

Sgoil MhicFhraing a'Chaolais

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Rankin School of the Narrows

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Principal: Theresa MacNeil

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Vice Principal : Elizabeth MacNeil

December 12, 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Our first segment to the school year has certainly passed by quickly with the break for the holidays being just around the corner.

The fall has been busy. Here are some of the **highlights**.

We started off the fall with a repair to the **swing set** which has been completed through shared funding collected by the Home and School. Thank you to Carlyle MacNeil and his work crew for the quick work.

Our **outdoor rink** has also had some improvement made thanks to Murdell and Larry MacNeil, Gregory MacNeil and Kevin Mackenzie. The rink is holding water much better and we are hoping for a better skating season this year.

We secured an **additional teacher** on staff at 50% for the grade 5/6 class and an **additional teacher assistant** joined us in October. We officially started running a **Work Center** for students with special needs. This room has allowed us to better serve students in general. We have acquired some new equipment which is directly benefiting students and we turned the library into a shared space allowing for another classroom.

Over the past weeks we have had a **Math Intervention Teacher** for 7 weeks for Grades P-3 and a **Complex Classroom Teacher** for 3 weeks for Grades 6-8 working with our students to help build their skills. Both teachers will return in the spring to continue working with another group of students. We have been very fortunate to have had these extra teachers here supporting our students.

The **Options and Opportunities Program (O2)** student work placements have begun for the grade 11 and 12 students. Placements include a dental clinic, veterinary clinic, chiropractic office, power engineering work, food service industry, heavy duty mechanic work, business office, and retail. The surrounding communities have been very generous and welcoming to our students. Students are enjoying working in functioning work settings. The last work placement day for December is 15th. Work placements will continue into the new year starting on January 5.

Many **field trips** have taken place including a visit to Hank's Farm, participation in Youth in Motion Activity Day at CBU, a play at Cape Breton University for Grades 6-12 and participation at a Pow Wow in Eskasoni.

Career Week took place the first week in November and various related activities continued throughout the month. Students participated in several events outside our school but also had the opportunity to spend an afternoon here at Rankin to meet and talk with individuals in specific careers to ask questions and hear about the day-to-day activity of that specific occupation. The career events were very well received by both students and presenters.

The Elementary/Middle School **Drama Club, Art Club, the School Choir**, as well as the Middle School/High School **Health Promotion Group and Gay Straight Alliance** are groups that meet regularly and have great participation from the students during lunch time. Currently we have 36 students participating in **After School Gaelic**. The school choir recently sang the national anthem at a recent **Screaming Eagles** Hockey Game. They did a wonderful job representing the school and modelling diversity by singing in four languages, English, French Gaelic and Mi'kmaq.

The girls and boys **Soccer Teams** worked hard this year with the boys experiencing an exceptional season! Thank you to the coaches Rachel Germani, Robert Leblanc and teacher sponsors, Charlene Ellis and Scott Sawlor.

The **Cross Country Running Team** had a strong season as well participating in weekly meets and held the annual run at Derby Point with over 100 students coming to participate. Thank you to Laura Power, our Physical Education teacher, for her coaching.

Our **fundraising efforts** continued with our fall bottle drive. Students, parents and staff collected bottles from Barrachois to Little Narrows. Many of the community and summer residents have become regulars in dropping off recyclables throughout the year. We store them in our outbuildings for the fall and spring bottle drive. Thank you to the many parents and community members who joined the students and staff to help sort and bag the bottles. We raised \$2400 for student activities and various student needs throughout the year.

Our **Student Council** President Andy Mac Mullin and Vice President Riley MacNeil along with their team held a pizza lunch and have made a \$50 donation to Movember - Prostate Cancer Fundraiser. A BBQ was held to raise money for Adopt a Family and \$150 dollars has been donated.

This year our **hot lunch menu** will remain the same - turkey dinner. After trying out several other options turkey was by far the most purchased by students and staff. We are very fortunate to again have Margaret Ann MacInnis cooking our hot lunches every 6 weeks or so and in-between coming by to bake fresh biscuits for the students at recess break. We consider ourselves very lucky to have our own personal chef!

Items coming up in the next two weeks are listed below.

Tuesday	December 12 3-4pm	Gr 6-12 After School Sports in the Gym
Wednesday	December 13	Free Lunch - Hamburger Soup and Biscuit
Thursday	December 14 at	P-6 Holiday Concert at Rankin 7pm
Friday	December 15	Pyjama Day P-12
Friday	December 15	P-6 Letters to Santa -Christmas Isl. Post Office
Monday	December 18	Grade 6-12 Activity Night 6-8:30 pm \$5 admission
Thursday	December 21	Full Day, Last day for all students before holidays
Wednesday	January 3	First Day back after holiday break.
Fourth Week in January	is Exam	Week for Students Grades 9-12

As you maybe aware we are now using the **ALERT system to send email and text messages** with school information. We most recently used it for the parent teacher sessions. It is very important that we have your correct email and cell numbers so that we can contact you regrading school information, closures and emergencies that may require immediate attention.

Rankin is ready for the holidays! We had our **tree hunt** on December 4. All students headed down the hill and picked out two trees to set up and decorate. You can see the finished products all lit up on concert night outside the school.

Our annual **Holiday Concert** (Gr P-6) is taking place this Thursday evening December 14 at 7pm in the school gym. Please come out and support our students and help celebrate the season. A donation of food to our food drive is encouraged in lieu of an admission charge or if you prefer you can make a donation to a silver collection. To have a "sneak peek" at what the concert theme is this year have a look at the Concert Trailer on our website at www.rankinschoolofthenarrows.com

The Home and School will be selling tickets on the **Christmas Basket** up until the start of the concert. This ticket raffle is the major fundraiser for Home and School and we appreciate your support. Thank you to those who also supported the Home and School Tupperware Fundraiser.

Sincerely,



Theresa MacNeil

Check out Gr3/4 project on symmetry on youtube....<https://youtu.be/6p9--dEiVWY>

