

**New Minas Elementary School**

34 Jones Road, New Minas, Nova Scotia B4N 3N1

Phone: 902-681-4900 Fax: 902-681-4904

Website: [newminaselem.ednet.ns.ca](http://newminaselem.ednet.ns.ca)

Principal: Eric Trahan

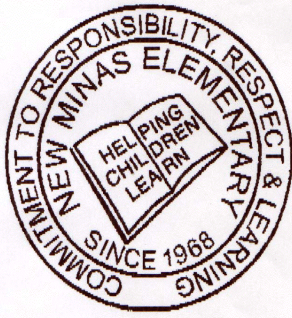
E-mail: [eric.trahan@avrsb.ca](mailto:eric.trahan@avrsb.ca)

Vice-Principal: Diana Dunn

E-mail: [diana.dunn@avrsb.ca](mailto:diana.dunn@avrsb.ca)

Secretaries: Mary Gammon & Brenda Davison

E-mail: [nmes@avrsb.ca](mailto:nmes@avrsb.ca)



Dear Parents/Guardians

Happy New Year!



We had a wonderful end to 2015! Our winter concert, annual shopping party and tree lighting ceremony were all well attended. Thanks to all the families who supported these events as they contribute to our school climate and culture in such a positive way. Special thanks to Tracey Bartie as well as all of her elves who organized and ran the shopping party this year. Thanks to all of the donations, over \$1050.00 was raised in support of families within our school. NMES staff also made a significant donation to the cause by holding a silent auction and an Elf on the Shelf fundraiser. We now look forward to a busy and productive 2016 year at New Minas Elementary School. Rest assured that we will continue to strive to provide your children with a quality and engaging education.

One of our priorities for 2016 will continue to be *student absences* and *late arrivals*, which I am sure you would all agree, is important.

When a child is often late or absent from school, they usually develop gaps in their learning, or worse, learn to de-value the importance of a good education. There is also a negative impact on the students who have already begun their day on time.

Please note that it is understood that there are legitimate reasons why students must miss school. When this occurs, the school will work with you to

ensure your child does not fall behind. Please communicate these situations with your child's teacher so that they may be recorded as absent excused.

Do not hesitate to phone the school if you are encountering difficulties getting your child to attend school. Allow us to work with you to find solutions. We are willing to sit with you to look at your child's programming and school experiences as well as any other factors that may impact on your child's attendance.

As always, I encourage you to stay involved in your child's education in 2016 as much as possible.

*Eric Trahan*, Principal

**PTA News**



The past couple of weeks have been busy with the Shopping Party and the Tree Lighting! A big thanks to everyone who donated items and time to the shopping party, especially Tracey Bartie! It was a huge success and we hope that you all enjoy the presents that your children picked out for you. As always, the proceeds were transferred to gift cards which are given to families in need within the school. The Tree Lighting was also a great chance to get out and enjoy caroling, hot chocolate and a cookie with other school families. A special thanks to Melissa Comeau and Tim Hortons, New Minas, who made all

the cookies and gave us a deal on the hot chocolate (respectively).

From all of us on the PTA, we wish you an amazing and safe season. We look forward to seeing you in the New Year ☺

*Erin Patstone, President*

### **From the library:**

Hackmatack Book Club for grade 4's and 5's will meet in the Library at 12:30 pm beginning January 15<sup>th</sup>. Now in its 17<sup>th</sup> year, this reading program introduces young readers to great new Canadian books and authors and gives them a chance to cast their votes for their favourite books in region-wide elections in March 2016.  
*Elizabeth Fajta, Library Technician*



### **School Security**

Thank you to all of the parents and guardians who wait patiently outside the main office when picking up their children at the end of the day. As you can imagine, student safety is very important, and we are trying our best to ensure that we are always aware of who is entering and exiting our school. Please come directly into the main office if you would like your child called down to the office for an unscheduled pick-up. We also appreciate parents picking up their children in the parent pick-up area rather than in the bus loop as this can send a mixed message.

### **Unplanned Early Dismissals**

Parent/guardian(s) are reminded that as the weather becomes more unpredictable; AVRSB schools may have to close early. To ensure we can contact you, please keep your telephone numbers and addresses updated at the office 902-681-4900. Current information is vital for contacting parent/guardian(s) during the day if an unplanned early dismissal is necessary. This allows us to effectively communicate exactly when your child will be dismissed. Thank you for your continued co-operation.



### **Primary Registration**



Primary Registration for students beginning Grade Primary in September 2016 (English and French Immersion Program) will

take place on **March 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>**. Appointments should be made prior to these dates. Call 902-681-4900.

If you have a child who will be five on or before December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016 and will be starting Grade Primary at New Minas Elementary School or you know of someone with a child who will be starting primary in September 2016, please notify the school at 902-681-4900 so that we may compile a contact list.

### **French Immersion Program**

A French Immersion Info Session is planned for parents considering or wishing to place their child in French Immersion at NMES next year on the evening of February 25<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm.

### **School Fairs (Science, Art & Heritage)**

Our annual school Science Fair will be held on Tuesday, March 8<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup>. Many families are familiar with this great opportunity for parents and children to interact educationally with their children.

In order to expand our student participation in our project fairs, students have the choice between Science, Art or Heritage Fair topics.

Regardless of which type of project your child decides to take part in, we believe that our school fairs allow parents yet another opportunity to interact with their children on an educational level.

Please note that the 2016 Annapolis Valley Regional Science Fair dates have not been set, yet. More information will be sent home in the near future.

### **Donations:**

Thanks to the following families and businesses for their ongoing support of students and programs: Tim Hortons of New Minas, Melissa Comeau, Tracie Bartie, Corporon Family, Crown Fibre, Donna Quigley, Staff at RIGL Horsnell Insurance, Walmart, Acadia Minor Basketball, St. James Anglican Church, Kentville, AA Munro Insurance and the County Fair Mall.

## Community

### **Monday After School Art Classes!**

**Who?:** Primary - Gr. 5

**When?:** Jan. 25, Feb. 1, Feb. 8,  
Feb. 22 and Feb. 29.



**Where?:** Cotton Tale Cafe and Play is located at 9185 Commercial Street (right next door to the school).

**Time?:** after school - 4:15 (Please pack a peanut free after school snack. We will have snack in the art room before we begin our art class.)

**Cost?:** \$80 includes 5 art classes (all supplies included) and a chaperone to safely walk the art students from New Minas Elementary school to Cotton Tale Cafe and Play right after school.

**Pick up?:** Parents pick up students at 4:15 from the Cafe. (or come earlier for a drink and a snack!)

**Register:** by emailing Colleen Gerrits at [cmgerrits@hotmail.com](mailto:cmgerrits@hotmail.com).

Any questions? You can email me or call me at 902-542-9883.