

WOLFVILLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Principal—Steve Keddy
Vice Principal—Ruth MacLeod
Phone: 902-542-6050
Website: <http://wolfville.ednet.ns.ca>
Email: wolf@avrsb.ca

OCTOBER 2017

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Families:

Welcome back to our “NEW SCHOOL” and a new school year! We are so pleased to offer our students and staff such a bright, positive learning space. We are still waiting for some furniture to arrive and dealing with deficiencies, both of these items will likely be resolved over the school year. Having a new gym floor through renovations and a new soccer court courtesy of the Playground Committee are very exciting bonuses this year!

It was wonderful to see so many families attending the ice cream social Wednesday evening and having it on the playground was a perfect location. Families were able to socialize and mingle in a very relaxed atmosphere while children played together on the playground. \$77.70 was raised for our Breakfast/Nutrition program. Thanks to all who attended, donated items, volunteered and served!

Student safety and security is a priority for us at school. To this end we ask all parents and guardians to leave our playground area at 8:25 a.m. when the first supervisor arrives. If you arrive after this time, give your hugs and say goodbye outside the playground area then send your child to play! ☺ This routine enables staff to easily supervise students and allows students to easily find a supervisor when needed. Also, please do not bring pets on the playground. **Be sure to arrive before the first bell at 8:40!!**

Renovations are almost complete and a grand opening is tentatively scheduled for October 20 at 9:30 am. This date should be confirmed in the next couple of days at which point we will notify families through an email alert.

Special thanks to the staff for a very positive start to the school year! We have great students (many new families this year) and families and I know this will be a super school year!

Steve Keddy, Principal

SCHOOL NEWS

A Day of Celebration and Recognition—October 4

As you know, October is Mi'kmaq History Month. You may also have noticed a new flag arrangement above University Hall; they will now fly the Mi'kmaq (Grand Council) flag permanently. In honour of this, Acadia will be hosting a flag rais-



Students Adelaide Haysom, Kylie McLean and Kiara Ramirez have been a great help already in the new cafeteria. Great job, girls!

ing ceremony on the south lawn of University Hall (Convocation Hall in case of rain), which will feature speakers, drumming, smudging, and the official raising of the flag. Children and staff of Wolfville School will be attending and are asked to wear orange on that day. Our students will sing the Mi'kmaq Honour song while the Mi'kmaq musicians perform.

After lunch we will have our annual Terry Fox Run which will begin with an assembly at 1:30 in the Wolfville School Gymnasium. This event was postponed from September 28 due to thunderstorms. Donations are appreciated and will be collected up to the day of the run. It is assumed that permission granted students to attend September 28, 2017 is valid for the new date of October 4, 2017; new consent forms are not required. Contact the school should you wish to revoke consent for some reason.

Student Attendance

Consistent student attendance is important. When a child is frequently absent from school he/she misses important learning experiences including specific skills and knowledge that may be necessary for further learning. The real danger of frequent absences from school is that students will develop gaps in their learning that will hinder future learning.

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 the child's teacher and the school principal.

There are also many examples of students missing significant time when it is not necessary. Please take school attendance seriously. Be consistent in ensuring that your child values the importance of a good education. Make sure he/she goes to bed at a reasonable time and gets a good night's sleep. Plan your vacation at times that will have no impact or at the least a minimal impact, on school attendance.

Do not hesitate to phone your child's teacher or the school Principal 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 attending school.

As of October 1, the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development has implemented a new Student Attendance and Engagement Policy which can be found here: <https://www.ednet.ns.ca/student-attendance-and-engagement-policy>, and is also attached.

Safe Arrival – Primary to Grade 5

Elementary Parents are reminded to inform the school if your child will be late or absent from school. Parents of unexcused children will be contacted by the office.

Absences—Grades 6 to 8

If you have not called when your child is away from school, please send an excuse to the office on their return. Parents will receive an automated call at the end of the day for any unexcused absences.

Student Registration Forms

If you have not already done so, please make any corrections or changes on your student's registration form which was sent home in September. Please note any medical or custodial information must be completed annually. Be sure to **sign where indicated** and return it to your child's teacher as soon as possible, so our records will be up-to-date.

Classroom Fees

Grades Primary-2 — \$40.00 (includes \$35.00 for supplies and \$5.00 for Fine Arts programs).

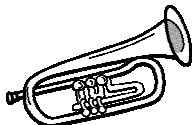
Grades 3-4/5 — \$45.00 (includes the Fine Arts programs and Chromebook rental).

Grades 5/6-8 — \$25 (includes Fine Arts programs, Chromebook and lock rental). A family rate of \$40 is offered for Grades 6-8.

Please send payment to your child's homeroom teacher. (Cash or cheque payable to Wolfville School).

Band Fees

We're getting ready for another exciting year of musicianship and performances at Wolfville School! Grade 6-8 students should have received an info sheet/registration form. Fees are \$40 for Grade 6, \$60 for Grades 7-8. A \$25 discount is offered if you have



more than one child registered in the band program. Please make cheques payable to Wolfville School.

Sign-in Book

It is mandatory that all persons visiting Wolfville School sign in at the office. All visitors are required to wear a visitor tag.

Scent-Aware School

We ask that when entering the doors of Wolfville School that you refrain from using scented products. Many of our staff and students suffer from scent sensitivity, which causes us to react with migraines and breathing difficulties.

Nut-Aware School

At times we have staff and/or students who have a severe allergy to nuts. We therefore ask that you avoid sending nuts and products containing nuts to the school with your child.

Early Dismissals

Throughout the year there are a number of planned early dismissals (for example for afternoon inservices). Dismissal time on these days will be 11:45 a.m. for grades P-5 and 12:00 noon for grades 6-8.

Unplanned Early Dismissals

In addition to Wolfville School's notification system, did you know you can sign up to receive an email or text message of AVRSB announcements? Please log on to www.avrsb.ca/content/notify-me to sign up. Once you sign up you will receive an email or text with information of any unplanned dismissals (storm closure, etc.).

Cafeteria

Our cafeteria is now up and running. Elementary level students will receive a form every week for the following week's lunch and snack orders. Please ensure this form and money is returned to your child's teacher by Thursday each week.

Pets on School Property

Families are asked to not bring pets onto the school grounds, including before and after school. Animals that may be cute and cuddly to you can be a source of fear or, for some of our students, allergies. Due to a bad experience in the past, some students experience extreme fear around certain animals. We would also ask your assistance in keeping your pets away from areas where children will be present, such as the entrance to the school or playground.

Distribution of Newsletter

The school newsletter will generally be posted on the website on the last Friday of each month. A text/email alert will be sent to parents when it has been posted. If you must have a paper copy there will be some available in the office.

Sports/Athletics

Wolfville School student Ida Hudson competed with the Nova Scotia team in a national competition for Pony Club in the prince Phillip Games at Rohan Wood Stables, placing second. Well done, Ida!

No Student Should Go Hungry Fundraiser—Special Appeal to Business Owners

The Wolfville SAC, teachers and staff are committed to providing subsidized lunches and snacks for students who would otherwise go without. For \$20/month we will publish your business card (or similar-size ad) in our newsletter. This is a low-cost form of advertising in support of a good cause! Call Louise in the office at 902-542-6050 or drop in with a business card. Thank you to all those who have supported this worthwhile initiative.

SCHOOL INSURANCE PROGRAM (SIP)

Every student automatically receives basic insurance coverage, at no cost, which applies during school hours, school activities and travel directly to and from school. The “Gold” plan is available for purchase which enhances basic coverage for students to 24/7/365. Cost is \$14 per student (\$35 family rate). For more information please contact the SIP office at 902-480-2160.

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Family Fun Night: Harvest Hoedown!

The first Elementary Family Fun Night (Grade P-5) will be on Friday, October 13, 6:00pm-7:30pm. Join us for music, games, snacks and more! Children must be accompanied by an adult.

SAC Meeting

The next meeting of the SAC is scheduled for November 1, 7:00 p.m. All parents are welcome to attend.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Free Teen Yoga, 8 class session starting Tues. Oct. 17th - Dec. 5th from 3:30-4:30. Grades 5-9 and open to surrounding schools. Can register through Wolfville Recreation. Instructor Kelly Sheehan, carerrands@hotmail.com, 902-691-2436.

Victory Taekwondo

Victory Taekwondo will have an Open House on Saturday October 21, 2017 from 12:00pm to 3:00pm. Come in and check out our new space in the County Fair Mall in New Minas and watch some of our athletes show what they can do. You can enter your name for a draw for a free month of Taekwondo just for stopping by. Victory Taekwondo has classes for ages 4 and up. Instructors are 3rd and 4th degree black belts and have earned multiple National medals. Two instructors each have over 25 years experience in WTF Taekwondo. Classes also help improve flexibility, conditioning, focus and discipline. Contact us for our new fall schedule. Call 902-670-7897 or email tkdvictory@hotmail.com.

Enactus

Enactus Acadia is starting an entrepreneurship workshop for youth ages 7-12. An eight-week workshop will be starting on Sept. 30th from 8:30-11:30 at the Manning Memorial Chapel in Wolfville. For more information please contact Samantha

Stegan at 135257s@acadiau.ca. www.enactus.org or <https://enactusacadia.wordpress.com/welcome/project-regenerate/>

Edalene Theatre

Edalene Theatre is pleased to be offering theatre classes for children ages 4-18 at the Al Whittle Theatre's Studio Z starting in October, 2017. With 16 years of theatre education experience, Edalene is excited to bring their love of theatre to children of the Annapolis Valley! To see a full list of classes, information about enrollment, or to contact Kerri with questions, go to www.edalenetheatre.ca or call [902-799-9009](tel:902-799-9009).

Town of Wolfville

The town offers after school activities for grades Primary to 5. For more information please email nzamora@wolfville.ca or stop in at the school office.

The Town of Wolfville is looking for crossing guards. Please see the attached Position Description. For more information or to apply, please contact the Town of Wolfville.

THANK YOU!

Many thanks to Bell Aliant Pioneer Volunteers for their donation of backpacks and school supplies.



Owl art by Roxanne Ferguson, Mrs. MacNeil's class.

Dates to Remember — October

~October is Mi'kmaq History Month~

4	Day of Celebration and Recognition
9	Thanksgiving Day - No School
11	Gr. 7 Immunizations—1st round
13	Family Fun Night: Harvest Hoedown! 6:00-7:30 pm
20	Student Photo Retakes
26	Early Dismissal
27	Provincial Conference Day— No School for Students

**Stay informed and up-to-date by visiting our website.
Newsletters, Menus, Community Calendar, Athletics Calendar, Contact Information and much more!**

wolfville.ednet.ns.ca

OCTOBER MENU

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2	3	4	5	6
Chicken ranch wrap \$3 Garden Salad \$3 (add chicken for \$1) Picasso's Pizza & milk \$3 Garlic mozza bagel & milk \$3.50	Chicken ranch wrap \$3 Garden Salad \$3 (add chicken for \$1) Mashed potato, corn with chicken tender or haddock \$3.50	Chicken ranch wrap \$3 Garden Salad \$3 (add chicken for \$1) Lasagna & garlic bread \$3.50	Chicken ranch wrap \$3 Garden Salad \$3 (add chicken for \$1) Macaroni & cheese & milk \$3.50	Chicken ranch wrap \$3 Garden Salad \$3 (add chicken for \$1) Taco wraps OR taco salad \$3.50
9	10	11	12	13
Thanksgiving - NO SCHOOL	Chicken ranch wrap \$3 Garden Salad \$3 (add chicken for \$1) Mashed potato, corn with chicken tender or haddock \$3.50	Chicken ranch wrap \$3 Garden Salad \$3 (add chicken for \$1) Lasagna & garlic bread \$3.50	Chicken ranch wrap \$3 Garden Salad \$3 (add chicken for \$1) Macaroni & cheese & milk \$3.50	Chicken ranch wrap \$3 Garden Salad \$3 (add chicken for \$1) Taco wraps OR taco salad \$3.50
16	17	18	19	20
Chicken ranch wrap \$3 Garden Salad \$3 (add chicken for \$1) Picasso's Pizza & milk \$3 Garlic mozza bagel & milk \$3.50	Chicken ranch wrap \$3 Garden Salad \$3 (add chicken for \$1) Mashed potato, corn with chicken tender or haddock \$3.50	Chicken ranch wrap \$3 Garden Salad \$3 (add chicken for \$1) Lasagna & garlic bread \$3.50	Chicken ranch wrap \$3 Garden Salad \$3 (add chicken for \$1) Macaroni & cheese & milk \$3.50	Chicken ranch wrap \$3 Garden Salad \$3 (add chicken for \$1) Taco wraps OR taco salad \$3.50
23	24	25	26	27
Chicken ranch wrap \$3 Garden Salad \$3 (add chicken for \$1) Picasso's Pizza & milk \$3 Garlic mozza bagel & milk \$3.50	Chicken ranch wrap \$3 Garden Salad \$3 (add chicken for \$1) Mashed potato, corn with chicken tender or haddock \$3.50	Chicken ranch wrap \$3 Garden Salad \$3 (add chicken for \$1) Lasagna & garlic bread \$3.50	EARLY DISMISSAL	Provincial Conference Day – NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS
30	31			
Chicken ranch wrap \$3 Garden Salad \$3 (add chicken for \$1) Picasso's Pizza & milk \$3 Garlic mozza bagel & milk \$3.50	Chicken ranch wrap \$3 Garden Salad \$3 (add chicken for \$1) Mashed potato, corn with chicken tender or haddock \$3.50			

Snacks (available for recess or lunch):

Bagel & cream cheese or butter	\$2	Cookies	\$.50
½ bagel & cream cheese or butter	\$1	Yogurt tubes	\$1.25
Muffin	\$1	Pretzels	\$1.50
Veg & dip (when available)	\$1.25	Crispy Minis	\$1.50
Fruit cup (when available)	\$1.25	Baked Cheetos	\$1.50
Cheese & crackers	\$1.00	Cereal Bars	\$.75
Apples, oranges, bananas	\$1.00	Smartfood popcorn	\$1.50
Fruit & yogurt parfait	\$1.25	2% white milk	\$.40
Frozen juice cup	\$1.25	Chocolate milk	\$1.25
Goldfish	\$.75	Chocolate milk (500 ml)	\$2.00
Cinnamon buns (Mondays only)	\$1	Juice (apple or orange)	\$1

Provincial Student Attendance and Engagement Policy

Effective Date: October 1, 2017

To ensure you are accessing up-to date information, please refer to the online version of this policy at ednet.ns.ca/document-depot.

1. Introduction

This policy recognizes that regular attendance at school supports greater **student success and achievement**. Attendance supports student learning and promotes a sense of responsibility that students will need as they transition from the school system to post-secondary studies and/or the workforce.

Promoting and supporting regular student attendance is a **shared responsibility**. All partners, including students, parents/guardians, teachers, principals, school boards, and community partners must work together.

This policy is to be applied in a **fair and equitable** way and is not intended to punish or marginalize students for circumstances beyond their control. The policy provides **flexibility** by allowing teachers and principals to use their professional judgment to determine when there may be extenuating circumstances affecting a student's attendance. In these cases, the school will work with the student and/or their family to respond with the appropriate incentives and supports, and/or to develop accountability mechanisms that recognize the student's unique situation.

2. Objective

The objective of the Provincial Student Attendance and Engagement Policy is to set clear, consistent expectations for regular and punctual student attendance at all grade levels and provide a consistent approach in responding to student absences and chronic lateness.

3. Definitions

"Absence" refers to any time that a student is not in class or not participating in a school activity.

"Late arrival" means a student arriving to class at any point beyond the scheduled start time.

"Parent/guardian" includes a parent, guardian, and a person acting in the place of a parent (*loco parentis*).

4. Monitoring Attendance

As per the [Education Act](#), students are required to attend school regularly and punctually. All students are expected to be present and prepared for the beginning of class. Schools will develop and implement consistent, school-wide practices for responding to late arrivals.



Teachers will record student attendance every day, in accordance with school practice.

All reasons for absences from school must be communicated by the student's parent/guardian, as per the school communication procedure.

5. Responses to Absences and Chronic Lateness

5.1 Responses

Responses to student absenteeism and chronic lateness will vary based on the age, grade, and development of the student, the professional judgment of teachers and principals, and the individual circumstances of the student. Responses may include connecting the student and/or their family with school-based or board-based supports and/or with outside agencies, if needed.

i. Universal/prevention strategies will focus on promoting regular attendance for all students. This may include school-based use of incentives, as appropriate.

ii. Increasing connections will be made when the reason for an absence is not communicated to the school by the parent/guardian or when the frequency of total absences or chronic lateness has reached 10 per cent of class time.

iii. Early intervention responses will be used when an issue with attendance has been identified and/or the frequency of total absences or chronic lateness is between 10 and 15 per cent of class time, or earlier if advised by the student's teacher.

iv. Targeted interventions will be provided for students facing greater attendance challenges, often when the frequency of total absences or chronic lateness has gone over 15 per cent of class time.

5.2 School Board Attendance Committees

As per the [Education Act](#), school boards will establish school board attendance committees to monitor and analyze board-wide student attendance rates and take steps to reduce student absenteeism and promote regular attendance.

5.3 Materials for Absent Students


Teachers are not required to prepare additional materials or release test/examination materials prior to their release to the class.

In accordance with the [Teachers' Professional Agreement and Classroom Improvements \(2017\) Act](#) (section 11.02 (iii)), teachers will provide students with the materials that were distributed in class during the student's absence at the request of the principal. Teachers may use their professional judgment in determining whether or not to provide a student who has missed class time with additional material beyond what was distributed in class.

5.4 Loss of Credit for Grades 10 to 12

In order to earn a course credit in high school, students are expected to be present for at least 80 per cent of class time. A teacher can recommend loss of credit when a student has missed 20 per cent of class time due to any absences, and strong efforts have been made to improve the student's attendance, but no improvement has been demonstrated by the student.





Upon receiving the recommendation of a teacher, and working in consultation with the teacher and other school staff as appropriate, the principal will make the final decision around loss of credit. The principal is responsible for communicating the decision to the student and family. Students who lose credit(s) due to absenteeism are not eligible for credit recovery for that course.

6. Roles and Responsibilities

Students are responsible for maintaining regular attendance and arriving at school on time and ready to learn, recognizing that younger students (P–6) rely more heavily on parent/guardian support to maintain regular attendance. Students are also responsible for catching up on any work missed as a result of an absence or absences.

Parents/guardians are responsible for monitoring and ensuring that their children maintain regular attendance and arrive at school on time, and for communicating with the school regarding their child(ren)'s attendance.

Teachers are responsible for monitoring and recording student attendance and for identifying potential issues related to chronic lateness and/or absenteeism. Teachers will take reasonable steps to promote and support regular attendance and will communicate with students and/or parents/guardians when concerns related to attendance arise.

Principals are responsible for working with teachers, students, parents/guardians, and others as needed, to take reasonable steps to support attendance, including identifying supports in response to student absences and to promote regular attendance. Principals will work with teachers to maintain accurate attendance records. Principals are also responsible for the final decision around loss of credit due to absenteeism and for communicating the decision to the student and their family.

School boards are responsible for monitoring the implementation of the policy in schools and for working with schools and other partners to identify supports and interventions to help meet both the educational and non-educational needs of students and families. School boards will support the decisions made at a school-level regarding attendance issues and will establish attendance committees to monitor and analyze board-wide attendance data.

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development is responsible for establishing a provincial attendance policy and monitoring the implementation of the policy and reviewing its effectiveness.

Community partners are responsible for working collaboratively with students, parents/guardians, schools, and school boards to provide supports and services that encourage regular attendance and help decrease any barriers that may be affecting a student's ability to attend school.

Roles and responsibilities with respect to student attendance for other government departments, (e.g., Justice, Health and Wellness, Community Services) will be outlined in this policy, pending the release of recommendations by the Commission on Inclusive Education.

7. References

Nova Scotia. Education Act. S.N.S. 1995-1996, ch. 1. <http://nslegislature.ca/legc/statutes/education.pdf>.

Nova Scotia. Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. 2017. *Provincial Student Attendance and Engagement Policy Operational Guide*. Halifax, NS: Province of Nova Scotia.