

Stirling Senior Public School

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Secretary: Suzanne Moorcraft

Principal: Suzanne Cholasta

Superintendent: Mandy Savery-Whiteway

Trustee: Bonnie Danes

School Council Chair: Iris Wilson



February 2012



Stirling Senior P. S. is Growing with Character!

We demonstrate...Caring, Cooperation, Honesty, Humour, Integrity, Respect, Responsibility and Trustworthiness.



Our January **Students of the Month** demonstrated that they were **COOPERATIVE**. These students are able to work as collaborative team members in the class and around the school. They value the opinions of others and show a willingness to work together towards a common goal.
Back Row: L-R Aric W., Cole G., Chad B., Anna W., James E., Josh T. **Front row:** L-R Cody L., Grace S., Sabrina S., Ashley W., and Jena B.



Kayla and Dianna Boisvert were integral in bringing Linda LaRue a Canadian teacher to SSPS to engage the grade 8 students in a pen pal program with students in Haiti (for more information see page 8). Our students learned about life and education in Haiti to increase their global awareness.

Students from 8 M/C visited the National Air Force Museum of Canada located in Trenton. The class presented a donation to the curator as a thank you for their opportunity to interact with and learn from the historic artifacts and memorabilia.



Nick and Mrs. Hall are shown bringing in groceries for our Food for Learning snack bins. The bins are accessible daily for all students. Donations are accepted!



Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board
613-966-1170





Stirling Senior P. S. supports the Arts!

We foster the many talents in interests of our students in the arts (visual arts, drama, dance and music).

Legion Poster and Literary Awards

Branch Level Winners

BLACK and WHITE POSTER

1st Place Intermediate Griffin B.W. Grade 8
2nd Place Intermediate Natalie B. Grade 8

COLOUR POSTER

1st Place Intermediate Ruby C. Grade 7
2nd Place Intermediate Alexina A. Grade 8
3rd Place Intermediate Kayla B. Grade 8

ESSAYS

1st Place Intermediate Samantha R. Grade 8
2nd Place Intermediate Griffin B.W. Grade 8
3rd Place Intermediate Diana B. Grade 8

POEMS

1st Place Intermediate Anna W. Grade 8
3rd Place Intermediate Natalie B. Grade 8

Zone Level Winners

BLACK and WHITE POSTER

1st place Griffin B.W. Grade 8

ESSAYS

1st place Samantha R. Grade 8

POEMS

1st place Anna W. Grade 8

Since these students received 1st place they will now also compete at **District Level.**

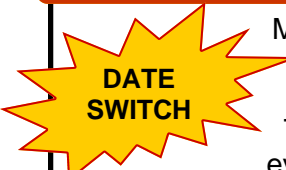
Public Speaking Competition is **Sunday, February 26th** at the Stirling Legion. All students competing should arrive at 12:30 pm for registration.



Linda Clarke and Ted Morin from the Stirling Royal Canadian Legion presented certificates and financial awards to SSPS students for their posters and essays for Remembrance Day. Students that place first in a category move through different levels. We are proud to have 3 students moving onto the District Level competition.



Seussical JR. comes to SSPS



Mrs. Cooney, Ms. Mercer and Miss Vandersel have been supporting students during lunch recess and after school practices to learn and develop their roles in preparation for our public performances. The cast has over 60 students involved. We look forward to getting even more students involved when we start staging, props and costumes. The acts are coming together wonderfully with the possibility of this musical, Seussical Jr., being one of SSPS's best ever! To ensure all family, friends and supporters are able to attend our shows and the students are able to perfect their performances we have decided to switch our evening two performance dates from April to:



Tuesday, May 8th at 7:00 pm
Wednesday, May 9th at 7:00 pm
Thursday, May 10th at 7:00 pm



There will also be dress and school level performances that all cast members will be expected to participate in. A special thank you to parents and guardians for their collaboration to ensure their children are present for all their practices.



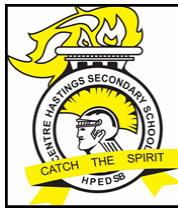
Stirling Senior P. S. supports student transitions!

We partner with our receiving high schools to support student comfort and awareness as they leave SSPS.



Upcoming Transition Dates

SSPS students feed into two HPEDSB schools, Bayside Secondary or Centre Hastings Secondary depending on where you live. We want our graduating students entering high school with all the information required to support their success. We encourage families to attend the upcoming information sessions at BSS or CHSS or contact the school guidance department directly to seek answers to any questions you may have.



- ⇒ **Wed. Feb. 1 Grade 8 Orientation** is occurring at **BSS and CHSS** – 10:00 am to 2:00 pm (Students will visit different subjects and engage in activities)
- ⇒ **Mon. Feb. 13** BSS Guidance will do a **registration presentation** for all grade 8 students
- ⇒ **Wed. Feb 22** Grade 8 **Parent and Student Information night** at **CHSS**
- ⇒ **Thurs. Feb 23** Grade 8 **Parent and Student Information night** at **BSS** – 7:00 pm

Mrs. Popovich (Vice Principal), Mrs. Reinhardus (Guidance Teacher), Mrs. Powell (Guidance Coordinator), and Mr. Montgomery (Principal) were all on hand, along with 3 former SSPS students to share information at our January BSS Parent Information Night. We appreciate the excellent questions that parents posed as they learn more about Grade 9 programs.

All Grade 7 and 8 students from BSS feeder schools are invited to the **Grade 7 and 8 DANCE @ BSS**

Thursday, February 2, 2012
7 p.m. - 10 p.m.

It's a black light dance with DJ. Black lights are colored light bulbs that make objects glow in the dark.



Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased from the SSPS office

The dance is for Grade 7 and 8 students only. Teacher supervisors, and BSS student council will be present. A canteen will be available during the dance.





Stirling Senior P. S. supports 21st Century Learning!

We have revised our Technology Policy to develop student digital citizenship.

Technology literacy is a crucial component of modern society. Our global world continues to place a premium on a highly skilled labour force that is technologically literate. As technology dramatically changes our society, students need to demonstrate the skills and behaviours of digital-age learners. Here at SSPS, a global perspective is developed and presented in content areas where appropriate. Critical thinking, problem-solving, communication and collaboration are emphasized. Along with the focus on 21st Century skills, is the requirement for a policy for the safe, legal and ethical use of digital information and technology.

All students are permitted to bring and use their personal electronic devices to any class **where the teacher has given such permission**. Students will be able to, at the teacher's discretion, connect to the school's wireless to use mobile devices as **educational tools** during class. Teachers will provide direction in the use of these devices as tools for learning as opposed to entertainment; **use of the network for non-educational purposes during instructional time is not permitted**. The uses of personal devices for non-educational purposes are at the teacher's discretion. Accessing music from an Internet service is not allowed while at school, as it slows down the connection of other computers within the school. If the electronic device has a camera it is still allowed in the school. However, taking pictures with that device is only allowed for **educational purposes when a teacher has directed and is aware of the use** (this includes recess time). It is also important that permission is received before taking photographs or recordings of anyone. Once the pictures have been used for the instruction, they must be deleted by the student and staff are to be advised of this action.

In our revised technology policy, students are expected to adhere to the following:

1. Always ask your teacher if it is an appropriate time/task to use your electronic device for educational purposes. Respect your teacher's professional judgement.
2. Devices are not allowed in washrooms or change rooms.
3. Remove ear buds / headsets when you enter the school.
4. When you are moving through the halls or at your locker you should not be on your device as it will slow down the task that you should be doing (e.g., getting ready for class, getting to bus on time).
5. When you bring electronic devices to class, be certain that the volume is turned off. The device is to be used as a learning tool, so place it on your desk top for easy access when the teacher has approved usage otherwise it may stay in your pocket/desk. If the device becomes a source of distraction, you will not be permitted to bring it to class.
6. Social networking (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, texting, email) is off limits, as is downloading games or music.
7. Be net-wise and show net-iquette.



Please note that it is *not an expectation* that students bring an electronic device to class to use for educational purposes; alternative means of conducting research/inquiry or creating products are available to students.

SSPS will not be responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged devices. We strongly encourage all students to keep devices locked in their lockers when they are not being used for educational purposes.

Procedure for Dealing with Students who Disregard the Policy:

1. **First infraction** – Lose electronic device for the day. Teacher and student will sign an envelope containing the device and it will be put in the office.
2. **Second infraction** – Student will go to the office to talk to Mrs. Cholasta and a parent will need to pick up the electronic device from the school.
3. **Third infraction** – Student will not be allowed personal electronics at school for a period of time (to be determined based on the situation). Dependent on severity, student may/may not be permitted to use school computers/Internet.



Stirling Senior P.S. is committed to Student Success!

We determine actions and next steps to support improved student learning, achievement and well being.



SSPS School Improvement Planning Goals and Guiding Questions

Pathways	Our students will be intellectually, academically and creatively engaged in authentic and meaningful learning experiences that reflect their voices and identities.	⇒ How do we incorporate 21 st Century content, perspectives and skills into teaching and learning experiences? ⇒ How do we ensure instruction, the learning environment and materials reflect our students? ⇒ How do we provide students with various activities that allow them to learn more about their potential?
Literacy - Reading	Our students will read a variety of texts for different purposes to construct meaning.	⇒ How do we ensure students use the success criteria to reflect on their progress and plan next steps? ⇒ How do we move students through the gradual release of responsibility model? ⇒ How can we ensure instructional practices are strategically used to improve literacy skills of boys?
Literacy - Writing	Our students will demonstrate organization and sophistication in their writing.	
Numeracy	Our students will problem solve by effectively representing and communicating their understanding of mathematical concepts.	⇒ How do we ensure students can describe what they are learning and use the success criteria to support? ⇒ How do we engage student in the math processes? ⇒ How do we move students through the gradual release of responsibility model?
Community, Culture and Caring	Our students will take actions as global citizens to contribute to a caring, safe, respectful and inclusive classroom, school and global community.	⇒ How do we ensure our students are active in building a caring, safe and inclusive learning environment? ⇒ How do we ensure a positive school climate and the development of global citizens?

Free Online Math Homework Help for Grade 7– 10 www.homeworkhelp.ilc.org

Online Math Homework Help is now being offered in our school board from the *Ministry of Education* as free online math tutoring and support for any student from grade 7 to 10. The website offers students a variety of resources for math, including *Certified Ontario Math teachers* in real time, online tutors in a chat room, with one-on-one support. Each chat room has a whiteboard where both student and teacher can draw on and write as they work to develop an answer to the student's math problem. There are also audio-enabled chat rooms that allow students to watch tutors' explanations. *Chat Rooms are open every Sunday- Thursday from 5:30-9:30 pm* Tutoring sessions are available to all registered users to watch and learn, including parents/guardians that can go on as guests.

Chat rooms:

- ⇒ Are created to be a safe learning environment
- ⇒ Do not allow conversations between students
- ⇒ Are recorded
- ⇒ Allow students to be anonymous and to create their own username



How to Register:

Students are required to have their OEN numbers (can be found on their report card), date of birth and the grade level of math they are registered in this school year. Register at <http://homeworkhelp.ilc.org> More details can be found via the board website <http://www.hpedsb.on.ca/ec/elearning>

If you have any other questions/concerns, please contact: *Ms Amanda Allison*
aallison@hpedsb.on.ca (613) 966 1170 ext 2113 *District e-Learning Contact Teacher, HPEDSB*





Stirling Senior P. S. supports Community Connections!

We know it takes the support of many people outside of our school for our students to achieve their potential.

D.A.R.E.

On January 16th D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program, led by Constable Burke, from the Stirling Rawdon Police Services started at SSPS for 8W, 8M and 8 M/C. The D.A.R.E. program offers Drug Abuse Resistance Education to students through cooperative discussions, role playing and questions to promote higher level thinking. The D.A.R.E. keepin' it REAL curriculum consists of ten lessons delivered over 10 weeks (January to April). The lessons are aimed at teaching students resistance skills, risk assessment, decision making, social support and conflict resolution while targeting drug norms and attitudes. A series of five videos form the core of the curriculum, telling the "story" of keepin' it REAL. The acronym REAL is the central message of the curriculum and teaches youth four ways to refuse drug offers—Refuse, Explain, Avoid and Leave.



How to keep it **REAL**:

- R - refuse:** Saying no, I don't want to do something
- E - explain:** Saying why I don't want to do something
- A - avoid:** Keeping away from a situation I don't want to be involved in
- L - leave:** Taking myself out of a situation I don't want to be in

Stirling Senior P. S. is a Health Active School!

We are committed to 1) High Quality Instructions and Programs 2) A Healthy Physical Environment 3) A Supportive Social Environment 4) Community Partnerships.



A HASC too! school:

- ⇒ Increases school awareness about health and supports school improvement plans
- ⇒ Encourages a holistic and comprehensive approach to all aspects of school life
- ⇒ Provides opportunities for student leadership
- ⇒ Enhances access to community resources
- ⇒ Gives students, parents and staff an opportunity to affect the health of the whole school community

At part of our Healthy School initiatives we want to continue to build community partnerships. Parents play a vital role in the development and education of their children and in the success of schools. Research indicates that good schools become better schools when there is a strong connection with parents. We would like parents to be involved in our school to reach optimal success.

What does parent engagement look like?

- ⇒ Talking to your child about what they are doing in school.
- ⇒ Communicating and meeting with teachers.
- ⇒ Going over the report card with your child.
- ⇒ Monitoring and guiding homework.
- ⇒ Creating an atmosphere at home that says "our family values education"

Bernadette Hymus, Public Health Nurse with the Hastings and Prince Edward Counties Health Unit spoke at the School Council meeting in January about HASC.



Stirling Senior Public School Fundraising

Fundraising helps enhance programs & services for our students. We appreciate the support of our community!



Fun Fair

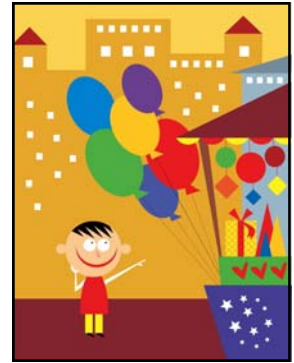
Mark your calendars for **Thursday, May 24th 2012** for the **Stirling Schools Fun Fair** being held at the **Stirling Arena** from **6:00 pm to 9:00 pm**.

All of your favourite events will be back including:

Air Castles**Treasure Jars**Climbing Wall**Auction Sale**Silent Auction**Candy Floss** Snow Cones**Raffle Draws**Games of Chance** and more!!!

Fun Fair Volunteers needed!

Please contact Suzanne Moorcraft in the SSPS office if you can offer any support. Support can range from collecting for the auction or working games at Fun Fair.



Yearbook Sales

It is Yearbook time again! Don't miss out on your chance to own a 2011-2012 SSPS school yearbook. The yearbook will be packed full of photos from across the school and of course there is also the grade 8 graduation pictures. **Bring in \$25.00 before March 2nd quantities are limited** to reserve your copy!



Congratulations to **Nicole F.** from 8 M/C who was our January newsletter draw winner. Don't forget to visit our website to view the full newsletter and hand in your slip (found on the bottom of the calendar) for your chance to win!



School Council



Our next meeting will be **Tuesday, February 28th at 6:30 pm** in the school library. We always welcome parents / guardians that may wish to come to a meeting, even if it is just one! Attendance at meetings gives you direct information and an opportunity to get involved with the school.

Healthy Babies, Healthy Children (HBHC)

HBHC is a program to help families promote healthy child development and to help their children achieve their full potential.

HBHC helps to provide a healthy start in life for young children.



For more information about the HBHC program, please call the Child Health CARELine at 613-966-5500 ext. 223, 1-800-267-2803 ext. 223. TTY 613-966-3036 www.yourhealthunit.ca



Children with healthy self-esteem are likely to:

Be **COOPERATIVE**
Be **SUCCESSFUL**
Be **HAPPY**
& **MAKE FRIENDS EASILY.**

Help your children develop healthy self-esteem by valuing, accepting, and supporting them!

For more information call the Child Health CARELine at 613-966-5500 ext. 223 or toll-free at 1-888-267-2803 ext. 223. www.yourhealthunit.ca





Stirling Senior P.S. is focused on school improvement!

Students are provided with intentional learning experiences and specific feedback to support their growth across subjects.

Curriculum Chat with Grade 8 French

The grade eight students at SSPS have been lucky enough to take part in a pen pal letter exchange with some elementary-aged students from a small town in Haiti. This opportunity has created an authentic learning task whereby our students are able to practice their French literacy skills through communication with peers in a francophone country.

The project was introduced with a presentation by Linda LaRue, a Canadian teacher who often travels to Haiti to instruct both students and teachers there; combining practices from both countries. With our students, she shared some of her knowledge of the culture in Haiti, and of the school the Haitian pen pals attend. This connection set the tone for our students, making the assignment real and meaningful. Many thanks go out to the Boisvert family for introducing us to Linda.

By following the elements of a friendly letter, each class developed success criteria to guide the students with the comprehension of their letters, and with the writing of their replies. Possible responses to questions and ways to initiate dialogue with pen pals were created through a group writing activity that was completed prior to the individual writing of return letters. In addition to increasing comprehension of the French language, this opportunity allows students to explore grammatical concepts (such as conjugation of verbs and the agreement of adjectives) that are embedded in the task intrinsically. Given the ongoing nature of letter exchanges, a unique opportunity for peer feedback and follow-up from the initial letters is created.

This activity has afforded our students some insight into the world outside our own community and continues to build character with each association. It is helping to teach global citizenship, to increase appreciation of life in Canada, and to trigger interest in global issues. The first round of letters has been sent off and we expect to receive replies from Haiti sometime in the next couple of months. As each day passes, the grade eights are anxiously awaiting the reply from their new 'correspondant'. Madame Harvey and Madame Seaver would like to thank all grade 8 students for their commitment to this academic and cultural learning experience. Well done!

Students from 8M/C proudly share their completed letters. Students also created art work to represent physical features of Canada.



As in all subjects, Success Criteria is shared with students so that the expectations of assignments are clear and easily referenced by students to achieve success.

Success Criteria

- All five elements of a friendly letter must be present
- Questions for your pen pal must be included (minimum 3)
- Correct use of French vocabulary and spelling must be evident
- Neatness and care must be taken when writing the letter.

Students used teacher and peer feedback to refine their good copies of their letters to meet the Success Criteria.



Sample student letter from 8M

Le 20 janvier, 2012

Chère Cleyon Darline,

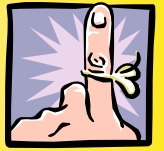
Bonjour, je m'appelle Anna. J'ai 13 ans. Ça va très bien ici. J'ai deux sœurs et je suis la plus jeune. Je suis en huitième année. Quel est ton sport préféré? J'aime le soccer et le volley-ball. Mon école s'appelle Stirling Senior Public School. Aussi, mon sujet préféré est les arts visuels. La couleur de mes cheveux est blonde. Qu'est-ce que tu aimes faire dans ton temps libre? J'habite à Stirling, Ontario. Ma couleur préférée est orange. Quel est ton animal préféré? J'aime les chiens. Ma mère s'appelle Iris et mon père s'appelle Larry. Qui est ton artiste préféré? Je suis très excitée de t'écrire.

Ton Amie,
Anna



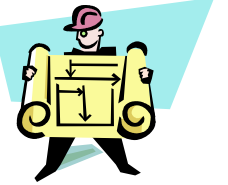
Reminders and Information for students and parents.

*For further information, events and dates
please see the attached school calendar.*



New Stirling School Update

The second public information meeting for our new Stirling school was held Tuesday, January 17. It was great to see a mix of about 45 community members, bus drivers and staff in attendance, as well as our school trustee, Bonnie Danes. Two architects from +VG Architects showed the draft floor plans and described some exciting features. School board administration was also there to talk about what has happened so far, outline the project timelines and respond to questions.



The new school will be a two-storey building for K to 8 students. It will have a large front foyer that opens into the learning commons (which is similar to a library and includes comfortable areas for groups of students to work together and collaborate), a two-sided stage and a large double gym. Classrooms will be bright with lots of windows for natural light. There will be access to technology to support 21st Century learning environments throughout the school. The new school will also have an elevator.

Members of our school staff were invited to meet with the architects on Thursday, January 12 and Friday, January 13 to provide input on the proposed floor plans. They had practical suggestions which will be incorporated before the plans are finalized.

Next steps

- ⇒ Floor plans and school design will be finalized by early February 2012.
- ⇒ Construction tenders will be awarded by April 2012.
- ⇒ Construction begins May 2012 and goes to June 2013.
- ⇒ Removal of the existing school, final cleanup and move-in will happen during July-August 2013.
- ⇒ The new school opens September 2013.

If you would like to see the draft floor plans, they are posted online at www.hpedsb.on.ca, along with the meeting presentations and the Q&As. Please feel free to contact Suzanne Cholasta, Stirling Senior Principal; Nicola Wand, Stirling Primary/Junior Principal; or Sandy Smith, Community Engagement Coordinator, if you have any questions or comments. Suzanne can be reached at 613.395.3380. Nicola can be reached at 613.395.3308/3343. Sandy can be reached at ssmith@hpedsb.on.ca, 613.966.1170, extension 2270.

Cold Weather and Wind Chill Hazards



Time spent outdoors is an integral part of the school day. Children need fresh air and exercise and time outside affords students an opportunity to break free from the structure of the classroom. In winter, it is important that children come to school prepared for the cold weather. Environment Canada states that, as a guideline, the average person's skin begins to freeze at a wind chill of minus 27, and freezes in minutes at minus 35. Therefore, it is recommended that students stay indoors when the temperature drops below minus 27 degrees with wind chill. Additional information regarding Environment Canada's wind chill education program, including what it is, how it affects us, information on cold injuries and what to do to prevent them can be found at the following Web site: http://www.msc.ec.gc.ca/education/windchill/index_e.cfm

On-line newsletter



Over the past year we have been sending home a one-page, two sided version of our school newsletter (calendar dates and reminders) to reduce paper and ink usage. The complete newsletter was posted on our school website. Families were encouraged to visit the SSPS website to view the full newsletter in colour and print if they wish. When we made this change we agreed to reflect on this decision to see if it was meeting the needs of our school community. The time has come that we would like your feedback. Please return the response section on the next page with your preferred method to receive the newsletter. We are sending home the full newsletter this month to show you what you have been missing if you have not viewed on line! We want to ensure everyone is fully informed about the happenings at SSPS!

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February 2012



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Upcoming Dates: ⇒ Spring Break: March 12th to 16th ⇒ Grade 8 Grad Photos: March 23rd ⇒ QRSTF at Loyalist College: March 31st ⇒ Chess Tournament: April 12th ⇒ PA Day: May 25th ⇒ Graduation: June 26th			1 (Day 3) Grade 8's visiting BSS or CHSS	2 (Day 4) Batawa Ski Trip BSS Grade 7&8 Dance	3 PA DAY	4
5	6 (Day 5) Student of the Month Assembly	7 (Day 1)	8 (Day 2)	9 (Day 3)	10 (Day 4)	11
12	13 (Day 5)	14 (Day 1) SSPS Dance 2:20 to 3:35 Happy Valentine's Day	15 (Day 2) Jr. Basketball Madoc P.S.	16 (Day 3) Alt. Date for Jr. Basketball	17 (Day 4) D.A.R. E.	18
19	20 Family Day Stat Holiday	21 (Day 5)	22 (Day 1) SEEDS	23 (Day 2) SEEDS D.A.R.E.	24 (Day 3) SEEDS - Term 1 Report Cards go home	25
26	27 (Day 4)	28 (Day 5)	29 (Day 1) Int. Basketball CHSS	<div style="border: 2px solid black; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px;"> <p>We would like your feedback. Please check your preference and return this slip:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I am pleased with only receiving the one page, two sided monthly calendar and reminders and will view the full newsletter on-line.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I would like to receive the full paper copy of the monthly newsletter each month.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I would like to have the newsletter emailed to:</p> <p>_____</p> </div>		

Student

Parent/Guardian