



**Southern
Kings
Consolidated
School**

**2294 Peters Road – Rte 324
Peters Road, PE C0A1R0
Ph: (902) 962-7400
Fx: (902) 962-7406
<https://southernkings.edu.ep.ca>**

September 2024 – Parent Newsletter

WELCOME!

A warm welcome back to Southern Kings Consolidated. We hope you all have had a wonderful summer with family and friends.

We are excited to welcome our Kindergarten students, new students and staff to our school community! The connection between home and school is so important. We encourage all families to become involved with their son or daughter’s education and keep communication open. We will continue to work hard on building and maintaining positive relationships with our families and establishing effective and safe learning environments for our students.

Meet the Staff!

Wed, Sept 11th at 6:00 pm. If students accompany their parents, they must stay with their parents.

Jimmy Morris
Principal

UPCOMING DATES:

<p>Sept 5 – First Day Back for Students Sept 9 – Dental Clinic Begins Sept 9 – PEI Healthy Lunch Program begins Sept 11 – Meet the Staff @ 6:00pm Sept 13 – Picture Day Sept 16 – Breakfast programs begins</p>	<p>Sept 23 – Professional Learning Day/School Goals (No Classes) Sept 25 – Terry Fox run at school Sept 27 – Orange Shirt Day Sept 30 – National Day for Truth & Reconciliation (No Classes)</p>
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MEET OUR STAFF:

Principal: Jimmy Morris
Vice Principal & French: Krista Gordon
Administrative Assistant: Afton Murphy

Guidance: Michelle Palmer (Day 2, 4, 6)
Academic Resource: Tiffany MacLean
Behavior Resource: Michelle MacDonald-Gordon

KA: Laura Proctor

KB: Lynsey Bradley

1A, Foundations: Jennifer Richards

2A: Cynthia Campbell

3A: Hunter McTague

4Z/5Z: Jordan Leger (Miller)

5A: Tammy Cann

6Y Math/LA/Sci, 7Y Math/LA/Health: Matthew Campbell

6A: Jenna McKeeman

7A LA/Soc, 7Y Exp/Soc, 8A LA/Soc: Aimee MacPherson (Jenkins)

K-8 Phys Ed, 7A Health/Exp, 8A Health/Exp: Matthew Bell

8A Math/Sci, 7A Math/Sci, 7Y Sci: Kendra Bell

K-6 Music, 1A LA: Machaela Osowski

EA's & YSW: Jodi Blackman, Justine MacLeod, Amy Gotell, Pam Clements, Melissa Sharkey, Taylor Myers, Carmel Campbell, and Cassandra Mayne

Custodians: Lana MacNeill (day), Margaret MacLeod (evening)

Bus Drivers: Lorne MacDonald (404-on leave), Tiffany Clendinning (404-covering Lorne), Willie Murphy (31), Tracey Higginbotham (487), Kenny MacFarlane (629/682), Andrey Terentiev (432), and Karl Barth (401-MRHS in afternoons).

ORDER OF THE DAY:

08:15 am – Student drop off begins	01:30 pm – Afternoon Classes Resume
08:20 am – Meet in Home Room Classrooms	02:25 pm – Students being picked up are dismissed to the parking lot
08:30 am – O Canada & Announcements, Morning Classes Begin	02:30 pm – Dismissal (Busses are loaded)
11:30 am – Noon Recess for K-8	03:30 pm – Final Pick up of Students for any after-school activities
11:53 am – Lunch Break for K-8	
12:15 pm – Afternoon Classes Begin	
01:15 pm – Afternoon Recess for Gr K-8	

SKC HOME AND SCHOOL:

All parents/guardians are welcome! We encourage new membership, and it is never too late to join/attend meetings. Our first meeting date will be Mon, Oct 7th @ 6pm in the school staff room.

Our current Home & School team:

President: Krista Bell-Sheppard

VP: currently vacant

Secretary: Emily Norton

Treasurer: Ashley Higginbotham

Fundraiser plans for the school year:

1. A wrapping paper fundraiser will take place around the end of October. Catalogues will be sent home with students when they arrive. All proceeds will go towards ongoing fundraising for school playground improvements and school expenses. The top selling class will get an ice cream party (date to be determined with the teacher).
2. Nov 22-29th – SKC Baked Goods Auction Online
3. Apr 4-11th – Swing into Spring Facebook Auction

HOME & SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM:

There will be no additional Lunch Program this year. This was a decision made by the Public School Branch in relation to a new policy.

PEI HEALTHY LUNCH PROGRAM:

Check out the new menu for the beginning of the 24/25 school year! www.peischoolfood.ca
Registration for new users will open on August 29th. Ordering will begin on Saturday, August 31st and close on Thursday, September 5th at noon for meals starting Monday, September 9th.

BREAKFAST PROGRAM – STARTS SEP 16TH:

We are very lucky to have a volunteer-led breakfast program that is free to all students. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Krissie Meszaros at 902-969-9068 or Emily Norton at 902-969-1480. There is a private Facebook group for this program called “SKC BREAKFAST CLUB 😊” for the volunteers. A criminal record check must be provided. Monetary donations are welcomed and appreciated!

EMMA’S CUPBOARD:

Emma’s cupboard was established in 2011 in memory of Emma Leanne Crossman. Emma was a student at SKC who passed away in June 2011. The cupboard was started by her parents (Jud and Karen) in response to donations received at the time of her passing. Thanks to ongoing support, it has been thriving ever since.

This cupboard contains non-perishable (peanut-free) food items that are used if a child is hungry, does not have a lunch, or needs an extra snack. This is made possible with monetary donations by community members. The cupboard is used daily. If you wish to donate at any time, please contact the school to arrange the drop-off. Currently, we can take cash or cheque.

FIRE AND LOCKDOWN DRILLS:

The school will have 4 fire drills before the middle of October to ensure familiarity with the process for all students. Parents will also be informed prior to a lockdown and/or evacuation drill in the Fall.

WATER BOTTLES AND CUTLERY:

Please be reminded to send a water bottle with your child each day. Fountains are no longer in use. We have bottle filling stations that students have access to. Please send your child with cutlery if they require this for their lunch. Our supply of plastic cutlery is very limited.

DENTAL PREVENTATIVE CLINIC – STARTING SEPT 9TH:

Attention Parents/Guardians:

The Dental Public Health Preventative Clinic will be at Southern Kings Consolidated on September 9th, 2024.

Purpose of Dental Clinic: Screen children to assess risk of oral disease; provide oral health education, topical fluoride, scaling/polishing and sealants, according to your child's individual needs.

Screening: All children will be seen for a two-minute screening to determine their risk of oral disease. If you do not wish your child to have this dental screening, please notify the school secretary or classroom teacher.

Consent: After the screening, all children will be given a consent form which will be necessary for you to complete and return before services are provided.

Fees: There is no cost involved as the preventative services are covered by the Provincial School Dental Care Program.

Further Information: Please note that only preventative services will be provided, and the screening is not a substitute for an annual dental examination. It is strongly recommended that parents take their children to a dentist for regular examinations and treatment. The Provincial Dental Care Program assists with the cost of basic dental care delivered in private and public dental offices for children from ages 3 -17. For more information, please visit

<http://www.healthpei.ca/dentalhealth>

RECEPTION AND ITEM DROP OFFS:

When parents or guardians are dropping off students in the morning, please refrain from walking the child to the classroom. We ask that if parents and guardians come into the school, that they do not go past the lobby to help build independence in the child, and to lessen classroom interruptions.

If you are dropping something off to your child throughout the day, please check in with the office first. The admin assistant can call the child down to the office to meet you.

We appreciate your cooperation with this.

ALL VISITORS MUST REPORT TO THE OFFICE.

COSPEI GOLD RUSH:

Last year, our school joined the COSPEI Gold Rush. The COSPEI Gold rush is a collaborative fundraiser that is open to all schools on PEI. All proceeds will go towards our school expenses, which can help with things like field trips, classroom supplies, etc.

We encourage you to click on this link (<https://cospei.goldrush.causable.io>) to create an account, choose to support "Southern Kings Consolidated School" and play. A \$5.00 play gets you 3 numbers. You can play up to \$20.00 (12 numbers) per account per week.

Once you are assigned your numbers, they are yours forever/until you choose to stop and are entered into every weekly draw. If you activate your numbers (pay \$5.00) you have a chance to win half of the pot; if you do not activate your numbers (do not pay \$5.00) and your number is drawn, you are a "nonwinner" and the pot rolls-over. To ensure you never miss a draw, click on the gray circular button to the left of your numbers and activate "AutoPlay". Draws take place every Tuesday at 1:00.

You can further support the fundraiser by following and sharing the COSPEI Gold Rush Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100067977702130>). Please encourage your friends/followers to support our fundraiser! Thanks for your support! Good luck!

PHYS ED UPDATES:

In the coming weeks, we will be sending out information regarding extracurricular activities that occur during the Fall.

We will be doing a school wide Terry Fox Run on Wed, Sept 25th. Fundraising info to come. Please come to gym class prepared with indoor sneakers (non-black marking), and proper athletic outdoor shoes for physical activities outside. Please be reminded that your child needs to dress appropriately for gym class on their designated gym day.

ORANGE SHIRT DAY ON SEPT 27TH:

This is an opportunity for us all to come together in the spirit of reconciliation and hope for future generations. It is a day that raises awareness of the history of residential schools for Indigenous peoples' and that honors the thousands of survivors like Phyllis (Jack) Webstad. More info can be found here <http://www.orangeshirtday.org>. **No Classes on Sept 30th.**

FORMS AND HOMEWORK BAGS:

Please check your child's homework bags/backpacks in the evenings during the first week of school. **We will be sending home many important forms that need to be read, signed, completed, and returned to the teacher as soon as possible.** This information is critical in helping us learn the best ways to reach you in the event of an emergency, or early school

closure. We also need this information to learn about our students who have special needs, and allergies.

If there is ever a change to your child's pick-up/drop-off arrangements, you need to send a note to the teacher, or call the school. DO NOT SEND THESE CHANGES VIA FACEBOOK. Thank you for your cooperation with this!

WHEN NOTES AND CALLS ARE REQUIRED:

We require written notes/calls from parents for the following reasons; we appreciate your cooperation.

1. Absenteeism

Parents are required to notify the school by phone call in the morning if your child will be absent or late that day. Due to the way absences are recorded in Power school, we may need to ask for the reason of the absence (ex: sickness, appointment, etc.)

2. Remain indoors for recess

If you require your child to remain indoors for recess for a specific reason (injury, for example), please send a note to school.

3. Leaving school during school day or arriving late.

If your child needs to leave during the school day (for a dentist appointment, for example), please send a note to school with your child. If your child will/will not be returning to school that day, please indicate. If you forget to send a note, please call the school first thing in the morning **or before 1:45/2:00pm if possible.**

Teaching happens every day until 2:25pm. Unless the student has an appointment, or another important reason to be picked up early, we would kindly ask that students be left in class until the end of the day when possible. Thank you for your cooperation with this.

4. Change of bus transportation.

If there is a change in routine, please send a note to the teacher, and this will be sent to the office. The office will fill in a bus slip and inform drivers.

Aside from family/daycare addresses, bus notes will continue to be limited to childcare destinations and emergency situations only. Unfortunately, we are not able to provide transportation for after-school activities or events (this includes play dates, sleepovers, dances and birthday parties). This is an island wide, PSB directed request. If you have questions, please call the school office.

NEW UPDATES- STAY INFORMED:

1. Welcome Newsletter & Monthly Calendars

This is the first and only parent newsletter of the school year. At the beginning of each month, an information message will be emailed to all parents (one primary email address) and posted on our school website. A paper copy will be printed only for those that have communicated to the Admin/Teacher that you do not have an email address, or access to the Internet. A monthly school calendar will also be circulated via email and posted to our school website each month.

2. School Website:

<https://southernkings.edu.pe.ca/>

Our website will be used to post current updates, staff list information, daily announcements, school calendars, etc. The most current information regarding any school matters will be posted to the website.

3. School Facebook Group:

Feel free to add yourself to our Facebook group, called “Southern Kings Consolidated School”. This private group is for immediate family members of current students, and current students only. When you request to be added, the Admin, Principal, or VP will approve your request. **We would like to remind you that Facebook is NOT to be used to communicate bus change requests, pickup changes, or illnesses.** Commenting to most posts will be turned off. If you have any questions or concerns regarding any posts, please contact the school directly.

PARKING LOT - DROPPING OFF STUDENTS:

Please notice that the buses will line up to drop off students. We ask that parents drop off students in the drop off lane, let their child out, and let them walk into the school. This will help end traffic entering areas where students are walking into/out of the school. We will have cones placed in the parking lot during the first week of school, and a teacher will be outside to guide walking students.

Please do not drop off students before 8:15 am, as they will not be supervised. Students who are dropped off after 8:15 am will remain in the lobby until the 8:20 bell rings.

MILK AND DRINKS:

We have a vending machine located in the front entry. Students have access to this in the mornings before the bell rings, at lunch, and at recess.

Pricing will be as follows:

White and choc milk 1%, 237 ML – \$1.00
White and choc milk 1%, 473 ML – \$2.00
Bottle water, 591 ML – \$1.50
Minute Maid juice, 355 ML – \$2.50

We ask that parents do not send energy drinks, sports drinks or pop with their children to school. These are not permitted in class. Prime drinks are not permitted at school.

MEDICATIONS AT SCHOOL:

If your child requires a staff member's assistance to administer medication at school (puffer, antibiotics, etc.), you must notify the teacher to request a form to be completed and signed by the parent, BEFORE the staff member is allowed to assist.

Staff are not permitted to give medicines like Tylenol, Advil, itching cream, or allergy pills to students. These are not items kept at the school for dispersment. If your child is in need of these types of medicines throughout the school day, they can call home to request some, or they can keep a small dose in their backpack provided the student is capable of knowing how much to take, and when to take it without assistance. Due to potential risk, we kindly ask that you do not send full bottles of Advil or Tylenol to school with your child, in the event they are lost or taken. We appreciate your understanding with this. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

IHT CLASS FOR GR 7-8:

Every school runs on a 6-day cycle. Every day 4, the Gr 7-8 classes will be taking a bus to Montague Intermediate School for IHT class. This is a rotation of subjects that consists of Home Economics, Tech Arts, and Industrial Arts. Students eat lunch before they leave. The bus departs SKC at 12:05 and departs MIS at 1:55pm. Students arrive back at SKC to take the bus home, like usual.

DANCES GR 7-8:

Approximately 5 times over the course of the school year, the Montague Intermediate School will host student dances, chaperoned by school staff. These dances are open ONLY to students in Gr 7-9 who attend Montague Intermediate, Southern Kings, and Georgetown. They typically happen on a Thursday evening from 7:00-9:00pm. The dance theme and admission cost will be posted in advance. A reminder that attendance at dances is a privilege, and it is contingent on student behavior at school.

GRADE 8 TRAVEL:

Every June, our graduating class takes a special field trip. The class typically travels to Moncton for the day on a large bus. They go to Magic Mountain, and do a little shopping before returning home. It is best to begin fundraising efforts for this trip as early in the school year as possible. The expenses are divided evenly amongst the students. Any grade 8 parents who are interested in organizing some fundraising initiatives are asked to please reach out to Mr. Morris. Some past initiatives have included: bake sales, hot dog days, basket raffle, and a cash canteen at the Cross-Country event held at our school in mid-October. A reminder that attendance on this trip is a privilege, and it is contingent on student behavior at school.

TOYS:

We kindly ask that students do not bring toys to school. This includes stuffed animals, Pokémon cards, hockey cards, trinkets, masks, etc. If toys are brought into the classroom, or outside at recess, teachers will ask that the student return their belongings to their school

bag. These can be a distraction in class for the student, and for others. We also hate to see items that students value become damaged or stolen. We understand, however, that some students need fidget tools as part of their classroom wellness. These items need to be approved by the teacher.

We appreciate your help in this matter, as we try our best to monitor this at school.

SEVERE ALLERGIES IN OUR SCHOOL:

Please read the attached information letter. This can also be found on our school website.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST:

Please read the attached information letter from Colleen MacPherson. This can also be found on our school website.

NEW CELL PHONE POLICY:

Please see attached information letter. This can also be found on our school website. This was emailed to parents last week.

SCHOOL CALENDAR:

Please see attached the 2024-2025 school calendar for Southern Kings. This can also be found on our school website.

This is going to be a wonderful school year!