



## Florenceville Middle School March 2015 Newsletter

School Vision - "All students will be given the opportunity and support to become responsible citizens."

School Mission - "The mission of FMS is to develop students who are intellectually, technologically, physically and socially ready for their place in the 21<sup>st</sup> century world."

### March is here!

We hope students enjoyed a restful March Break! It is nice to see the extra hours of daylight and we look forward to more beautiful days ahead!

#### FMS Titles

On Friday before March Break, we crowned two FMS champions! Students from all grades had the opportunity to compete in the annual Free Throw Competition through the week and on Friday, Bryson Ellis represented Grade 6, Charlie Chestnut represented Grade 7 and Zach Levesque represented Grade 8 in the final showdown. Congratulations to this year's champ, Zach Levesque! We also had our Spelling Bee. 20 students showed courage as well as spelling prowess in what can be a nail-biter for both contestants and audience! Congratulations to our 2015 Spelling Bee Champ, Raagav Prasanna!

March 14 (03/14) is  $\pi$  (Pi) Day around the world and at FMS, many students (and some adults!) are making time this month to memorize digits of this most famous irrational number. Students can continue to work away at increasing the number of digits of  $\pi$  they can correctly recite or write from memory as we look to having our Pi off and crown the Pi Champ at the March Rally.

#### Yearbooks

We have a group of Grade 8 students who have taken on the challenge of coordinating our school Yearbook. The Yearbook will be produced by Harvey Studios and is a full-colour, soft-covered memory book featuring class composites, pictures of teams and extra-curricular groups active at FMS this year as well as many candid photos and other items selected by the Yearbook committee. Envelopes for ordering the Yearbook have been distributed in homerooms this week. As with the photo purchases from the beginning of the year, yearbooks are pre-ordered and paid for directly to Harvey Studios using the provided envelope. The due date for all orders is coming quickly! It is **March 16<sup>th</sup>**. Please return payment envelopes to the school on or before March 16<sup>th</sup>.

The Yearbook Committee is asking **all Grade 8 students** to submit a baby photo of themselves for the yearbook. Please start bringing those photos in this week. Thank you from the committee!

#### Tell Them From Me Survey

This week, all FMS students will be completing the Tell Them From Me survey at school. This survey is one of the ways in which each New Brunswick school collects data to inform and guide the Positive Learning Environment Plan as well as the School Improvement Plan. We have scheduled in each of the homeroom classes to complete the survey during class time where they will have access to the anonymous, computerized survey.

#### Has your contact information changed?

Please be sure to notify us when your phone numbers or email addresses change. It is important for your child's well-being that we have a current number by which to contact you at all times.

The **Harlem Globetrotters** are coming to Harbour Station in Saint John on Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Anglophone School West District has a discount offer. Please see our website for details on the ticket sales and Magic Pass events!

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## **March 2015**

*14<sup>th</sup>: Pi Day (we will crown the champ at March Rally)*

*19<sup>th</sup>: New Exploratory Rotation*

*23<sup>rd</sup>: PSSC meeting, 7:30 pm*

*26<sup>th</sup>: HPV dose #3*

*26<sup>th</sup>: FMS Sign-in Dance (\$3 per student; grade 6 – 9 guest from another school permitted by form with principal's approval)*

*31<sup>st</sup>: Grade 8 Science Fair*

## **April 2015**

*1<sup>st</sup>: Newsletter goes home*

*2<sup>nd</sup>: March Rally including Pi-Off*

*3<sup>rd</sup>: Good Friday; No school*

*6<sup>th</sup>: Easter Monday; No school*

*8<sup>th</sup>: Progress Reports Go Home*

*9<sup>th</sup>: Parent-Teacher Meetings  
5:00 – 8:00 pm*

*10<sup>th</sup>: Parent-Teacher Meetings/Professional Learning Day; No school for students*

*6<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>: Music Festival of the Arts*

*17<sup>th</sup>: Grade 6 Heritage Fair*

*24<sup>th</sup>: Let's Go Science Competition at UNB*

*30<sup>th</sup>: April Rally Day*

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## **Our athletic teams**

The Middle School Basketball season has come to an end and we thank our Falcons for their commitment to their teams this year. Many thanks to our coaches, Mr. Jared Joudry and Ms. Catherine Barry for making this opportunity available to our Falcons!

The volleyball season is now underway. Special thanks to our coaches Mr. Mark Thompson and Mme Morin for their time and energy devoted to our teams!

## **A note from Mr. Elliott: Safer Internet Day**

The European Union has assembled some excellent resources to help educate parents about the dangers of technology. Each year, they observe Safer Internet Day in February. The Safer Internet Day website has some interesting and relevant links for parents.

I asked my Beyond the Hurt students to share a bit about their experiences with technology. It became immediately apparent that our students are very tech savvy, and that for their age group, using technology to communicate in a variety of ways is the norm. Our children are “digital natives”, meaning that they have always lived in a wired world. Their connections and interactions with technology are different than ours, and it’s hard for adults to fully grasp the role of technology in their lives. However, these technologies are developing and changing all the time, and it’s hard to ensure they aren’t used in harmful or dangerous ways. My students easily shared stories of negative experiences with technology. I found the prevalence of these negative experiences to be surprising.

As hard as it is to fully understand the implications of technology in the lives of our children, some things are black and white: at FMS, teachers and administration have dealt with issues such as cyber bullying, sexting, gossip spread via technology, and threats via technology. My experience has taught me that if kids are online, they are exposed in one way or another to some negative aspect of technology. No one escapes it. The goal, therefore, is to find a way to navigate the net safely.

I encourage you to visit the Safer Internet Day website ( [www.saferinternetday.org](http://www.saferinternetday.org) ) and check out the resources. They offer specific information and advice about texting, sexting, social

media, cyber bullying, online gaming, online gambling, cell phones, etc. My experience as a teacher, counsellor, and parent has shown that this is an ongoing, developing issue, and the more I know and understand, the better.

If you would like to discuss anything related to this issue, please feel free to contact me at [Jason.elliott@nbed.nb.ca](mailto:Jason.elliott@nbed.nb.ca) or by phone at 392-5115.