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CALLING ALL SCOOPS!

Do you have a story idea for our NMS Dragon's Tale Newsletter? If so, reach out to any one of our Journalism Club student reporters, or Mme Farrell. We are always looking for new content to cover!

NMS Journalism Club members are: Brett Gee, Natalie Iyoha, Emily Lockert, Leah Lockert, Emma Matchett, Jasper Medel, Jakob Ryan, Sophia Sharp, Michael Tselichtchev, and cartoonist, Alice Theriault-Parker



VICE PRINCIPAL CONNORS' ON TO NEW ADVENTURES

by Emily Lockert, Leah Lockert and Emma Matchett



Marcie Connors is an amazing Vice Principal at Nashwaaksis Middle School and will be hard to replace, which unfortunately will have to be done as she leaves NMS at the end of June, to take on the role of Principal at Kingsclear Consolidated Elementary School. Staff have mixed feelings about Connors leaving.

Grade 7 English Language Arts teacher, John Hickey, says that he is excited for Ms. Connors, but knows that we are all going to miss her. "It's a happy/sad day for sure," Hickey said.

Melanie Dunn, a grade 6 Social Studies teacher agrees with him and says that she is happy for Connors.

Another teacher saddened by the news of Connors leaving NMS is Cindy Farrell, a grade six Language Arts and French Immersion Language Arts teacher. She says that Ms. Connors is one of the reasons she came back to work at NMS and will miss her incredibly.

Ms. Bethany Langmaid, who teaches grade 6 Science, 6\7 Language Arts and a 6\7 Post Intensive French class, says that Connors is also the reason for her job at NMS. "She took a chance on me," Langmaid said.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

by Kendra Frizzell

Hello Dragons!

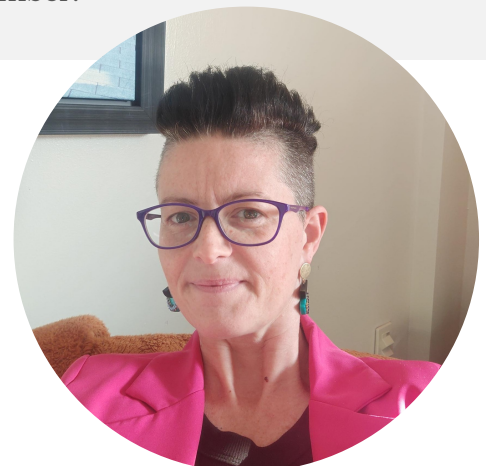
Happy June. How did that happen so fast? I am so proud of how hard everyone has worked this year. I also want to acknowledge the incredible work our teachers and staff have done to get us to this point.

We all know the past two years and living through a pandemic is not what any of us expected in our lifetimes. Their willingness to work in these uncertain times and provide meaningful learning opportunities for students despite the health and safety guidelines is greatly appreciated.

Dear students I hope you felt the love on Student Appreciation Day. We hope you feel the love every day, but it is nice to have a special day dedicated to showing our appreciation to you.

To our Grade 8 students, we will miss you as you move on to High School. My hope is that you continue to shine and succeed, and remember, once a Dragon, always a Dragon!

Have a wonderful summer break and we'll see most of you back here in September!



[Vice Principal...]

Langmaid admits that Ms. Connors hardly could have known if Langmaid would have been a good teacher or not because she is so new to the job, but Connors still brought her into the NMS teaching family, believing in her.

Hickey, Dunn, Farrell, and Langmaid all agree that Connors is very kind, caring and compassionate.

Langmaid says that she feels close to Connors as a co-worker and trusts her very much. "If I have a problem or a situation, I know that Ms. Connors is someone that I can always go to."

Dunn agrees with Langmaid. She says that Connors has always been supportive, ready to listen, and to help solve problems.

"She's very patient, kind and has a big, big heart," Farrell said.

Not only is Connors a great person but she is also great at her job. Farrell says that Connors will leave big shoes behind for NMS's new Vice Principal to fill. Connors is said to be very organized, and helpful. "I've always said that she has a mind like a computer," Farrell said, referring to Connors' organizational skills.

"I'm sure it won't be easy!" Dunn said, while talking about replacing Connors. "She has many different skills [and] does lots of behind-the-scenes things," Dunn went on to say. "She wears many different hats and every day she has to problem solve and make decisions at a moment's notice."

No matter how hard NMS's new Vice Principal works or however kind they are, no one will ever be able to replace Connors. "I love Ms. Connors," says Langmaid, and it is safe to say that everyone else at NMS does too.

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

by Cindy Farrell



Every month, Nashwaaksis Middle School teachers select one student from each class to be awarded "Student of the Month." These students are recognized as outstanding in their class for achievement in interactions, initiative, responsibility, organization, independence or academics.

Here is the list of those who received the Student of the Month Award for May and June.

Grade 6

- 6A - Maya D. and Gage H.
- 6B - Maddison F. and Jacob G.
- 6C - Omar M. and Kaylee S.
- 6D - Ryan P. and Sophia S.
- 6E - Jude C. and Seamus M.
- 6F - Natalie W. and Evynn L-R.
- 6G - Jordyn K. and Matthew S.
- 6H - Alicia J. and Addi F.
- 6I - Lucas S. and Teagan K.
- 6/7 J - Ava B. and Ryan P.

Grade 7

- 7A - Aiden H. and Vinny B.
- 7B - Tage C. and Arwen O.
- 7C - Abby B. and Alexa A.
- 7D - Anthony C. and Gabby D.
- 7E - Vohdyn E. and Alex C.
- 7F - Alexa W. and Bruke M.
- 7G - Liam C. and Sage H.
- 7H - Jorja S. and Liv G.
- 7/8 I - Graydon A. and Cameron L.
- 6/7 J - Ava B. and Parker Burnett

Grade 8

- 8A - Asia H. and Keressa M-C.
- 8C - Omar H. and Mataya P.
- 8D - Rae D. and Yaretzi B G.
- 8E - Jorja S. and William R.
- 8F - Molly K. and Anna C.
- 8G - Will B. and Eden F.
- 8H - Vanya V. and Alex M.
- 7/8 I - Lily D. and Angelena D.

SCHOOL YEAR IN REVIEW

by Jakob Ryan and Michael Tselichtchev

As amazing as this year has been, sadly all wonderful things must come to an end. Life at Nashwaaksis Middle School this year included some school closures, online learning and in-person classes but with Covid restrictions taking a back seat later in the school year, a lot of fun activities started to open.

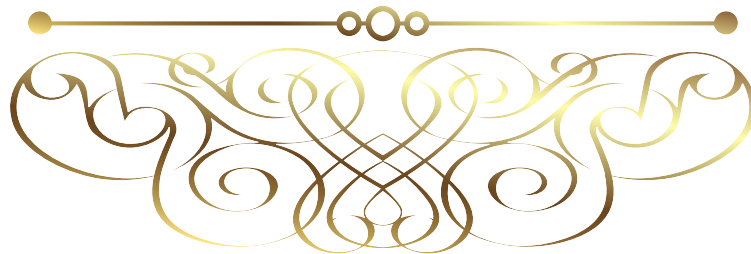
Our Grade 8 Dragons have been with us for three years, but they leave us after this month to become Lions. One student moving on to Leo Hayes High School, Spencer Clarkson, has really enjoyed his time at NMS and finds this transition time bittersweet. “You know high school is going to be a lot more work, but I am excited to meet new people and new stuff is always fun,” Clarkson says. He was excited for the field house to open after two years, and he has enjoyed many sports through his middle school years. Grade 8 students are wished the best as they move on to high school.

This year also saw new Grade 6 students joining NMS. One of them, Lily Vaughan, was nervous but ended up loving it more than ever. “It was my first year of middle school and everybody is very nice,” says Vaughan. Rick Lafrance, a Grade 6 teacher, has also enjoyed his classes and thinks that it has been an amazing and wonderful year. He loved how people had to wear masks but were finally able to take them off. Lafrance said that he enjoyed lots of things but his top three were winning the Halloween door decoration because as he said, “...everybody worked together as a team.” Also, he says he loved seeing the Lounge project in the cafeteria coming together. Additionally, he was pleased to see sports make a return to NMS.



Another exciting event that happened later in this school year was the return of the NMS Social. It had been over two years that students were able to experience a school dance and for most people, it was a huge hit.

Now that school is ending for the summer and we look back at all that took place this year, one can certainly appreciate how everything came together in the end to wrap up as a success. NMS students and staff are very fortunate indeed to be part of this community. Best wishes to our graduating Dragons and the school community looks forward to seeing our returning, and future, Dragons in September.



NMS LOUNGE - GRAND OPENING

By Cindy Farrell - photo credits Brett Gee



A remodeling project at NMS has exceeded all expectations. NMS students, in partnership with teachers and Youth Fusion Jeunesse, designed and created an inclusive space for all to enjoy.

The grand opening took place on June 13th, with over 50 people in attendance for the ribbon cutting.

Students who have already been enjoying the NMS Lounge have used words like "amazing", "cozy", and "exhilarating" to describe the new common space. The enthusiasm throughout the project was high and sent a rippling through the entire school, as each day new developments were realized.

Classes have already used the area for live musical performances by students, games, activities, fundraising space and Readers Theatre. It has also provided a quiet space for students and staff to relax and reset.

Artistic displays are also in The Lounge, created by staff, students and members of the community, like the chalk wall creation by Craig Budovitch and Jason Lyons

The NMS community looks forward to seeing this space grow even more in the future. Congratulations to all involved in creating and realizing this amazing vision!



NATIONAL INDIGENOUS DAY CELEBRATED AT NMS JUNE 21, 2022

by Cindy Farrell

Students and staff recognized National Indigenous Day at Nashwaaksis Middle School with numerous activities, meant to celebrate, and honor, Indigenous language and culture. This important day was organized by NMS First Nations teacher Emilie Gray and her students.

After a morning presentation, students and staff participated in a Water Walk to recognize the sacredness of water and the importance of protecting it from drought, waste and pollution.

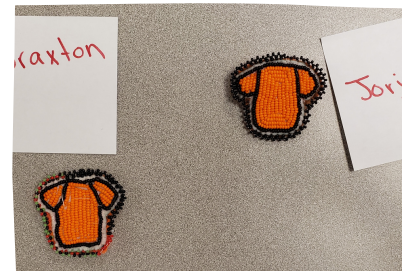
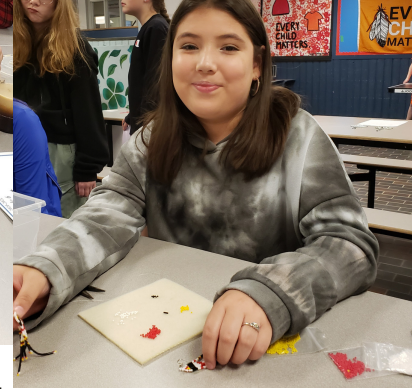
An Indigenous Showcase in the NMS cafeteria and newly opened lounge area, welcomed staff and students to taste fry bread, do some colouring, and explore some of the handiwork of NMS First Nations students.

The student artwork included beaded dream catchers, bracelets, necklaces, earrings and rings, as well as paintings. A very popular attraction was that visitors to the Showcase were able to watch First Nations students create their jewelry on-site. Kaden Booker, a student of Gray's, says he finds the beading process very relaxing and rewarding. Classmates Chantal Paul-Reid and Ava Paul agree that the beading takes time and patience but that the end results are work to be proud of.

Video presentations to further explain the history of First Nations people, as well as the importance and significance of this day, were also shared with staff and students.

Students participated in a water colour painting activity led by Julia Reid, creating pictures of trees and their roots by using straws and paint.

The day was full of enjoyable and educational activities, and was greatly appreciated by the entire school community.



NEW BRUNSWICK PUBLIC LIBRARY EMPLOYEE GETS CREATIVE

by Brett Gee and Jasper Medel



Caroline Theriault has been a librarian since 2006 and has been an employee at the Nashwaaksis Public Library at NMS for the past 15 years. Her passion for books and the library started young. When she was in grade 4, she had a special connection with her school librarian, who encouraged her love of reading. Of her former school librarian, Theriault says she was the best person ever and would "... let me read books for older kids cause she said 'I know you can handle this stuff'."

In high school, Theriault learned how to work in a school library, checking books out for students, putting books away, and attending Library Club. Her love of books and libraries only grew from that point on.

Theriault says the Nashwaaksis Public Library not only loans out books for free but they also have TV shows, movies, music and musical instruments. Visitors can check out most items for three weeks and some can be extended.

In order to draw people's attention toward the library, Theriault makes it her mission to create eye-catching window displays that match the season or calendar events throughout the year. When asked why she does this, Theriault simply says "Well, we just like to make things cheerful and fun... and the decorations make it pop!"

So, if you are looking for some "ed"venture this summer, make your way over to the Nashwaaksis Public Library, connected to NMS, at 324 Fulton Avenue.

Did you know...

First Nations art murals surround the walls in the NMS cafeteria, and the words painted within them are written in Maliseet. This month, we feature a colourful nature mural, along with the word "Muwin", which means "black bear". The original artwork was created in 2017.



TEACHER FEATURE ON...

JON COPELAND



Reporters Brett Gee and Sophia Sharp, interviewed Jon Copeland, a grade 8 teacher at Nashwaaksis Middle School. Here is their Q & A.

Q: Was teaching your first job choice and do you feel that students respect you?

It was between journalism and teaching . I considered both, but decided to become a teacher when I was 25. Yes, I feel students respect me.

Q: What grade and subject do you teach and how long have you been teaching?

I teach a grade 7-8 split. I teach four Language Arts classes and one Science class. This is my 8th year teaching.

Q: What is the best thing about your job?

The best thing about my job is being able to see the growth in students from the first day they walk in, in September, until the end of June.

Q: How long does it take to make a lesson plan?

It depends if it's new or if it's something I've done before. It's normally one to two hours.

Q: What is your best memory of teaching?

It was my first year teaching and I had a non verbal student. He wrote what he wanted to say, but he never wrote anything for me. On the last day of school he finally wrote something for me; he wrote "bye."



Artists of the Month

Every month, NMS Art teacher Julia Reid, chooses a celebrated student artist from each grade level.

Here are the "Artists of the Month" for May and June, along with a picture of their work.

Grade 6: Kelly D P. and Ruby P.
Grade 7: Abby B. and Brooke L.
Grade 8: Yaretzi B G., Aiden R. and Taylor R.



"JARED AND FLUFFY" COMIC BY ALICE THERIAULT-PARKER

Alice is a Grade 7 student of NMS, who contributes a cartoon in each issue of The Dragon's Tale Newsletter.

