

# Sparks

September 2015

**Kennetcook District Elementary**  
4369 Highway 236, Kennetcook, NS BoN 1P0  
Phone: 902-362-3300 Fax: 902-362-3303  
[www.hnrh.ccrsb.ca](http://www.hnrh.ccrsb.ca)

## Newsletter

### Welcome Back!

Welcome to the 2015-2016 school year! We are off to a great start to our school year! We currently have 103 students in grades primary to six. We extend a special welcome to students and families new to our school community.

I am thrilled to be part of the Kennetcook Community. We know that there are many wonderful programs in place at KDS, and with your continued support, good things will happen for all students. We promise to deliver a quality program so that all students leave knowing they have done their best and they make wonderful academic gains.

Respectfully, M. Bruce, Principal

### Dismissal



As you are aware, dismissal time for all students is 2:35. The end of the day can be busy with 103 students packing up and heading to buses. **We ask that parents not arrive to pick up their child prior to 2:35.** Every time a student is picked up early it disrupts the teacher and the entire class. Students usually need help to get organized and ready to go home and that means their teacher has to stop teaching and attend to one child to prepare them to go home.

We also request that you make every effort possible to have afterschool arrangements organized with your child before they come to school.

### Provincial Assessments

Grade 3 Reading Writing and Grade 4 Math Sept. 29-30

Grade 6 Reading Writing Oct. 1-2, Math Oct. 5-6

### Morning arrival

Classes start at 8:45 a.m. Children should not be at the school before the doors are unlocked and supervision starts at 8:25 a.m. We ask for your cooperation in this manner as it is a great safety concern.



### Home and School

This parent-teacher group (PTG) strives to provide activities and opportunities to students that the school cannot afford to do on its own.

Our first meeting for Home and School will be September 16 at 7:30 p.m. following Meet the Teacher in the KDS library.

### Principal:

Marilyn Bruce  
[BruceMG@ccrsb.ca](mailto:BruceMG@ccrsb.ca)

### Vice-Principal:

Mark Hingley, [HingleyM@ccrsb.ca](mailto:HingleyM@ccrsb.ca)

### Admin. Assistant:

Lisa Jackson, [JacksonL@ccrsb.ca](mailto:JacksonL@ccrsb.ca)



### Dates to Remember!

Sept. 10 - Registration forms due

Sept. 11—MusiCounts

Sept. 15—"Saidat"

Sept. 16—School Pictures

Sept. 16—Meet the Teacher @ 6:30

Sept. 16—Home and School @ 7:30

Sept. 17—Stand Up Speak Out Anti-Bullying Day

Sept. 25—Terry Fox

Sept. 28-Oct. 8 Provincial Assessments in Grades 3, 4 and 6

Sept. 30—Monthly Assembly

Oct. 9—PD Day—no school

Oct. 12—Thanksgiving- no school

## Volunteer Packages

If you plan to volunteer in the classroom or on a field trip, you will need to fill out a package and have it processed before volunteering. Processing can take up to three weeks, so it is important to complete it early. Please call, send a note or drop by the office to pick up a package.

## SAC

Meetings for the SAC are open to the public. Please feel free to come by and hear about the various issues affecting the school. The SAC will be actively involved in the continuous school improvement process this year. Our next meeting will be September 22 @ 6:30 pm.

## Bus Notes

We understand that there are *extenuating circumstances* when your child must take a different bus home or be dropped at a location other than their usual stop. In this event, please include **the name and address and phone number** for where their stop will be that day. We cannot assume that the bus drivers know the names and addresses for stops other than their assigned route - they need specific information as to where they are dropping your child. We also need to ensure your child's safety and that they are arriving at the designated location. Thank you for your support.

## Meet the Teacher

We will host our Meet the Teacher evening on Thursday, September 16 from 6:30-7:30. Parents are invited to meet the teachers and discuss the curriculum. The purpose of this evening is to introduce teachers, PTG and SAC and to communicate general information to parents.

Parental involvement and support is crucial in a child's education and we appreciate the time parents spend with their child at home supporting their learning.

## Terry Fox

We will hold our annual Terry Fox Run on September 25<sup>th</sup>.

## Monthly Assemblies

We will be holding school wide assemblies on the last day of each month. During our assembly we recognize students who have exemplified characteristics of the virtue for the month.

We will also present our "Way to Go" awards for students who have demonstrated notable qualities or talents in various academic capacities.

Throughout the year we will also be mailing home "Celebrating You" postcards on the last Friday of the month to 4 students in each class who teachers have determined

as deserving of recognition in some capacity. Perhaps they have been positive school citizens, given their best effort through out the month, made gains in their work, or rose to a challenge. Either way, teachers feel they deserve a positive postcard home!



## Stand Up. Speak Out. Stop Bullying Together. 2015: What's in your backpack?

*Stand Up. Speak Out.*, CCRSB's board-wide day of action promoting anti-bullying, Social Justice, and positive, healthy relationships will happen on Thursday, September 17, 2015.

This year *Stand Up. Speak Out.* is shifting to a wide focus on Social Justice and those things that make us all unique, beautiful, different and the same. Our theme is, "What's in your backpack?"

We all carry "backpacks" made up of our class, our gender, our sexual orientation, our abilities, our race and much, much more. As a community, we all have a responsibility to try and understand and accept what's in someone else's backpack.

### *What's in your backpack?*

We want to know what's in your backpack. Tell us what makes you, you. Are you a musician? A great reader? A LEGO maniac? A champion hot dog eater? An up and coming comedian?

You can write a poem, draw a picture or poster, take a selfie, make a short video... do whatever you want to show us what's in your backpack!

Submissions will be used at the regional event on September 17 and posted to our website, Facebook page and Twitter feed each Wednesday, throughout the school year, to keep the message going in classrooms, offices and special events.

You can email your submissions to [StandUpAgainstBullying@ccrsb.ca](mailto:StandUpAgainstBullying@ccrsb.ca), Tweet them to us @CCRSB\_Official, post them to our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/ChignectoCRSB](http://www.facebook.com/ChignectoCRSB)) or fax them to 902-897-8989.

**Deadline for submissions is September 14, 2015.**



## Message from the DEECD – August 31, 2015

The 2015-16 school year marks the start of many new and exciting changes in classrooms across the province as a result of Nova Scotia's Action Plan for Education introduced in January. The Action Plan was based on the feedback of more than 19,000 Nova Scotians, including teachers, students, school support staff, school boards, universities and the business community.

Some highlights this year include:

- \* a streamlined and innovative curriculum with a stronger focus on teaching math and literacy for primary to grade 3 students,
- \* new homework standards to support and enhance student learning at every grade level,
- \* a new school code of conduct that will apply to all schools,
- \* more hands-on learning activities for students to develop their technology skills, including Brilliant Labs and,
- \* more math mentors working with teachers to support higher student achievement
- \* a new career education framework for grades 4-12 students
- \* core French programs that use interactive and conversational teaching methods
- \* a new growth and development guide for families with four-year-olds to encourage early learning

For more details on changes coming in 2015-16 visit [ednet.ns.ca](http://ednet.ns.ca) Follow the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development on twitter @NSEducation.

### Allergies and Anaphylaxis

Many children have allergies; some may be life-threatening. Several children in our school have a potentially life-threatening allergy (anaphylaxis) to foods, predominantly peanuts and nuts. Peanuts are the leading cause of anaphylaxis, which can result in death.

Our school board has a policy in place to help protect children with life-threatening allergies. We feel the best way to reduce the risk of accidental exposure for these students is to respectfully ask for the cooperation of the parents/guardians within our school community to **avoid sending peanut butter or products with peanuts or nuts listed in the ingredients to school.** We can all play a role in providing an environment that is safe and healthy for all our students.

### KENNETCOOK DISTRICT SCHOOL TEACHING STAFF

2015 - 2016

Tara Aitken/Jillian MacLaughlin	Primary
Glenda Anthony	Grade 1/2
Sara Thompson	Grade 3
Amie Spares	Grade 4/5
Mildred Robinson	Grade 5/6
Bernadette Hingley	Program Support, Early Literacy Support
Keith Andrews	Physical Education
Heather Bruce	Music
Amanda Rushton	French
Joanne Stewart	Literacy Mentor
Carol Hughes	Speech Language Pathologist
Shannon Dell-MacPhee	School Psychologist
Carolyn Derrah-Murphy	Autism Specialist
Deborah Barron	EA
Krista Faulkner	EA
Teena Miller	EA
Tammy Beattie	EA
Amy Wood	EA
Lisa Jackson	Administrative Assistant
Maureen MacIntyre	Guidance Counsellor
Mark Hingley	Vice- Principal
Marilyn Bruce	Principal

We look forward to a fun, productive, and successful school year! We appreciate your support working with us in furthering your child's education!

*Let's have a great 2015-2016 school year!*

