these events. It is important that when taking pictures or recordings, individuals are respectful of the privacy rights of anyone captured in their recording and that they not share them in any way without the consent of the individual or parent/guardian.

**Please complete the *Consent for Publication of Student Personal Information and Student Work* to indicate if you do or do not consent to your child being identified in this manner.**

All media requests, and associated contact with students, are carefully considered before being approved. We do our best to ensure that the personal privacy of students is protected and respected.

If you have any questions related to the above information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Lois Landry, Principal