

September 4, 2014

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# LeMarchant-St. Thomas

## September 2014 Newsletter

### Quick Glance

- Sept. 11th SAC- 4:30pm & H&S- 6:30pm
- Sept. 11th Pink Day
- Sept. 22nd—Gr. 6 student Band Meeting for parents- Long & McQuade 6:30pm
- Sept. 25th—Curriculum Night—6:00pm , followed by Ice Cream Social 6:30pm
- Sept. 26th—School Photos for Main Building only
- Sept. 29th—School Based PD, *no school for students*

Welcome back returning students, families and staff, to the 2014/15 school year. Our enrollment is up again this year, and therefore we would also like to say welcome to our new students and their families. We are also welcoming new to our staff this year: Kim Hollebhone, Resource, Alison Campbell, Resource/Learning Center, Janine Hagerman, Gr. 5/6 F.I. and Marc Gagnon, Gr. 5 F.I. (Julie MacDonald's maternity leave), Jeffrey Miller, Music, Stephanie Lent, Core French, Kristan AuCoin, Heather Babin and George Katsos, all three are new EPA's. We have attached a list of our 2014/2015 staff info with the email. It will also be posted on our website.

We hope you have all had a wonderful summer and feel rested and ready to embark on year 2014-2015. The staff has been busy setting up their classrooms and preparing academically for another successful year of learning. Our goal remains to set up a learning environment that promotes kindness, independence and a desire for students to reach their potential regardless of ability or skill. We thank you already for your support as we believe we have the most wonderful parents and students in Canada!

We want to remind parents that we endeavor to create an inviting place for parents to come discuss concerns, ask questions or even give compliments to our teachers and administration. Our doors are open, and creating an excellent working relationship with our community is very important to us. Teachers often require advanced notice of a visit, simply because of schedule constraints. Please don't hesitate to come in to see me or call any time you have a concerns or question, or even if you just want to say hello. Both myself and Anne Ring's doors are always open.

Here's what's happening this month.



## Stand Up Against Bullying

Thursday, September 11th is Stand Up Against Bullying day.

**The staff and students are asked to where pink T-Shirts, if possible, to stand united on anti bullying in our schools.**

This day provides a great opportunity to revisit how Stand Up Against Bullying day was established and the importance of it. Every year we have students join our schools who may not yet know about the day and why it is was proclaimed.

### Original Media Release:

To help send a strong message against bullying in Nova Scotia's schools, colleges and universities, the province has proclaimed the second Thursday at the start of each school year as Stand Up Against Bullying Day.

The inspiration for the day came from the actions of Central Kings Rural High School Grade 12 students Travis Price and David Shepherd who rallied behind a new student to the school who was being bullied simply for wearing pink.

"The actions of these two young men, along with their fellow students who wore pink to school in support of another student, are showing all Nova Scotians just how much of a difference individuals can make," Premier Rodney MacDonald said. "It is an honour to acknowledge their creative and selfless



## Housekeeping Info

When payments are sent to school for student supplies, class trips, hot lunches etc., please send in the exact amount of cash or a cheque made out to LMST. Money cannot be kept at the school for long periods of time and we are unable to make change. Thank you for your understanding as we have a very strict financial policy to uphold.

Also, it is important that you clearly label the envelope you send it in with your child's name and class and what the money is for.

For the safety of all students, bikes, scooters and skateboards should be walked on the school grounds. They are not permitted to be in use at recess, lunch or after school on the grounds until after 6pm once Excel and the YMCA is closed for the day. Students are encouraged to lock their bikes at the bike racks to avoid theft.

Hand held portable electronic devices such as iPods, cell phones, iPads (unless used by teacher with students in classrooms for educational purposes) etc. are not permitted in school during school hours. If your child carries a cell phone, they are only allowed to use it off school property. The office provides a phone for students to use. We cannot be responsible for lost or stolen devices, therefore the best practice is to keep them at home.

Please stop and check in at the office when coming into the school. It is important that we know who is in the building at all times. The safety of our students is of great importance to us and we truly appreciate your cooperation.

The car traffic at our school continues to present a problem. Please be very prudent at the crosswalk on Watt St. between our 2 buildings and do not park or stop there while dropping off your children. In the parking lot, drive in, drop off the children and keep going around. If you have to come in, park in a spot; do not leave your car off to the side. Emergency vehicles must be able to come in at all times.

Thank you for your cooperation.

## School Advisory Council

The **School Advisory Council** is getting ready for another year of action and involvement in helping to make our school a successful learning environment for our students. The meetings take place most often the 2nd Thursday of each month in the Library on the second floor at 4:30pm. The meeting date and time will be posted in each newsletter.

The SAC will be busy this year again supporting the school and keeping involved in the school replacement process. Information will be sent to parents as soon as we have been informed of the government's decision on the site chosen for rebuilding.



## Home and School Committee

Our **Home and School** (H&S) also meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month in the Library, given a couple of exceptions that will be indicated in newsletters. The meetings take place at 6:30pm and last approximately one and a half hours.

Our committee members are very active and host many wonderful events for students and adults. We invite and encourage you to get involved in planning and volunteering to help make these events successful. **Everyone is welcome to our meetings.**

## Continuous School Improvement (CSI)

The 2014/5 school year brings us into year 3 of our CSI plan. The emphasis for the staff this year will be to continue to focus on the strategies laid out in the plan to enable us to work towards meeting our Literacy and Math goals established in year 1. The first priority will be to support staff with professional development in both Math and Literacy, that will ensure a common understanding of the goals, therefore solidifying the methods, resources, and tools used to work towards these goals by all teachers. The end result is aimed at the staff working as Professional Learning Communities to provide the support necessary for all students to reach their potential and improve our school success.

**Goal to improve student achievement in mathematics:**

**Our students will demonstrate improvement in their ability to independently communicate their mathematical understanding in a variety of ways, justify their thinking and make connections.**

**Goal to improve student achievement in literacy:**

**Our students will demonstrate increased ability to communicate through writing. Specifically, students will write to fulfill a purpose, develop their ideas with detail and present their ideas in an organized sequence.**

## Ice Cream Social & Curriculum Night

This year, we are trying something different. Please join us on Thursday, September 25th for Curriculum Night and the Ice Cream Social. Teachers will present their yearly curriculum plans and discuss the outcomes being covered through out the year in the various subjects beginning at 6:00pm until 6:30pm. It is an opportunity to meet your child's teacher if you haven't already done so. Please note, this is not a venue for discussing student achievement with teachers. If you have any concerns or questions regarding your child, please make an appointment with your teacher for another time. Thank you.

This will be followed by our Ice Cream Social from 6:30 to 7:30pm. This event is free as it is covered by your Home & School. It is a perfect opportunity to reunite with the parent community and to welcome our new parents and students to our wonderful school. Bring your sweet tooth and come enjoy the fun!

*There will be a rain date to be announced if necessary as we get closer to the 25th.*



## School Photo Day

September 26th: Main Building

October 8th: Annex Building

The days this year are separate due to scheduling difficulties. We hope to have this rectified for next year. We apologize if this causes any inconveniences for your family.



## Grade 6 Band Meeting

Parents whose child will be participating in the Band program in grade 6 are invited to Long & McQuade on September 22nd for an information session. This will take place at 6:30pm.

Information will be sent home by our band teacher, Mr. Dan Burke. Look for that in the coming week or so.



## Parking and stopping around the school buildings

Thank you for helping us keep the students safe by:

- Not stopping at or around the crosswalk to let children out of vehicles
- Not parking in the driving area of the parking lot and coming into the building. If you have to come in, park in a spot.
- Keep your eyes open for little ones running places without looking.

# Community Information



## Here are some of the things happening in our community.

**The Atlantic Film Festival** (AFF) is an eight-day celebration of film, media and music from around the world. It's a festival that turns Halifax – a charming and historic coastal city – into an international Mecca for the arts, abuzz with filmmakers, industry types and film lovers. The Film Festival offers a first-look at the best international films of the festival season and is the platform in Atlantic Canada to showcase the regional filmmaking community. A champion of local filmmakers, the AFF is committed to bridging the gap between regional and international exposure. We attract some of the biggest players in film, media and music from around the world. All of our film selections are chosen with our community in mind and our special events are designed to bring us all together. A not-for-profit organization, the AFF depends heavily upon its strong ties to the surrounding and thriving arts community. The AFF began as a tiny, grassroots operation in St. John's, Newfoundland in 1981, relocating to Halifax the following year. Just three decades later, the AFF has blossomed into one of Canada's premier film festivals. Whether for industry folk, unabashed film lovers or curious onlookers, the AFF offers a slew of opportunities to engage through film.

Thursday, September 11, 2014 - Thursday, September 18,

Locations:

Parklane Cinema

Lord Nelson Hotel

Spring Garden Road

Halifax

Wayne Carter 902-422-3456



## WORD ON THE STREET

An annual book & magazine festival. Free admission. Family friendly!

Location

Halifax Water-  
front

1675 Lower  
Water St.

Halifax

Genevieve Allen Hearn

902-719-4479

Sunday, September 21, 2014 to

Sunday, September 21, 2014

