

Important Falcon News - November 2015

Hello sunlight in the mornings! Here are some important items of information from Fellowes High School.

Fellowes High School Holiday Bingo and Christmas Dinner – We are once again proud to be providing a tremendous holiday send-off to our students on Friday December 18th. The day will begin with a charity Bingo supporting our local food bank and will culminate with a hot Christmas Dinner (at lunch) for all students, served by staff, with all the trimmings for all of Fellowes High School. This event was a highlight of the 2014/15 school year and we hope to serve record numbers this year. Happy Holidays! There is no cost to this great day...but please bring in canned goods to support our local community.

Fellowes Beautification Program – Once again Mr. Tyler Edmonds, a graduate of Fellowes High School, has brightened Bell Street with his latest work of art. If you have not yet noticed, a new sign has been erected above the main office entrance of the school. Outstanding.

Student Council and the Fellowes Facebook Page – The FHS Facebook page serves as a tremendous tool for passing along information to staff, parents and students. If you are not part of the group please request to be added and the request will be processed. As with any social media site, some negative comments and opinions can be passed along without taking the time to thoroughly think about impact. When this occurs comments are deleted by our very diligent student leaders. In the event that a line is crossed, active members may be removed from the group permanently. Face to face communication is still the best method for moving forward with ideas and our student Council has made themselves available for “Town Hall” type meetings to ensure the student voice is heard. I applaud them for their tremendous leadership!

Medallion Winner Luncheon – On Friday, November 20th over 55 students were honoured with Renfrew County Medallions at a luncheon in TAPAH’s Table provided by our Culinary classes. Congratulations! You make Fellowes proud.

The OSSLT Mock Test and After School Program – While the Grade 10 Literacy Test seems a long way away, it is never too early to start preparing. Please see the links on our website for helping to prepare for this test. The test will be written on March 31st, 2016.

Grade 9 EQAO Math Test – All students who are taking Grade 9 applied or academic Math this semester are required to participate in the test during the week of January 18th. Exact dates will be confirmed in the near future. Please note that the test does count for 15 % of the student’s final mark in the course. Best of luck!

Successful Meet the Teacher Night - Thank you for a successful (the most successful) Meet the Teacher Night in years. We have adopted this drop-in model because in a “traditional interview night” the greatest number of interviews that could be completed in 1 hour is 6 (10 minutes each). Even if we opted to move to 3 hours in a night, we could only meet with a maximum of 18 families. Considering that most teachers average 75 plus students in a semester, it only makes sense to find a format that reaches the masses. This format is an excellent step in establishing positive communication that needs to be ongoing throughout the semester.

Student Verification Forms - Please note that student verification forms will be sent home with your child during the week November 30th. Please take this opportunity to update information. What is most helpful is having an accurate email contact as this is often a choice method of communication.

Report Cards – Report Cards were sent home on November 18th. If you did not receive a copy, please contact the school. Questions specific to the report card should be directed to the classroom teacher. Email addresses are available on our website.

Exams – Exams will be held at Fellowes on January 22 (Per. A), 25 (Per. B), 26 (Per.C) and 27 (Per. D). More information will follow closer to the date. Please be reminded that students who miss exams must present a professional note for their absence. In the case of inclement weather a contingency plan will be sent home via synervoice. There was significant confusion about the exam schedule last year. Please note that this will be rectified this year.

Cell Phone and Electronic Device Policy – Just a friendly reminder that our cell phone policy teaches students to use electronic devices responsibly and at appropriate times. In classes where students are not permitted to use these items, they are best stored safely in a locker. In addition, please note that when you are contacting your child for planned absences or if an emergency surfaces, it is important that you contact the school directly so that we are aware of any special circumstances or can be a network of support if need be.

School Council Meetings - Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 12th at TAPAH's, on first floor at 6:30 p.m. Please access the building via the cafeteria entrance. Agenda items may be emailed directly to Principal Dean Zadow prior to the meeting. Please see the School Council section on our website for all meeting dates and contact information. Thank you in advance for supporting Fellowes High School.

Inclement Weather Days at Fellowes – We are crossing our fingers that this is not going to be an issue this year...there will be no freezing rain and no snow storms! In the event of a bus cancellation, teachers will remain in their classes for the first 15 minutes to accept any students who wish to access remedial or additional help. Students will have access to technology in class and in the Library. If feasible, teachers will post a sign on the door if leaving their classroom for an extended period of time. If students cannot locate a specific staff member they are encouraged to report to the main office where the staff member can be paged. The cafeteria will remain closed on inclement weather days for obvious financial reasons. As always, it is a parent's decision if they would like their child to attend school for the day. Please check the Board website for any cancellations.

Questions or concerns about cancellations should be communicated to the Joint Transportation Consortium.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Our Fall sport season has come to an end with junior and senior boys volleyball advancing to EOSSAA Championships. The bantam girls basketball tournament was held at Fellowes on Wednesday, Nov.25 for any gr 9 or 10 female who did not play on the junior team. Try-outs are complete for the winter season of girls volleyball, boys basketball, curling, girls and boys hockey, and wrestling. Games will begin in the next few weeks. Nordic, Snowboarding and Alpine ski teams will practice once the snow falls. If you require additional information regarding athletics, contact Mrs. Gilchrist.

Key Club-Many members dressed up to scare people in Hugli's Haunted House and Corn Maze for October's service project. Students sold beverages at the first school dance on November 12 raising money for the Eliminate Project. Operation Christmas Child is in full swing. Our club celebrated Key Club week the third week of November by promoting the club, members made dog toys for November's service project, and members participated in the Pembroke Christmas Parade on the Kiwanis and FHS floats for December's service project.

Free the Children Club-We wrapped up our WE SCARE HUNGER campaign on October 31st collecting a total of 1042 food items for the St. Joseph's Food Bank. Thanks for your support. Seventeen students attended WE DAY OTTAWA on November 10. We are even more inspired to make a difference.

Fundraising

Thanks to the FHS Athletic Council Members for hosting the annual 3 on 3 Hoops for Heart Tournament at FHS. Our school raised over \$2800 for the Heart and Stroke Foundation. Our Angel Tree Gift collection has begun. We are raising money for gifts for children in our local shelter at Christmas. Students have been asked to donate any amount to their period B teachers to contribute to the angel.

Renfrew County District School Board Seeks One Volunteer Community Member to Serve on its Audit Committee

The Renfrew County District School Board is seeking a community member with financial expertise and business knowledge to serve on its audit committee for a three year term effective January 2016.

In accordance with Ontario Regulation 361/10, the audit committee will be comprised of three Trustees and two independent members drawn from the community at large. The primary role of the audit committee is to assist the board of trustees in fulfilling its duties related to governance and oversight.

The duties of the audit committee fall under the following key areas:

1. the financial reporting process;
2. the internal control framework;
3. risk management practices;
4. performance and function of the board's internal and external auditors; and
5. the board's compliance with its obligations under legislation.

The committee meets at least three times a year, plus ad hoc meetings as required. Meetings will be held in Pembroke during regular office hours.

Candidate Eligibility

- Applicants must have sufficient accounting, senior financial management or other relevant business experience to understand public sector accounting and auditing standards.
- The applicant must not be a current employee or officer of the board or of any other district school board or school authority.
- The applicant must not have a parent, child or spouse currently employed by the board.

Submission of Applications

Suitably qualified candidates interested in serving on the audit committee are invited to submit a letter of interest and resume by 2 p.m. on December 23, 2015 to:

Lisa Schimmens, Superintendent of Corporate Services
Renfrew County District School Board
Email: white@rcdsb.on.ca

Candidates who are short-listed may be requested to attend a private interview conducted by the audit committee's selection committee. For information about the Renfrew County District School Board, please visit www.rcdsb.on.ca