



23 Foster Avenue West
Apohaqui, NB E5P 3M9

Encouraging all members
of our community
to meet their full potential

506-432-2021 (P) 506-432-2039 (F) www.apohaqui.nbed.nb.ca

September 6, 2016

Dear AES Families:

Welcome to the 2016-2017 school year! The teachers have been working hard preparing for the upcoming year and the school is all shined and ready to go. We have an exciting year ahead with larger numbers and even more AES families with whom to share.

We have a few new staff members this year but, for the most part, there have been very few changes. Homeroom and subject teachers have not changed and we currently have the same compliment of classes (K, 1, 2, 3/4, and 5). We have welcomed a new support teacher for K-2 Literacy, Mrs. Matheson, and the return of our Upper Elementary Numeracy Lead, Mrs. Kennedy. We also have two new Educational Assistants – Mrs. Cochrane and Mrs. Graham. Unfortunately we had to say goodbye to Mrs. Wallace as she is now working on a Provincial Math initiative and to Mrs. Reicker who is now at Sussex Elementary. Also, our permanent custodian is still yet to be determined as Mrs. McCrea vacated this position to take one at Harry Miller Middle School.

PSSC Election & Meet the Teacher Night will be held at **6:00 on Monday, September 12th**.



We will start with a short presentation about our Parent School Support Committee and Home & School groups. We will hold the PSSC election, then staff 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 teacher's expectations and classroom routines, and ask questions regarding curriculum outcomes. If you are interested in putting your name forward for the PSSC elections, a form of intention can be picked up at the school office prior to September 12th or you can call to request that one be sent home with your child. We are looking forward to seeing you.

Fees

The fee for the school agenda and other classroom consumables is \$15. Upper Elementary students pay an additional \$20 to cover the cost of school supplies (we will provide them). These fees are due by Wednesday, September 30th.

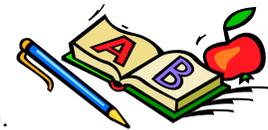
Scent-free & Nut-free Environment

Apohaqui Elementary maintains a scent-free and nut-free environment.

In the 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.

We ask that you read, sign, and return the attached note.



Student Information Forms

Please ensure the student information forms (8 ½ x 14 sheet) are completed/updated, signed and returned before the end of this week.

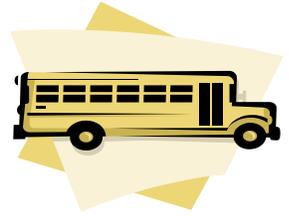
Remember: we must be made aware of any changes to contact information (new phone numbers, different emergency person, change in after-school plans, etc.) that occur during the school year.

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

Bus Transportation & After-School Plans

District policies in regards to bus travel changed last year. Please read the following to determine if you require the forms below to be sent home.

- If your child is eligible for bus transportation AND he/she travels to and from your home address every day – you do not need to complete any forms.
- If your child is eligible for bus transportation BUT he/she requires a bus stop at a place other than your home address (morning or afternoon) – you must complete an **Alternate Address** form. These are available at the school. They must be returned prior to changes in schedule and must be completed every year. If changes happen during the school year, please request that the form be sent home or come to the school to fill it out.
- If your child is eligible for bus transportation BUT you have chosen to transport him/her yourself – you must complete a **Transportation Confirmation** form. This form indicates that you have chosen to opt out and not use the district transportation services. These will help to confirm rider numbers on buses and minimize the chance of your child being placed inadvertently on a bus.
- If your child is eligible for bus transportation and you had opted out BUT wish him/her to use the transportation services – you must complete the **Transportation Confirmation** form to have the services reinstated.



Please remember that any changes to your child's after school schedule should be communicated in writing in advance when at all possible. When emergencies arise and last minute calls to the office are made they can be extremely difficult to deal with and can be the cause of many anxious moments at dismissal time.

The school must be made aware of any changes to after-school routines – it is not acceptable to address the drivers only. Bus drivers do not have the authority to make changes to established routes and stops – do not put them in an awkward position by asking that they do so. The school needs to know who is on each bus and at which stop they are disembarking, to establish an accurate number of students on a bus in the case of an emergency.

Also, buses are not to be used to transport children to social functions. If birthday parties and/or play dates are planned, please make other transportation arrangements. Even written requests can/will be denied and disappointment will follow. Please do not put us in the position of having to refuse requests for students to accompany friends to their home.

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 – clearly communicate with your child and send it in writing to his/her teacher at the start of the day).
- 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!

'Attendance Matters' and 'AES Safe Arrival Program'

Last year Anglophone South School District implemented a program entitled 'Attendance Matters'. This is to help address the importance of being at school and on time. Previous to last year, our staff had identified this as a problem that was interfering with student performance and overall success.

This year we will be adopting a Safe Arrival Program through our new student data base. Homeroom teachers will take daily morning attendance. If a student is absent with no known excuse an automated message will be sent home to inform parents. To avoid this call, students should be in school on time or parents/guardians should inform the school of illness or appointments prior to 8:30 on the morning of the day of absence.

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.

PRIMARY PARENTS, please note the change in primary dismissal. This year K-2 classes will be dismissed at 2:00 because we have made adjustments to their daily schedule to allow for longer transition times.



Milk & Hot Lunch

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

The Home & School will be continuing a 3-day hot lunch program this year. Information on choices and cost will come home in time for startup the first of October.

Fluoride

The weekly fluoride program will continue here at AES. Please make sure that the accompanying form is completed and returned to the school.

Home and School Sponsored Field Trip

Our AES Home and School is active early this year. They will be sponsoring our first whole-school field trip on Monday, September 19th. The children and staff will have the opportunity to learn about two local industries – Dairy and Christmas Tree farming. This is in conjunction with NB Farm Day. We would like to thank the Perrys for hosting this very special day and taking time to show us around their farms. Homeroom teachers may be reaching out asking for volunteers for this trip, since they may not have had time to get to know you, maybe you could offer if you are available to help. It should be a great trip and one that will happen rain or shine!

Communication

Our district is using the Synvoice – talkmail/email service. This system allows us to send emails as well as voice messages home. 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. School 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