



# Leslie Thomas Junior High

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## FEBRUARY 2012

### Principal's Message

Dear Parents/Guardians:

We have reached the midway point in the school year. Things continue to be busy at Leslie Thomas with academics and co-curricular activities involving our many teams, clubs and field trips. It is important for students to arrive to school on time, stay focused, complete all work and maintain a positive and encouraging attitude. If your child is going to be late or absent, please call the main office and leave a message (864-6785).

The administration and staff continue to work hard to be highly visible in and around the school in an effort to develop and maintain a safe and positive learning environment for all. Our school promotes the common message that all members of our school are expected to show behaviour that is respectful of *self, others, learning* and *environment*. The "Stellar Student" telephone calls have been implemented so that students who consistently exemplify these attributes will be recognized for their positive contributions to LT with a phone call to a parent or guardian.

Sincerely,  
Frank Hayden

**African Heritage Month:** African Heritage Month is celebrated in February in Nova Scotia and in many other areas of the world. This time gives communities an opportunity to learn about and celebrate the history, contributions and culture of people of African descent. The month began as only a week and was started in 1926 by Carter G. Woodson (1875 – 1950), an African American historian, educator and publisher from Virginia. February was chosen because of the birthdays of abolitionist, Frederick Douglass (February 14th) and President Abraham Lincoln (February 12th). At LTJH, individual teachers will be having class discussions and/or lessons which recognize the heritage of our African Nova Scotians. While it is important to celebrate African Heritage all year long, we have chosen to raise the profile of our African Nova Scotians specifically during this important month of celebrations.

**Grade 9 Literacy Assessments:** The grade 9 students will be writing literacy assessments on February 27, 28, 29 and March 1, 2012. Students will read a variety of materials (i.e., information texts, short stories, poetry, lyrics) and answer questions based on these materials as well as write an essay and a story. More information will be provided to students on the schedule as those dates draw closer. The Junior High Literacy Assessments (JHLAs) will take place during the first 1.5 hours of the morning with students following their regular timetable for the rest of the day.

**Curling event:** The grade 9 students will have the opportunity to go curling at the Lakeshore Curling Club (Sackville Sports Stadium). More details will be provided to the grade 9s when they become available.

**H2O for Life:** Family Fun Night, held on January 19, 2012, was a great success! Thank you to everyone who came out and supported us. It was so nice to see you and your families enjoying the movie and board games. Highlights of the night include Mr. MacIreith getting trounced at Sorry, the never-ending Charades game, and all of the delicious baked goods that we sold. It has to be said that Mr. MacIreith is still the reigning champ at Othello (well played Mr. Mac!). The hard work of the 8-4 group was well-rewarded. Between donations at the door and the bake sale, we raised \$370.00 to support the building of a well for our sponsor school in Kenya.

**Science Fair 2012:** The Leslie Thomas Junior High Science Fair will be held on Friday, February 24, 2012. Students in grade 8 have spent the last two months preparing their projects. The top 20 projects from the French Immersion and English programs will be asked to participate in the Halifax Science and Tech Expo (HSTE) at Saint Mary's University. We are still actively looking for judges (both English and French) for the LTJH Science Fair. If you, or someone you know, has a Science background and is willing to volunteer their time to be a judge, please contact Ms. Goold at [sgoold@staff.ednet.ns.ca](mailto:sgoold@staff.ednet.ns.ca). Thank you.

**Yearbooks:** The 2011-12 Yearbooks are Going Fast! Over HALF of the LT Yearbooks have been sold! You can still order your copy from Mme MacIreith for only \$35. Delivery will be in late May. Please pay Mme MacIreith in room 105 to reserve your copy today! Cheques are to be made payable to *Leslie Thomas Jr High*. Purchases can also be made online using your Visa or MasterCard at <http://www.ltjh.ednet.ns.ca/>

**Registration 2012-13:** Registration for the next school year takes place during the month of February and has been extended to March 1, 2012. Grade 6 students will be given junior high registration forms at their elementary schools. Leslie Thomas grade 9 students will complete their grade 10 registration here at LT and the forms will be forwarded to Sackville High after parents/guardians sign them. Students wishing to enrol in a school other than their "home" school are required to obtain an Out of Area Request Form (at their school). These forms may be submitted to the school of choice anytime after 8:00am on April 2, 2012. School Principals will make decisions about Out of Area requests by the end of June. For more information about registering students for 2012-2013, please refer to the following website: <http://www.hrsb.ns.ca/content/id/615.html>

**Grade 9 registration for senior high school:** There will be an information session at Sackville High for parents and guardians of current LT grade 9 students. This meeting takes place on Thursday, February 2, 2012 at 7:30pm (cafeteria at SHS) and will provide information to parents and guardians about course selection for grade 10. Completed course selection forms must be passed in to Ms. MacDonald (Guidance Counsellor at LTJH) by Wednesday, February 8, 2012.

**Immunization clinic for grade 7s (Public Health Services):** This will take place on Thursday, February 16, 2012 from 8:30 to 11:30am. All grade 7s will receive Tdap (a booster vaccine to prevent tetanus, diphtheria and whooping cough) and the grade 7 females will receive the HPV vaccine (a vaccination to prevent human papillomavirus).

**Parent Portal in Power School:** Parents and guardians with children in senior high school have heard of Power School. It is a student information system that has been implemented in junior highs across the province this year. One feature of this new system is that parents and guardians may access their child's attendance and grade history online at any time. At Leslie Thomas, we are in the process of preparing to "go live" with this feature at the start of Term Three (April 2, 2012). Parents and guardians will be given a website and login information before term three begins. More information will follow in our March newsletter.

**Library News:** It is time for PENNY WARS! Starting on January 30, jars are available in the library every Monday, Thursday and Friday before school and at lunch. Every penny students donate adds up to points for their homeroom. Every other coin or bill they donate deducts points from another homeroom. Totals will be announced every Friday afternoon. The "war" ends on March 2, 2012. First prize is an extra library class. Second prize is a cake. If we raise over \$800, the first prize includes a pizza party. All money raised will go to new books for the library.

**Isolation Drills:** The safety and security of our students and staff are a top priority for LTJH and the Halifax Regional School Board. As in most schools, we have implemented a number of measures as part of a comprehensive plan aimed at ensuring our school remains a safe place for our students to learn. One of the procedures our school employs is an "isolation drill". During an isolation drill, classroom doors are secured and the students remain inside the room until instructed by the teacher to resume their activities. All exterior doors are locked and no one is permitted to enter or leave the building. Students are isolated within the school when circumstances make it safer to stay in the classroom rather than evacuate. Just as we prepare our students to properly respond to a fire drill, they also need to be aware of the proper response during an isolation drill. These drills should be treated with the same level of importance as fire drills. Please be assured that staff at our school will spend time discussing the importance of this procedure with students prior to running a drill, and we thank you for taking the time to reinforce this message to your child as well. We practice these drills to ensure that our school remains a safe place for teaching and learning.

**Textbooks:** Students are assigned textbooks in good condition and are expected to treat the books with care. These books range in price from \$50.00 to \$85.00 and if lost/stolen or damaged, students will be required to replace them at their own expense. We urge students to know where their textbooks are at all times and not to divulge their locker combinations to other students.

**Cold Weather:** With cold and flu season upon us, parents/guardians are encouraged to remind and motivate your children to dress appropriately for the weather conditions as we are experiencing extremely cold temperatures. Please note that students will be going outdoors after they eat their lunch (unless the weather is extreme).

**Morning arrival:** A number of students are arriving at school before supervision begins at 8:00am. Parents and guardians are reminded that students do not need to be at school until the bell rings at 8:20am. Those who arrive between 8:00am and 8:20am are welcome to go to the cafeteria for the Breakfast Club. Students will not be permitted to enter the building until 8:00am unless they have arranged it with a teacher (extra help) or with their coach (practice).

**School Advisory Council (SAC):** We are looking for parent/guardian representation on our School Advisory Council for next year (2012-2013). Parents of students presently in grades 7 or 8 are asked to email Mr. Hayden (Principal) if you are interested in finding out more about this volunteer opportunity (fhayden@hrsb.ns.ca).

**Support of Students (SOS):** Occasionally, some students fall behind in their work and for whatever reason, they do not complete assignments. When this happens, teachers will place these students on SOS. SOS is designed to help students complete their assignments and to be successful in each subject. When a student's name is on the SOS listing, s/he will not be permitted to participate in co-curricular activities until the overdue assignments are passed in to the teacher. Students are also required to have their parent/guardian sign a form and return it to the Vice Principal when work is completed.

**School Supplies:** With five months of school remaining, parents/guardians are reminded to replenish school supplies if needed. Many students are arriving at school with no pens, pencils or loose leaf. This would be a good time to check your child's supplies to see they have what they need to be prepared for each class.

**Thank you to community members:**

- Thank you to Mr. Hachey and the team at Staples in Lower Sackville for donating coloured paper and calculators to our school.
- Thank you to Mrs. Conwell for her presentation to our grade 9 students.
- Thank you to Mrs. Thexton for her presentation to our grade 7 students.
- Thank you to Constable Orman for his anti bullying presentations to our students.

**Important Dates:**

February 2	Information session at SHS for grade 9 parents/guardians (7:30pm)
February 3	Skating at the Emera Oval
February 8	Course selection forms due (grade 9s)
February 17	School-based PD for staff, no students present
February 24	Science Fair
February 27, 28, 29 and March 1	Junior High Literacy Assessments for grade 9
March 1	Dance from 6:30pm to 9:00pm, cost \$8 (or \$7 with food bank donation)
March 12 to 16	March Break
March 30	Assessment and evaluation day, no students present