

Florenceville Middle School September 2016 Newsletter



School Vision - "All students will be given the opportunity and support to become responsible citizens."

School Mission – "The mission of FMS is to develop students who are intellectually, technologically, physically and socially ready for their place in the 21st century world."

Welcome to a new school year! 😊

A few items are highlighted in this first monthly newsletter. Many will be a focus at our **Meet and Greet**.

Staying Informed at FMS

- Watch for the newsletter which goes home on **the first Wednesday of every month**.
- Visit our website (fms.nbed.nb.ca)
- Read the emails or listen to the phone messages that come through **School Connects**.
- Read and discuss with your child the "FMS Student/Parent Handbook"
- Please come to our **Meet and Greet on Wednesday, September 7, at 6:00 pm** in the gym. There will be updates about changes to our school, an introduction to the teaching staff, and we will also be having our **PSSC election**.

Communication is an important key to a successful school year.

For you to sign and return or provide to us:

- ✓ **The student data sheet (legal sized paper with some info pre-filled)**. Please verify what is typed and add missing info or make corrections. There is a place for your signature. Return to homeroom teacher ASAP.
- ✓ **The Student/Parent handbook**. It is designed for you to review each page with your child and both of you initial the bottom of each page. There are also a few pages at the back that require full signature, including the Photo permissions. Please review this over the next few days with your child and return all parts signed to the homeroom teacher.
- ✓ **The Military/Extended absence form** if you wish for your family to be identified as having military personnel or family members who has or may experience a period of time away from the family. This is a **voluntary** form that will arrive later this week.
- ✓ **The student fee** of \$55 which includes all school supplies as described in the Student/Parent Handbook.
- ✓ **Custody Information**: By law, schools are required to provide, on request from non-custodial parents, information about a student's education, except when a court order prohibiting access of a parent to a child exists. **If there is a current, valid court order prohibiting access to this child, the responsibility rests with the custodial parent to provide the school with a copy of this document. Please send in a copy of such a form if it exists or call Sally at the office to make other arrangements for our having a copy on file. We need this information on file ASAP.**

New staff: We welcome Kate LaFrance, teacher; David Mahar, Guidance; Sally Shaw, Admin Assistant; Val McKeil, Educational Assistant and Wendy Gallant, Educational Assistant, to our staff this year. We welcome back Jean Anne Green who served as a Literacy Lead in several schools over the past two years. Our remaining 12 educators, 1 EA, 1 Library Worker and 3 Custodians were a part of the FMS staff last year as well.

School Safety: Over the course of the next few weeks, we will be practising drills including evacuations, fire drills, school lock downs and evacuation to alternate site. Our alternate site is the Carleton Civic Centre and we occasionally walk from school to the Civic Centre by way of the NB Trail or Main Street sidewalk to practice this routine.

Contacting the School: If you call during the day, **please leave a message** and Sally will get back to you. She is sometimes away from her desk so she may not pick up when you call; however, she checks for messages each time she returns to her desk and will be sure to respond to your request.

On Time for School: Our instructional day begins at the **8:25 bell**. Students who arrive after that time are tardy for the day. Students are best prepared for their day when they arrive by 8:15 so they may get to their locker before the **8:20** homeroom bell.

Contact Information

VERY IMPORTANT!!!

If your contact information changes throughout the year, including home phone, work phone, cell phone, email address and/or mailing address, please let us know **as soon as possible**. It is important for your child's well-being that we have a current number by which to contact you at all times. Please note this includes the **email address** we have on file for our School Connects Messaging so that you will continue to receive our voice messages.

September 2016

7th: Meet and Greet and PSSC Election 6:00pm

22nd: Public Health Vaccinations for Grade 7 Boys and Girls

22nd: First FMS Dance

25th – 30th: Safe Schools Week

October 2016

5th: Newsletter goes home

5th: School-based Terry Fox Event

6th & 7th: Professional Learning Days. No school for students

10th: Thanksgiving – no school

11th: Picture Day

24th – 28th: FMS Book Fair

28th: Probability Fair

Driveway Access

Students being driven to school should be dropped off at the front door after **7:55** am. Please enter on the 'McCain' side of the driveway and exit by the 'bridge' side. Between 7:55 and 8:25 and from 2:30 to 3:00, there should be no visitor traffic circling the building.

Cafeteria Service

We hope to have the regular menu in place very soon. Students will notice changes from last year as we work diligently to meet the expectations in the Nutrition Policy while at the same time offering appealing choices. Once the trends of what is liked and sells best become more obvious, we will update students and parents on any adjustments to the menu. **Chartwells**, the food service provider, is currently exploring the option for parents to pre-order and pay for meals online. We will inform you of how this will work once we have more details and the confidence that the technology is in place to offer this service.

The cafeteria does not offer credit. If your child forgets lunch, they should let us know and we can prepare toast or sandwich for them in the Tech Kitchen. Also note that the condiments and cutlery in the cafeteria are for those who are purchasing their lunch. Students who bring their lunch are also expected to bring their own cutlery.

Breakfast Program

FMS plans on continuing to offer breakfast to any and all students who wish to have something to eat after arriving at FMS in the morning. We will be working with the Community School Coordinator, Valerie Carmichael, to improve our Breakfast program this year.

Communication Protocol

When issues arise, the proper channels should be followed. First make contact with the teacher. In most cases, this will lead to a resolution. If the issue is not resolved, contact the principal who in most cases will arrange a meeting of the parent/guardian, teacher and principal. In cases where resolution is still not met, contact can be made with the Director of Schools at the Woodstock Education Centre. Thank you in advance for adhering to this protocol.

Attendance

Having your child attend school regularly and on time promotes good routines, enables success and allows teachers to do their jobs well. Please help us make this a priority with all our students. The instructional day is from 8:25 – 2:50. We appreciate your waiting until the dismissal time before picking up your child whenever possible. This reduces the interruptions to everyone's learning day.

UPCOMING EVENTS

FMS Meet and Greet – *tonight!!*

We would love to have every student represented at the **information session** at 6 pm this evening. Everyone will meet in the gymnasium. The principal will give an overview and then parents/guardians will have an opportunity to casually meet the staff following the **PSSC election**.

Immunizations at FMS

Public Health nurses will be holding an immunization clinic at our school on Thursday, September 22nd. The purpose of the clinic is to administer a vaccine against tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis (whooping cough) to all grade 7 students and the HPV vaccine to the grade 7 girls only.

Grade 7 students will receive information pamphlets and consent forms to take home.

If you have any questions please feel free to call the number listed on the information letter for Public Health.

FMS Dances

The doors open at 7:00 pm. All students are to be picked up at 9:00 pm. Students are to remain in the building the entire dance unless an administrator has been notified of an early pick-up. Please see the other dance guidelines in the handbook. The 'fee' for the first dance, September 22, is **a donation to the Terry Fox Foundation** (we will be having a school-based Terry Fox Walk on October 5th) or a small bag/box of **plastic cutlery (spoons and forks, especially)** for those who forget one in their buckets.