



40 Years and Counting...

We Are Remembering Our Past & Looking Towards Our Future

September 3, 2014

Welcome to another school year! This of course is year #41 for Random Island Academy and we look forward to another fantastic school year on this beautiful island. First off, a big "CONGRATULATIONS!" goes out to the 40th Anniversary planning committee (Sherry & Brianna Green, Katie Hansford, Fallon Parrott, and Jill Brooking) and all of the volunteers for organizing a truly magnificent day on July 26th. The day had a community feel to it – and was certainly well-attended...I can't wait for the next one!! I would also like to welcome Mr. Vincent Mulrooney to our school as the new Assistant Principal. Mr. Mulrooney, originally from Southern Harbour, comes to us from Main River Academy in Pollard's Point where he was the Assistant Principal since September 2004. In addition I would like to welcome Ms. Lynn Hiscock back to our building as our Guidance Counsellor. Ms. Hiscock will also have Special Needs and Music teaching duties. Ms. Hurley will not be starting the school year with us as she is about to go on maternity leave. In the interim we welcome Ms. Jennifer Burke back to our school where she will be a member of our special services team. I'd also like to welcome Ms. Donna Strowbridge to our staff as she replaces Ms. Brenda Marsh as the school's caretaker. We would like to wish Ms. Marsh a long and happy retirement. I'd like to inform parents that our new lockers are now installed in the school and most all of our windows have new blinds installed. With a volleyball court to come as well as a field area to be installed at the rear of the school, things, once again are looking to be positive and busy at Random Island Academy.

Quick Hits

- 7- 12 students: Please return textbook authorization forms as soon as possible.
- Vista district-wide shutdown for teacher professional development – October 28th.

- **School Photos:** September 29th (Preschool photos will be done throughout the day as parents drop by until 2:30 pm)
- **Terry Fox Walk/Walk to Breakfast:** September 15th (Looking for parent help with cooking pancakes)
- **Cold Plate Sale** – A scoreboard fundraiser is being tentatively planned for later in the fall.
- **Vegetable Fundraiser Orders:** Annual athletic fundraiser - info to follow.
- **Synrevoice:** If you need a phone number either added or removed from the system, please contact Sandy at the school (547-2379).
- **Senior Boys Softball:** Tentatively scheduled for September 20th.
- **Senior Girls Softball:** Tentatively scheduled for September 27th.

Important Contact information

Random Island Academy is able to communicate with parents via synrevoice, emails, and social media. To ensure you are kept up-to-date on school events and information, please ensure that we have your most contact information. To add a phone number or email address to our database, please contact the school at 547-2379.

Volunteers

Random Island Academy prides itself on being a community school and as such, we rely on the community to help us throughout the year. We are in need of volunteers to enable us to run the breakfast program, hot lunches, coaching and many other valuable initiatives that will support our student community. One of our first initiatives this year will involve our Home & School Association constructing an outdoor volleyball court outside of the school. If you are available to volunteer **in any capacity**, please call Sandy @ 547-2379 and let her know. Many hands make a light load - become a volunteer!

Lunch Program

Our school will be running a hot lunch program again this year with proceeds going to the many groups active in our school (for example drama, and sports teams). We will once again be using a meal ticket system whereby all meals cost the same amount and students can purchase and use tickets at their own discretion. **The meal tickets will be sold in booklets of 5 at a cost of \$17.50 with each meal costing \$3.50.** Booklets are available for purchase and students can use them on whatever meals they want to purchase.

School Council/Home & School

We are always looking for new members to assist us in improving the quality of school experience for your children and help out with School Council/Home & School activities. If you are interested please contact the school at your convenience.

Bus Passes

Students in grades k-6 must have a written note (can be written in the agenda) to receive a bus pass. This will alleviate safety issues concerning confirmation that parents/guardians are aware of their children's whereabouts. All students must state where they are getting off, even if on the same bus. **We would like to reiterate that requests for bus passes (with the exception of emergency situations) must be written in the child's agenda for that particular day.**

Web Page

Please keep yourself informed by visiting our webpage @<http://www.randomisland.k12.nf.ca>

Student Life at RIA

Our Student Council had a tremendously positive impact on our school last year. A big thank you goes out to all of our members as well as Ms. Smith who was the teacher sponsor. This past summer our council purchased a new Smart TV for the main lobby and provided a hot dog lunch to students today as a "Welcome Back!" to all of our students. Please encourage your child to offer their time to student council to at least support their initiatives to help improve student life at our school.

Co-Curricular

While Random Island Academy may be a small school, it certainly has a BIG extra and co-curricular program. There are opportunities for involvement with student council, the green Team, many and various sports teams, and in the fine arts. As this year transpires we may see other activities added to this list (maybe robotics??). Please encourage your child to take advantage of the many extra opportunities that are available.

Unexcused Absences

All students are required to present a note as to the reason of an absence. Regular contact will

occur from the office concerning this matter. This is especially important for high school students who will be writing public exams and other substantial final exams. **Students who receive 3 or more unexcused absences in a month will be subject to lunchtime detention.** Contact will be made home in this event. All absences are reported to the District Office.

School Bus Zone

As you enter our parking lot please be aware that all visitors are required to park on your left as you are coming in on the lot. The right side is reserved for school buses only. This is a bus-loading and drop-off zone.

Allergies

In our school community there are individuals living with these conditions each day. There are students and/or staff members at our school allergic to the following:

- Eggs
- Fish (including shellfish)
- hazelnuts
- Scented products (hand sanitizer, cologne, perfume, hairsprays and gels)

These allergies are anaphylactic in nature and require individuals to carry a life-saving device called an epipen. To reduce the risk of an anaphylactic reaction we ask that you avoid bringing these products to school and be very cautious when packing lunches. As well, we have numerous environmental allergies including beestings, hornets, feathers, grass, dust, cats, dogs, pollen and mold.

Email Addresses

We are compiling a list of parent/guardian email addresses. This will permit us to send home electronic copies of newsletters and other important information. *Please note this on student registration forms or contact Sandy at the office.*

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CANTEEN PRICE LIST – To Follow

Meet the Teacher/Curriculum Night

Before the end of September we will be holding a Curriculum night at the school. It would be our intention to hold several meetings of various groups on this particular night. For example a school council meeting or a grad parent meeting. In addition, we would like to go over a major change to the recycling program at our school this year that should greatly benefit our students and families. Once the date and meetings are firmed up, we will send this information home to you.