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September 2026 – 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!

Tuesday, Sept 15th at 5:00 pm. If students accompany their parents, they must stay with their parents.

Jimmy Morris
Principal

UPCOMING DATES:

Sept 8 – First Day Back for Students Sept 8 – Dental Clinic Begins Sept 8 – PEI Healthy Lunch Program begins Sept 10 – Back door bus evac. drill (morning) Sept 11 – Picture Day Sept 14 – Breakfast programs begins	Sept 15 – Meet the Staff @ 5:00pm Sept 25 – Terry Fox run at school (Rain date: Oct 2) Sept 28 – Home & School Meeting @ 6:00pm Sept 28 – Gr 6 – HPV Vaccinations Sept 29 – Orange Shirt Day Sept 30 – National Day for Truth & Reconciliation (No Classes)
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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: Bethany Boudreault
Behavior Resource/PBIS: Michelle MacDonald-Gordon
Behavior Resource: Nikki McAree

KA: Laura Nowell (Proctor)
KB: Lynsey Bradley
1A: Jennifer Richards
2A: Cynthia Campbell
2B: Rianna French
3A: Tiffany MacLean
4A: Jordan Leger (Miller)
5A: Jenna McKeeman
6A: Alex MacAulay
7A, Gr 7-8 Exploratory: Joseph Bezanson
8A, Gr 7-8 Exploratory: Kendra Bell
8B, Gr 7-8 Exploratory: Hunter McTague
K-8 Phys Ed, Gr 7-8 Health: Matthew Bell
K-6 Music, Foundations: Machaela Osowski

EA's: Justine MacLeod, Melissa Sharkey, Brittany Jackson, Cassandra Mayne, Terri-Lynne Sock, Taylor Myers, Hailey Ferguson

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

Bus Drivers: Kara Beth Kemp (480 – previously 404), Willie Murphy (31), Tracey Higginbotham (487), Karri Ferguson (684), and Andrey Terentiev (432).

ORDER OF THE DAY:

08:15 am – Student drop off begins 08:20 am – Meet in Home Room Classrooms 08:30 am – O Canada & Announcements, Morning Classes Begin 11:15-11:37 am – 1st Recess for K-8 11:37 am-12:00 pm – Lunch Break 12:00 pm – Afternoon Classes Begin 1:30-1:45 pm – 2nd Recess for K-8	1:45 pm – Afternoon Classes Resume 02:25 pm – Students being picked up are dismissed to the parking lot 02:30 pm – Dismissal (Busses are loaded) 03:30 pm – Final Pick up of Students for any after-school activities
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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, Sept 28th @ 6pm in the school staff room.

Our current Home & School team:

President: Krista Bell-Sheppard

VP: Lisa Jackson

Secretary: Emily Norton

Treasurer: Vacant (seeking new volunteer)

Fundraiser plans for the school year:

1. October 13-19– ANNE Chocolates Fundraiser
2. Nov 17-20 – Food Drive for local community fridge. Class with most donations wins an ice cream party.
3. Nov 21-22 – SKC Baked Goods Auction Online
4. Apr 9-16 – Swing into Spring Auction Online

PEI HEALTHY LUNCH PROGRAM:

Check out the new menu for the beginning of the 26/27 school year! www.peischoolfood.ca
Ordering will begin on Saturday, August 29th and close on Thursday, September 3rd at noon for meals starting Tuesday, September 8th.

BREAKFAST PROGRAM – STARTS SEP 14TH:

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 Lisa Jackson at 902-969-4134 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 at any time throughout the year.

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 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, cheque or e-transfer.

E-TRANSFER:

We have e-transfer setup for our school: skchuskies@gmail.com

This can be used for things such as donations and field trips or anything else we specify.

Before sending an e-transfer, please verify with the school first if you are unsure. This is NOT used for locker fees, vending machine, or the PEI Healthy Lunch ordering. When sending an e-transfer, a clear note must be made of which student it applies to, and what the money is for.

You will be asked to use a password; please use a password that the Admin Assistant can figure out or submit the password to her.

PBIS FALL FRENZY – SAT, OCT 3:

Southern Kings is continuing to implement PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Supports), and we are looking to connect with the community once again. SKC would love to invite everyone to our **Fall Frenzy**.

Please join us on **Saturday, October 3rd** from **11:00am-1:00pm** at Southern Kings Consolidated for some fun outdoor games, activities, and BBQ. We will be setting up a donation box, in which funds will go towards PBIS initiatives, such as the purchase of a mascot!

Throw on your sneakers and check out the beautiful trail behind the school before joining us for a BBQ.

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.

LIBRARY BOOK POLICY:

Each class will have a designated time to explore and use our library. Any books not returned in the assigned period will be tracked. Students will get a notice home that a \$5.00 minimum charge per lost/damaged book will be due to the school. Many hours are spent working towards keeping our library in great shape, and we work hard to fundraise each year to replenish this space with new books. Thank you for your attention to this.

WATER BOTTLES AND CUTLERY:

Please be reminded to send a water bottle with your child each day. We have working fountains and bottle filling stations for the students to use. Please send your child with cutlery if they require this for their lunch. Our supply of plastic cutlery is very limited. Cups will not be provided.

LOCKER FEE FOR GR 7-8:

Gr 7 and 8 students will be assigned a lock for their locker. We ask that each student sends in \$5 cash as a deposit to cover the lock. When the lock is returned to the teacher in June, the \$5 will be returned to the student. If the lock is lost or damaged, the school will use the deposit to purchase a replacement lock. We do not allow students to use their own locks in the event the lock must be cut off, or if we need access to the lockers.

DENTAL PREVENTATIVE CLINIC – STARTING SEPT 8TH:

Attention Parents/Guardians:

The School Oral Health Preventative Program will begin operating at Southern Kings Consolidated School on September 8th/2026.

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: We have sent home a Pre-Consent form for preventative service in the Student Package. After the screening, all children will be able to participate in the preventative services, provided the Pre-Consent is completed.

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 all ages who meet the eligibility requirements. 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.

PHYS ED UPDATES:

In the coming weeks, we will be sending out information regarding extracurricular activities that occur during the Fall. A permission form will go home with all grade 3-8 students which will cover participation in any PEISAA school sport they may join throughout the school year.

We will be doing a school wide Terry Fox Run on Fri, Sept 25th (Rain date: Oct 2). We will have a jersey/hat day on Thu, Sept 17th for \$2 each (or donation) to fundraise for this.

Please come to gym class prepared with indoor sneakers (non-black marking), and proper outdoor athletic shoes for physical activities outside. Please be reminded that your child needs to dress appropriately for gym class on their designated gym day.

Mr. Bell and Mr. Morris will be running a regular intramural schedule at 1st recess for interested students in Grades 3-8. There is a sign-up sheet in the main office.

Mr. Morris will be seeking interest if any Gr 7-8 students wish to participate in a short Golf program. Students must already have membership at a local club to sign up. There is a sign-up sheet in the main office.

Mr. Bell and Mrs. Campbell will be running a Cross-Country program, like previous years. A sign-up sheet is in the main office for any interested students in Grades 3-8. This concludes with the Zone Meet hosted here at our school in early October.

Mr. Bell is seeking interest from Grade 7-8 boys and girls for a soccer team. A sign-up sheet is in the main office for any interested students.

We are currently seeking interest from Grade 7-8 boys and girls for a volleyball team. A sign-up sheet is in the main office for any interested students.

MUSIC GROUPS:

Ms. Osowski has sign-up sheets posted at the main office for a potential Grade 7-8 Rock band, and Choir (Gr 3-8). Interested students are asked to sign up, and Ms. O will meet with those students to determine a schedule and plan if there is enough interest.

ORANGE SHIRT DAY ON SEPT 29TH:

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!

ECOLLECT – PARENT ACCOUNT FOR POWERSCHOOL:

An information sheet will be going home with each student on the first day of school explaining our new online form submission system. Ecollect will provide you with the ability to fill out most of your child's school forms directly from our parent portal in PowerSchool. It is important to complete this as soon as possible. If you have any questions or problems, please don't hesitate to contact the school.

In addition to forms, the portal shows a summary of attendance, a School Messenger inbox with all messages sent from the school office, and assessment information for students in grades 7-12.

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 2:30pm. 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.

STAY INFORMED:

1. Welcome Newsletter, Monthly Calendars & Announcements

This is the first parent newsletter of the school year. We aim to send out a monthly newsletter, but we try email out important information as needed. We will be sharing updates and news via our daily announcement document linked on our school website. This document also includes a monthly calendar of school events that is regularly updated. We encourage students, staff and parents to check this daily. Visit our website and click on “Announcements”.

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 AND PICKING UP 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.

A line of vehicles will form behind the bus lane. If you are in the pick-up line, please remain in your vehicle so that the line can continue to move easily once the child has entered the vehicle. Mr. Morris or Mrs. Gordon will be outside in the parking lot to ensure students arrive at their vehicles and busses safely.

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 – \$2.00

We ask 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. This is in accordance with the PSB Nutrition policy 3.1.3: "Energy drinks, such as Red Bull, Full Throttle, Rockstar, Amp, Stoked, SoBe Adrenaline Rush and the link are prohibited from being on Public Schools Branch property."

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 school for disbursement. 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.

SCHOOL PHOTOS:

Picture day is scheduled for Friday, September 11th. Retakes will be held on the morning of Monday, October 26th. We will let you know if this changes. All students will bring home a personal QR code that can be scanned with your mobile device to instantly view your portrait gallery. Please keep this code safe, as it will be the same code to access the retake photos.

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 class block is 12:20-1:45pm. Students arrive back at SKC to continue classes from 2:00-2:30pm.

DANCES GR 7-8:

Approximately 4 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.

CELL PHONE POLICY:

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

SCHOOL CALENDAR:

Please see attached the 2026-2027 school calendar for Southern Kings. This can also be found on our school website.

This is going to be a wonderful school year!

School Cell Phone Policy for K-8 Students at Southern Kings Consolidated School - 2026-2027

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As part of our ongoing efforts to create the best learning environment for all students, I would like to share with you our updated school cell phone policy that aligns with the Provincial directive regarding the use of cell phones in schools.

Grade K-6

Students are not permitted to bring cell phones to school. If a student does, it must be turned off and kept in their school bag for the entire day.

Grade 7-8

Students may bring cell phones to school; however, phones must remain in their bags and turned off during school hours. The only time a cell phone may be used is if the teacher allows for a learning outcome or a grade 8 student leaves school grounds for lunch. Cell phones are not permitted to be used during lunch or break as we are promoting face to face social interactions.

Rationale for the Policy:

1. **Minimizing Distractions:** Cell phones are a significant distraction during the school day. By limiting their presence, we can create a more focused environment for studies and school activities.
2. **Promoting Social Interaction (Face to Face):** Limiting cell phone use helps foster a more engaging environment where students can build strong relationships with their peers. All too often we use technology to express feelings and emotions which can lead to misinterpretations and sometimes conflict.
3. **Ensuring Safety and Security:** Issues like cyberbullying and exposure to inappropriate content has no place in our schools. By limiting cell phone use, we can better protect our students from these risks during school hours.
4. **Limiting screen time:** For younger students, research proves that setting boundaries around the amount of time on screen will help develop healthy habits. The Canadian Pediatric Society recommends no more than 2 hours of screen time for students in our age group at SKC.

Policy enforcement

1. Students will be told to put cell phone away and reminded of the policy
2. If the student is asked a second time, the phone will be locked in the main office until the end of the day or the teacher will hold onto it using a cell phone holder in their class.
3. If a student continues to be reminded of the policy, parent/guardian will be notified and may be asked to pick up the phone and keep at home.

This will be a change for students and staff will educate our students on the rationale behind this policy. If you have any questions/concerns, please feel free to reach me at the school.

Thanks,
Jimmy Morris
Principal

Severe Allergies at SKC

Dear Parent/Legal Guardian:

We have students registered at our school who have a severe life-threatening allergy (anaphylaxis) to the following food products: **peanuts, peanut products, cashews and pistachio.**

Exposure to even a minute amount of the food substance could cause anaphylaxis and, without immediate emergency medical assistance, loss of consciousness and death. A small amount of food product on the hands of a student or teacher who then touches a door knob, computer, water faucet, water fountain or other article and then is touched by a student severely allergic to above mentioned products, if ingested, could be enough to cause a severe reaction or death.

We ask that parents and teachers avoid including the above items in lunches or treats that are sent to the school.

Scent-Free

Please be reminded that we are a scent-free facility. The chemicals used in scented products can make some of our staff and students sick, especially those with fragrance sensitivities, asthma, allergies, and other medical conditions.

To sum up, we ask assistance by:

- **not sending any peanut or “may contain peanut” products to school;**
- **reinforcing and practicing hand washing with your child to help protect children with peanut allergies, and;**
- **not wearing scented products (such as perfume, cologne, aftershave, and scented personal care products.)**

Thank you for your assistance with this important matter.

Jimmy Morris
Principal

S.K.C. SCHOOL CALENDAR 2026-2027

September 1	Staff Orientation Day (No Classes)
September 2	Administrative Day (No Classes)
September 3	Professional Learning Day (No Classes)
September 4	School Goals Day (No Classes)
September 7	Labour Day (No Classes)
September 8	First Instructional Day for students in 2026
September 8	Dental Clinic begins this week (last day is Sept 28)
September 11	School Picture Day
September 15	Meet the Staff @ 5:00pm
September 25	Terry Fox Run (Rain date: Oct 2)
September 29	Orange Shirt Day at school
September 30	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (No Classes)
October 3	PBIS Fall Frenzy 11:00am-1:00pm
October 12	Thanksgiving (No Classes)
October 26	Picture Retakes
November 5-6	PEITF and CUPE Annual Conventions (No Classes)
November 11	Remembrance Day (No Classes)
November 16	Report Card Day/Teacher Administrative Day (No Classes)
November 26	Evening Parent/Teacher Interviews
November 27	Parent Teacher Interviews (No Classes)
December 9	School Wide Christmas Dinner
December 18	Last Instructional Day for students in 2026
December 21	Professional Learning Day/Joint Staff PD (No Classes)
January 1	New Year's Day (No Classes)
January 4	First Instructional Day for students in 2027
February 15	Islander Day (No Classes)
March 4	Evening Parent Teacher Interviews
March 5	Parent Teacher Interviews (No Classes)
March 19-25	March Break (No Classes)
March 26	Good Friday (No Classes)
March 29	Easter Monday (No Classes)
April 9	Professional Learning Day (No Classes)
April 28	Welcome to Kindergarten @ 6pm (for students starting in Sept 2026)
May 7	Area Association/CUPE 3260 Annual Convention (No Classes)
May 24	Victoria Day (No Classes)
June 4	Kindergarten Orientation Day (No Classes for current K students)
June 22	Grade 8 closing @ 6:00 p.m.
June 25	Last Day of Classes for students
June 28	Professional Learning Day/School Goals (No Classes)
June 29	Administrative Day
June 30	Administrative Day/Last Day for Staff

Updated: Aug 27/26