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# CENTRAL

NEWSLETTER  
2017



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# KINGS

SEPTEMBER 15,

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Welcome back! Summer flew by as usual and the weather was pretty nice so, hopefully, everyone had a chance for some down time. Things are gearing up here as we get into our fall routines.

Welcome to our new parents. Please make sure to stay in touch with any concerns and even to share when something is going well for your student. Feedback is really helpful.

Thank you to all of the staff, students, and parents for a smooth start to the year. We have had some challenges with some large class sizes as our enrollment is slightly larger than projected. While the government provided extra money to address this in the spring, there are some factors which cannot be predicted. We are doing our best to work through the situation.

PLEASE DO NOT DROP OFF STUDENTS BEFORE 7:45 a.m. THERE IS NO SUPERVISION AND THE SCHOOL WILL BE LOCKED. Students with early practices only will be admitted through the Band Room door.

Please come out to our first SAC meeting on Wednesday, September 20<sup>th</sup>. These are short meetings where parents, staff, and students meet to discuss school issues and/or learn through guest speakers. It is not a fundraising group. If you are unable to make a meeting, we can send you the minutes if you provide me, or our Chair, Sara Keddy, with your email address.

For parents and students using the Power School Portals, this will be turned off when teachers prepare final marks. Final marks will only be displayed as of report card day.

Extra-curriculars are gearing up. Stay tuned to school announcements and check the website for information.

Have a great year!

Janice Foote, Principal

## DATES TO REMEMBER

- Sept. 20 – Early Dismissal, 12:00 noon  
- SAC Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- Sept. 21 – Senior High Dance,  
Grades 9-12, 7:30-10:30 a.m.
- Sept. 22 – Terry Fox Event
- Sept. 26 – Gator Games (Grades 6-8)
- Sept. 27 – Gator Games (Rain Date)
- Sept. 28 – Gator Games (Rain Date)
- Sept. 29 – Regional Inservice Day – No  
School for Students
- Oct. 5 – School Photo Retakes



## Modelling Appropriate Social Media Behaviours for our Children

Social media has become an important means of communication and of seeking information for most people. It is proving to be of particular importance for our youth as technology has become a significant part of the identity of

this generation. Unfortunately, increased technology has also resulted in new social issues. It is sometimes used as a means of cyber-bullying or an exchange of inappropriate information. **It is up to us, as adults, to serve as proper role models with regards to technology use.** We need to teach our children to respect the use of technology and to be good digital citizens. In order to do this properly, we as adults must also learn to be good social citizens and to model appropriate use of social media. We must use social media tools like Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, Instagram, etc. appropriately, because our children are watching and emulating our behaviours.

For more information around proper use of social media and good digital citizenship, please visit our website at: [avrsb.ca/digital](http://avrsb.ca/digital)

## Volunteering

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 were 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 volunteers to renew their Criminal Records Check and Child Abuse Registry if over 3 years since last completion.

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.

### **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 or 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.



### **PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **Victory Taekwondo**

We have a new home! We are now located in the County Fair Mall in New Minas.

Taekwondo is a Korean Sport Martial Art focusing on confidence, physical literacy, and team work. Victory Taekwondo has classes for ages 4 and up. Instructors are 3rd and 4th degree black belts and have earned multiple National medals. Two instructors each have over 20 years experience in WTF Taekwondo. Classes also help to improve flexibility, conditioning, focus and discipline. Contact us for our new fall schedule. Call 902-670-7897 or email [tkdvictory@hotmail.com](mailto:tkdvictory@hotmail.com).

#### **Berwick Girl Guide Open Event**

October 7th, 2-4:00 p.m., Berwick Girl Guiding hosts an afternoon open event for all girls and women, age five/Primary and up, at the South Berwick Community Hall. Free friendship-themed afternoon of games, crafts, snacks and campfire activities: everything you may – or may not! – know about Guiding. Drop in and play with us and find out more about Guiding opportunities that best match you as a youth or adult volunteer. Guest youth may be signed in; this event will be supervised. For info: Sara Keddy, [cskeddy@hotmail.ca](mailto:cskeddy@hotmail.ca), 902-679-6568.