

New Minas Elementary School

34 Jones Road, New Minas, NS, B4N 3N1

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

Website: newminaselem.ednet.ns.ca

Principal: Eric Trahan

E-mail: eric.trahan@avrsb.ca

Vice-Principal: Diana Dunn

E-mail: diana.dunn@avrsb.ca

Secretaries: Mary Gammon & Brenda Davison

E-mail: nmes@avrsb.ednet.ns.ca



Dear Parent(s) and/or Guardian(s),

A warm welcome is extended from the staff of New Minas Elementary School to all 282 students and their families. A special welcome is also extended to our 40 new primary students as well as their families. We look forward to working with the parents and guardians of our students this year. We will strive to provide your children with a safe, respectful and challenging school environment so that they may reach their fullest potential.

I am pleased to welcome and introduce a number of new and enthusiastic staff members to our school community. Many of you will remember Ms. Hjelkrem who is returning to our school after a year's leave of absence. Ms. Hjelkrem will be teaching at the grade 4 level. Mme Peter's and Ms. Batherson also return to our school after a number of years away providing service at other schools in our board. Ms. Batherson will be teaching at the grade 2 level while Ms. Ferguson is on maternity. Ms. MacIsaac joins our staff for the first time as a grade 5 teacher. We also have two new staff assigned to specialist positions. Ms. Melanson will be teaching phys.ed and Ms. Fajta will be our library tech. Mrs. Brenda Davison will further enhance our office staff as our new administrative assistant. Welcome to all!

Finally, I invite you to continue to be active members of your child's learning and encourage you to contact us at any time regarding any concerns or suggestions that you feel can support us in educating your child(ren).

Eric Trahan, Principal

Student Fees

If you have not paid your student school supply fee (40\$), please do so asap. Individual letters will be sent home next week.

Parent/Guardian Orientation Evening

Plan to attend on **Thursday, September 17th** beginning at **6:30 pm**. Parent (s) and/or Guardian(s) are encouraged to go to their child's classroom to meet their child's teacher between 6:30-7:00 p.m.

At 7:00 pm, you will be asked to meet in the gym. At this time, a few general comments will be made about the school and the upcoming year. Please be advised that the orientation evening is for parents and guardians only.

PTA

The students and staff would like to extend our most sincere thanks to Denise Young, Erin Patstone, Melissa Comeau and Carrie Surette for their leadership and commitment to the NMES PTA during the 2014-2015 school year. Their hard work and support have consistently provided many great opportunities for our students. A special thanks to Erin Patstone for repainting our New Minas Elementary School entrance sign.

Hot Lunch and Breakfast Program

Start on Tuesday, September 8th, 2015

Welcome Back Corn Boil

Our annual corn boil will be held here at the school on **Thursday, September 24th** between **5:00 - 6:30 pm**. This is a great opportunity to get back in the swing of things. Please come along as a family and take this opportunity to meet your child's

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classmates and their families while enjoying some valley corn.

Student Drop Off/Pick-Up Loop & Visitor Parking Areas

Parents dropping off (a.m.) or picking up (p.m.) their children at school by car are asked to use the student drop off/pick-up loop (first entrance heading North on Jones Rd.). For the safety of the children, please drop off and pick up in the lane beside the sidewalk (not the passing lane) and drive slowly. Moving your car as far forward in the flow of the loop traffic allows more cars to drop off or pick up safely and efficiently.

There is no long-term parking in the Drop off/Pick up loop between 7:30 and 8:00 a.m. or between 2:00-2:30 p.m. Long term parking is available in the staff parking area or at Mark's Work Warehouse. Please note that there is a crossing guard in this area in order to help your children cross the street safely.

Please note that the second entrance heading North on Jones Rd. is the Bus Loading / Unloading Area only. No cars are permitted to park in this area during arrival and dismissal times.

Please be aware that students who do not travel on a bus are not dismissed before 2:20.

Bus Schedule and Dismissal Procedures

Please phone Transportation for all busing information at 538 - 4666.

Please note that if your child is going to be getting off at a bus stop that is different from their usual stop, the driver will require a written note which must be stamped by the school office.

If you are making special arrangements other than normal dismissal arrangements for your child, please be sure to let your child's teacher and/or Ms. Gammon/Davison know at the office. If we do not have written confirmation or a phone call from you, we will dismiss your child as usual.

Volunteers

If you plan on volunteering or going on a class trip sometime this year, please note

that all volunteers are required to have a criminal background check and a child abuse registry check.

Parents/guardians who have already had these checks done in the past are not required to re-apply. Forms are available in the office upon request.

Lockdown Drills

Please note that we will be having a lockdown drill on October 20th. All students will receive the necessary training prior to the drill to help alleviate anxiety. We ask that parents/visitors who are outside the school at the time of a lockdown leave the school property for the duration of the lockdown.

NMES Garden

Our school extends a special thanks to Marie Boudreau, Janice Wheaton, Donna Carr, Denise Young, Lynne Fuller, Trudy Willoughby and Keith Fuller who helped maintain our garden over the summer so that we could all come back to a bountiful harvest this year.

Leaving School Property

Once students arrive at school on the bus or are dropped off by parents, they must remain on the school grounds at all times. Students will be dismissed only when picked up by a parent / guardian or when special arrangements are made with the teacher or at the office.

Parents/Guardians and visitors are asked to report directly to the office when picking-up or dropping off their child/children. We would prefer that parents and/or visitors wait at the office when picking up or dropping off their children.

From the gym:

While children at New Minas Elementary School are not required to change for physical education classes, they should be prepared with appropriate clothing for activity. This includes non-marking running shoes that can be tightened with laces or Velcro.

After School Program

Donalda Denny will be operating The New Minas Afterschool Program. Donalda can be reached at 678-5607.

Peanut Smart School

We have a number of students in our school with severe peanut allergies (Anaphylaxis). We ask that you help us keep these students safe by avoiding sending peanut products to school.

Scent Smart School

In an effort to be more respectful of people with environmental sensitivities, we request that people in our school refrain from wearing any scented perfumes, colognes, etc.

Donations

Thanks to Burger King, Bell Aliant and the Atlantic Superstore for supporting students and programs at the end of last year.

Update from the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development

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. Follow the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development on twitter @NSEducation.

Annapolis Valley Regional School Board Career Expo

Interested in a career that supports students? Come to the AVRSB Career Expo for information on upcoming casual/spare/permanent opportunities for:

- Educational Assistants
- Janitors
- Bus Drivers
- Cafeteria Workers

**October 5, 2015, 4:00 p.m. at L.E. Shaw Elementary School
486 Oak Island Road, Avonport**

**October 7, 2015, 4:00 p.m. at Lawrencetown Consolidated School
10 Middle Road, Lawrencetown**

At the Career Expo, you'll have the chance to...

- Meet with AVRSB Human Resources staff
- Learn about opportunities that match your skills and interests
- Find out how to apply online

To view current job listings and position descriptions, visit <http://avrsb.ca/job-listings>

For more information contact 902-538-4739 (Toll Free 1-800-850-3887)

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Edalene Theatre

Kerri Leier and Edalene Theatre are pleased to be offering theatre classes for children ages 3-18 at the Al Whittle Theatre's Studio Z starting in September, 2015. To see a full list of classes,

information about enrollment, or to contact Kerri with questions, go to www.edalene theatre.ca or call 902-799-9009.

CentreStage Theatre

Fall in love with Robert Munsch all over again in September! CentreStage Theatre is delighted to once again bring the magic. The children will be invited to interact with the stories as they come alive before their eyes! The stories will include Mortimer, The Paperbag Princess, Angela¹'s Airplane, Marmel Marmel and Stephanie¹'s Ponytail. Hmmm, some classics for the adults, as well! Fun for all ages! " I Have to Go.....to CentreStage!" (Apologies to Robert Munsch!)
Matinees at 2PM on September 12,13,19,20,26,27. All tickets are \$5, call 902-678-8040 for reservations.

Gaspereau Scouts

Registration for the Gaspereau Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, and Venturers will take place on Tuesday 15th of September at 6:30 pm, location is Gaspereau Elementary School.

Private Music Teacher

I am a private music teacher and have been teaching locally for the past 20+ years. I currently have various spots available in the studio should anyone of any age, including adults, require lessons in any instrument except voice and percussion. Below is a link to my website: <http://jordangrigg.musicaneo.com>
Please feel free to contact me at 902-365-5707.
Jordan Grigg

Girl Guides of Canada

Today's Guiding is a safe, inclusive, all-girl environment that invites girls to challenge themselves, find their voice, meet new friends and make a difference in the world. When your daughter joins Girl Guides she is embarking on an incredible journey. Each year, from approximately September to June, she will have the opportunity to be part of weekly activities and fun outings with friends in her own age group. Girl Guide units

participate in a variety of activities ranging from outdoor scavenger hunts, community service projects like tree planting and shoreline cleanups, sleepovers, camping and more.

Registration is open online at www.girlguides.ca where you can find your preferred unit with the meeting finder.

[https://register.girlguides.ca/web/OnlineReg/Unit Search/OnlineReg/UnitSearch.aspx](https://register.girlguides.ca/web/OnlineReg/UnitSearch/OnlineReg/UnitSearch.aspx)

For more information, contact Chase District Co-Commissioner Amy Dukeshire at amydukeshire@me.com or 902-582-1287.