

DECEMBER 2017

Florenceville Middle School

8794 Main Street, Florenceville-Bristol, NB E7L-3G2
FMS.nbed.nb.ca 506-392-5115



It's hard to believe that December is here already, and we have little snow!

We are expressing a sincere thank you to everyone who supported our Poinsettia fundraising campaign. The plants are beautiful, and customers have been pleased with the quality of the product! We will look forward to our spring fundraiser of hanging baskets from Jolly Farmer, supporting a local business while benefitting our student body.

CHRISTMAS BRUNCH

This year we will be having a FMS Christmas Brunch! This will take place on Thursday, December 14th. The dinner is served to the entire student body as well as staff and extended staff on that day. As well, we will be inviting in a few local supporters of activities at FMS. Each student is asked to bring \$2 to help offset the cost of the meal. We will be eating as a whole FMS team in the gym, and brunch will be the only meal served that day. Pancakes, toast, eggs, and another protein will be served.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

There will be an FMS Christmas concert for band students. This will take place on December 14th starting at 7pm. Students will need to be dressed in black bottoms and a white shirt. Donations will be accepted at the door for the purchase of new band instruments.

SPORTS TEAMS

Badminton season will be wrapping up on December 8th. Thank you to Steve Chan, Matthew Guest, and Jeff Rector for coaching our boys and girls!

Basketball is in full swing! We are pleased to have Abby Derrah and Corey Orchard coaching for us. The season for basketball wraps up on February 21st, with Volleyball beginning in early February.

KEEPING FAMILIES INFORMED

Thank you for continuing to listen to School Connects messages and emails, as well as connecting with your child's teachers. We appreciate that you spend some time attending to these, as well as reading through the newsletter when it arrives. We will also be more attentive to using the school website (<http://fms.nbed.nb.ca>), where you can find information including teacher email addresses. Thanks for taking the initiative in keeping informed!

*WE WISH YOU A JOYOUS HOLIDAY SEASON WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS!
MERRY CHRISTMAS, AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!*

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 2017

- 6th – Newsletter
- 14th – Christmas BRUNCH
- 14th – Acts of Kindness
- 14th – Christmas Band Concert
- 21st – School Field Trip (Woodstock)
- 22nd – Last Day of School

January 2018

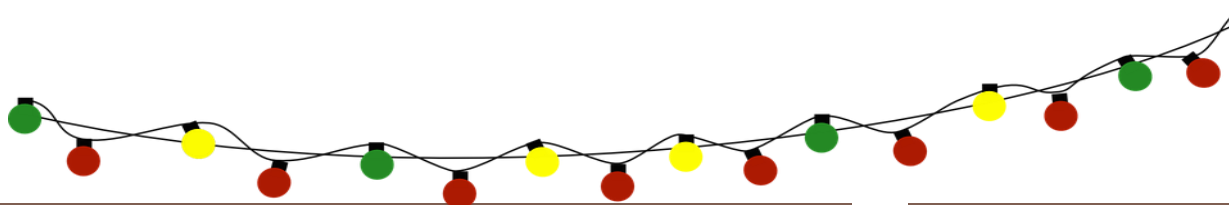
- 8th – First day back to school
- 10th – School Newsletter
- 25th – School Dance
- 27th – Family Literacy Day

ACTS OF KINDNESS

On December 14th, students will be participating in an Acts of Kindness day, looking for ways to give back to our communities.

Students will have a chance to participate in helping to prepare our school-wide brunch, write letters and make cards for volunteers, bake treats for volunteers, sing carols in the community, and even bag groceries! This is a way that we can give back to our community, and spread some Christmas cheer to others!

Why not look for a way that you can give back?



Social media: What parents should know

Children and teens are creating and sharing information more than ever using digital media such as cell phones, smart phones, and computers. They send text messages, use Facebook and Twitter, write blogs, share photos and video to stay in touch with friends and family and to make new friends.



Social media offers lots of opportunity to help your child and teen be creative and stay connected and informed. But it's important to learn about the different technologies and how your children use them so you can help keep them safe online.

How can I keep my children safe using social media?

- Learn about the technologies your children and teens are using.
- Ask how they communicate with friends online. Tell them that you are willing and interested to learn about it.
- Keep computers in common areas where you can watch while your children use them. Be clear about the rules for using the computer and set limits on the amount of time and how they can be used.
- Set limits on cell and smart phone use. Talk about when it's a good time to use a cell phone. Your child or teen's school, for example, likely has rules about where and when they can or can't be used.
- Teach them the value of "unplugging" from devices and computers for technology free time. Reinforce that no e-mail or message is so important that it can't wait until the morning.
- Get online protection for your family. Programs that provide parental controls can block websites, enforce time limits, monitor the websites your child visits, and their online conversations. Tell your children and teens that you are monitoring their online activity. Be aware that some parent control programs will block information about puberty and sexuality that you might want your teen to look for.
- Ask your children and teens about the people they "meet" online. Showing genuine interest will help them feel comfortable talking about it. Explain that it's easy for someone on the Internet to pretend to be someone they are not.
- Discuss what's okay and safe to post online and what isn't.
- People can't always control the information others post about them. Explain that information and photos available online can turn up again years later.
- Ask your children and teens where else they access the Internet. Talk to teachers, caregivers and other parents about your rules for social media.
- Because people are not always who they pretend to be online, talk about the importance of keeping online friendships in the virtual world and how it can be dangerous to meet online friends face-to-face. Make it clear that if your child wants to meet a virtual friend in person, it must be with a trusted adult.
- If your child or teen is playing online games, join them (even if only to sit and watch) so you can see exactly what they are doing and talk to them about it.

EVERY DAY COUNTS

"A growing body of research indicates that missing 10 percent of the year or more for any reason - including unexcused absence, excused absence, and suspension - places students at significant risk of negative outcomes, including academic difficulties, increased involvement in the juvenile justice system and dropping out. To reduce these negative outcomes, it's important to address attendance for all students who miss 10% of the year or more." (Sprick, Alabiso and Yore in Educational Leadership 73(3).

At FMS we are invested in making your child's learning a priority, and supporting them in becoming successful at school. In order for them to do this, they need to be in attendance each day and on time. Home contacts by the homeroom teacher after 5 absences and letters from the Principal after 10 absences are ways in which we keep you aware of your child's unexcused absences. We will reach out to families after 10 absences, as well as inform the school district, to problem-solve with you around attendance issues and supports we can provide. We look forward to working with you in supporting your children being in attendance, and on time at school!

THANK YOU!

We extend a sincere thank you on behalf of the family of Emma Pearson for the PJ donations! They will be donated to the IWK.