

September Newsletter

Upper Stewiacke Elementary

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Dear Parents/Guardians:

Welcome back! It's hard to believe summer is over already. I hope you were able to enjoy the beautiful weather we had, and that you had lots of quality time with your children over the summer. Thank you for entrusting them to us once again this school year!

As we prepare to get started on another year of learning and growing together, I'd like to welcome some new staff members to the USE team. Mr. Charles DeBay has joined us in the 3/4/5/6 position, and will be here Mon., Tues., Wed., and Fri. Our new Speech Language Pathologist is Ms. Erin Dellapinna. As well, we'd like to welcome Gloria Callaghan who will replace our Administrative Assistant Sharon until she returns in the fall.

Please contact me at any time throughout the year with any questions, concerns or suggestions. I look forward to working with you all to make this year a wonderful one for your child/children!

Sincerely,

Dawn Langille, Acting Principal

IMPORTANT DATES

September

14 – Stand Up, Speak Out! Day

21 – Meet the Teacher – 6-7pm

25 – Terry Fox Run (PM)

29 – PD Day – No School for students

October

6 – Picture Day

9 – Thanksgiving Monday – No School

27 – Provincial Conference Day – No School for students

Breakfast Program Volunteers

We are looking for volunteers who are interested in helping out with the breakfast program to provide toast and possibly other hot options once per week. Please call the office (902-671-3000) if you are able to help out!

School Advisory Council and Home & School

Our first School Advisory Council (SAC) and Home & School meetings will be held on Monday, October 2nd, starting at 6:30pm. Please come out and see what the council and committee are all about! We are always hopeful that we will see new faces to help us out with these important teams that create a partnership between home, school, and the community!

MEET THE TEACHER

Please come out on Thursday, **September 21st** to meet the teachers at USE! We will be here to meet and greet you from 6-7pm!

STUDENT SUPPLIES

Just a reminder that the teachers have purchased supplies this year on your child's behalf. We ask instead that each child brings \$25.

Stand Up, Speak Out: Addressing the complexity of bullying

At the Chignecto-Central Regional School Board (CCRSB), we know the only way to address bullying in all its forms is to start talking about it.

That's why every year we host Stand Up, Speak Out, CCRSB's board-wide day of action promoting social justice, anti-bullying and positive, healthy relationships.

It is important to recognize the complexity of bullying, so in the last couple of years a deeper conversation about social justice has emerged as an important piece of Stand Up, Speak Out. This has proven to be an important topic with our students, and led to the theme of this year's event: *What's Your Story?*

This is a fitting theme because it is through our stories that we know each other; it is through our stories that we build relationships and empathy; and it is through our stories that we can more deeply understand the pillars of social justice. What it all comes down to is that if we know someone's story, we are more likely to treat them with respect and understanding.

What we want to discuss during Stand Up, Speak Out, is how we interact with each other, how we treat one another and how we deal with feelings of anger and unhappiness. By talking about these things, we are helping to create a healthy learning environment for all of our students.

This year's Stand Up, Speak Out will take place on Sept. 14 at Cobequid Educational Centre in Truro. We look forward to hearing from our students, teachers and community leaders on how we can address bullying, while working together to promote social justice in our schools and towns.

Student Success Planning

In the past, school improvement has been a cyclical process in which schools selected goals that they worked on for a period of 3 or 4 years. Now, SSP will be a yearly process where schools choose specific strategies to implement that will help improve student achievement in mathematics and literacy. Stay tuned for more information on SSP in the upcoming newsletters.

September Virtue:

Helpfulness is...

...noticing when someone needs help

...doing a service without being asked

...giving people what they need, not always what they want

...listening to someone who needs to talk

Use the following reflection questions to discuss the virtue at home:

1. How are you helpful at home/school/etc.?
2. Name 3 ways you could be more helpful at home/school/etc.
3. When have you needed help and how did you feel?
4. Is it easy or difficult to ask for help?