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Encouraging all members
of our community
to meet their full potential

September 2, 2014

Dear AES Families :

Welcome to school year 2014-2015! With the dawning of a new September we, as a staff, look forward to having a wonderful year with all of you!

Our school staff has changed a little since last year. We will welcome Mr. Matthew Pugsley who will be teaching Grade 5 Math every day and cover some of my admin-release time, teaching the Grade 3/4s an hour a week. We will be sharing Mr. Pugsley with NES so he will start every day there before joining us after lunch. We have had to bid farewell to Ms. Monahan and Mrs. Galley, as our teaching allotment was further adjusted to reflect our student numbers, and we wish them all the best. The rest of our staff has remained the same and we look forward to that consistency for another year.



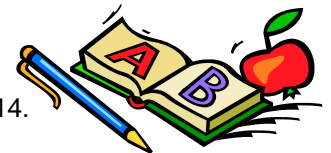
PSSC Election & Meet the Teacher Night will be held at **6:30 on Tuesday, September 16th**.

We will start with a short presentation about our Parent School Support Committee and Home & School groups. I will also share important information about the Provincial School Educational Review (AES is scheduled to undergo this process in February) – please see below. Then introductions will be made and parents will be invited to the classrooms to meet their child(ren)’s teacher(s). This is an excellent opportunity for parents to introduce themselves, learn about classroom routines, and ask questions regarding curriculum and/or grade level expectations.

If you are interested in putting your name forward for the PSSC elections, forms of intention can be picked up at the school office prior to September 16th or you can call to request that they be sent home with your child.

Fees

The fee for the school agenda and other classroom consumables is \$12 for Primary and \$15 for Upper Elementary students. These fees are due by Tuesday, September 30th, 2014.



Scent-free & Peanut-free Environment



Apohaqui Elementary is a scent-free and peanut-free environment.

In interest of the safety, comfort and well-being of students, staff, and visitors we ask that you keep this in mind when coming into the school and packing your child’s lunch. Anaphylaxis allergies can cause a life-or-death situation. Please consider this and do not put anyone in our school at risk.

Important: Please read, sign, and return the attached note.

Provincial School Improvement Review - February 2015

Our school will be under Educational Review in February of this year. This process is put in place by the New Brunswick School Improvement Service to allow schools to determine and analyze current educational practices and overall school effectiveness. An internal team will be gathering information, preparing data, and providing evidence across the seven critical areas/domains. We will be looking for parental participation both on the internal team and to meet with the SIR external team in February. Please consider this if you are contacted, AES is your school as well, and your input is important.

Student Information and Alternate Transportation Forms

Please ensure the student information forms and requests for alternate transportation are completed/updated, signed and returned before the end of this week.



Remember: we must be made aware of any changes to contact information (new phone numbers, different emergency person, change in after-school plans, etc.) that occur during the school year.

It is imperative that we have current information at all times.

High Expectations & Academic Achievement

Our entire staff has made a commitment to emphasize high expectations for strong literacy, math, and social skills. In order to meet our highest potential and maintain our pledge for overall improvement, we need to maximize learning time for all students and classes.



You can help us by reducing instructional interruptions and student distractions:

- Make reliable transportation and care arrangements and assure your child of the plan before they come to school. Please lessen students' concerns about after-school arrangements (changes in routines should be clearly communicated to your child and be put in writing to his/her teacher at the start of the day).
Note: written approval by our District Transportation office is required for one alternate bus stop and it must follow a consistent weekly schedule (for example "daily" or "every Monday").
Also, we are not permitted to change after-school plans to accommodate parties and/or play dates. Please do not put us in the awkward position of having to refuse requests for students to accompany friends to their home.
- Make certain your child arrives on time – all students should be at the school by 8:00 am.
- Please wait at the outside exit (check the location with the teacher on Meet the Teacher Night) at dismissal time should you wish to pick up your child at the end of the day.
- Leave items at the office (a forgotten lunch or bookbag) for distribution by school staff at a convenient time in the daily schedule. Individual class interruptions can add up to much missed instructional time.
- A good night's sleep, a full breakfast, and a healthy snack and lunch will ensure your child's optimal learning!

Grounds Improvement & Playground Project

I would like to thank the Home & School Executive for their commitment to our AES Playground Project over the last few years. We appreciate all the efforts put forward by each Home & School committee! Last year they addressed all the safety issues and brought the equipment up to current safety code requirements. The work still outstanding is the re-installation of the east playground swings. This should be completed soon, but we are currently waiting for a contractor to do some ground prep-work and run-off ditching (that the District identified as requiring attention). Unfortunately, the presence of heavy equipment on school property may cause some disruption to our outside play routines because your child's safety will be of our utmost concern. But I'm sure you will hear a lot about it because the machines will definitely create some excitement on-site!



Eating & School Schedule

We will be continuing with the school schedule to provide noon play prior to eating lunch. We found this to be a successful practice. For example, lunch recess will be at 11:30, with the children coming in to eat lunch at 11:55.

Milk & Hot Lunch

You will find information about the milk program on your September calendar. In order to have your child receive milk this month, however, the money must be in by Friday.

The Home & School will be continuing a 3-day Hot Lunch Program this year. Information on choices and cost will come home later this week. This will start up the first of October.

Fluoride

Last June you were notified of our intention of reinstating the weekly fluoride program here at AES this fall.

Research has shown that fluoride mouth rinse programs are effective in reducing cavities by as much as 20 to 30 percent. Fluoride is a naturally occurring element. As a supplement to other good dental health habits, it assists in the prevention of tooth decay.

Once a week, teachers or volunteers prepare a fluoride solution at school. The students rinse with the solution for one minute and then discharge the liquid into paper cups for disposal. The entire procedure takes less than five minutes of class time per week.

We are expecting the arrival of the materials soon. I will notify parents by voicemail of the actual startup date when everything is in place. Please make sure that the section on your child's information is completed and signed so that we know your intention of whether your child will take part or not.

Volunteers!

Apohaqui Elementary welcomes volunteers within our building, helping on field trips, and participating in school activities. We appreciate your interest and willingness to give your time. You may have some special talents you would like to share with the students (hobbies, collections, interests and/or knowledge), or something that you do at home (knit mittens, make class games for home play, help with fundraising, etc). The possibilities are endless and any time you can give would be greatly appreciated. Volunteers also fill after-school roles on the Home & School and Parent School Support Committees. We believe that positive parental involvement helps to strengthen the school/community relationship and would encourage you to contact the school if you may be able to help out in any way.

Right to Information and Protection of Privacy Act

In compliance with RTIPPA schools must obtain consent when publishing or disclosing personal information. A form will be sent home for you to indicate to us what information you are comfortable sharing with the public. You have the option of not granting permission. Please check off any you agree to and return the form to the school by Friday. Also, please be aware that other requests not listed on the form will not be granted. The safety and protection of your child(ren) is our concern as well.

Communication

Our district is continuing the use of the talkmail/email service – Synrevoice.

This system allows us to send emails as well as voice messages home.

When all the student data is uploaded to the program (usually by the middle of September) all regular correspondence such as the newsletters and calendars will be sent electronically. In an effort to be more environmentally conscious, we will only send paper copies to those who do not provide us with an email, or upon specific request.

On-going home and school communication is a key to student success. The student agenda is an excellent means of communication – and a systematic learning tool as well. Agendas should be reviewed, checked for notices and signed every night.



Should you need to talk directly to your child's teacher, please call to set up a time that would be convenient to speak.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at the school. If you call during my teaching time, I will return your call as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Jayne Bettle
Principal