Welcome back to school. I hope everyone had a re-energizing break and students are ready to jump into the next phase of the school year. At this point in the new year we have completed 40% of the year and we are asking ourselves - Where are the students? How do we know? and What are we doing next to support them and their learning? These are crucial questions for all our students as we move through the year and evaluate how they are doing and how we are doing as a school to deliver exceptional learning opportunities for all our students. No two students learn the same or express their knowledge the same and it is up to us to find ways to allow students to continually demonstrate their growth and understanding of the concepts they are being taught.

We have been delayed in constructing our rink due to the weather. We will be evaluating the upcoming temperature over the next few days as we need to have a solid week of temperatures in the -10 to -15 range to freeze the rink so students can use it. If it doesn’t appear that those temperatures are in the near future we will have to make a decision regarding the season.

**GIVE AWAYS**
We have a couple overhead projectors here at the school looking for new homes. If there is a community group, church or other community member who could put these to good use please let us know and we can arrange for pick up.

**Playground Fundraisers**
Last month it was brought to my attention that one piece of our playground equipment was damaged and part of it had to be removed. As well another piece was adjusted to meet updated safety guidelines. Both of these pieces of equipment are aging and will need to be replaced. After discussions with Home and School the decision was made to be proactive and get a head start on some fundraising. Our first dedicated fundraiser to putting money in the bank for a new piece of equipment will be a school dance for our students. We will host a dance on Friday, January 17 6:30 - 7:30. The admission will be $2.00 and we will have a canteen set up as well. Students are asked to bring an indoor pair of shoes. The classrooms will be blocked off so students will not be permitted to leave the gym area. Home and School will continue with regular fundraisers to support current programs within our school like Neptune, school trips, rink, etc. Throughout the rest of this year and during the next year we will have targeted events for the playground. We will actively seeking contributions from corporate sponsors as well as application to grant programs. If anyone in our community is able to help us with these two possibilities please contact Ms. Frank at the school (902-792-6710).
EMERGENCY DISMISSAL

Parents/Guardians are reminded to have plans in place for supervision of their children in the event of an early dismissal due to an impending storm. Since Falmouth District may have less than one hour notice from the AVRCE regarding an emergency early dismissal the following suggestions should facilitate important communication between home and the school:

The AVRCE will notify parents through the Alert Solution of any dismissal changes. These alerts will be distributed the same way as we distribute newsletters, weekly reminders, safe arrival, etc. We will also be sending out alerts in the event of an emergency dismissal due to inclement weather or other emergency. This year all families received a notification form to fill in and sign regarding contact in the event of an emergency early dismissal. All families were contacted by the school to confirm the plans of the student(s). If you indicated the alert notification was sufficient for contact we will not be making a second call home. We will be following the instructions provided to us when we contacted you.

On days you suspect a potential early dismissal listen to AVR for announcements regarding early dismissals or check the AVRCE Web-site.

Please do not call the main office line as we need to keep this line open. All of our phone lines along with a number of personal cell phones are used at this time, if you need to contact the school with the instructions please use the email address fds@avrce.ca or leave a message at 902-792-6711. Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated. Please remember that it must be the child’s parent who calls. We are unable to accept confirmation from a non-parent. There may be times where a student will be held from the busses if we have not received confirmation in order to ensure busses remain on time for dismissals at other schools if we have not been in contact with a parent. In the event a student has a regular sitter routine we will confirm with the sitter and send the student there on the bus is need be.

RECEIVE AVRCE ANNOUNCEMENTS BY TEXT OR EMAIL REMINDER

Did you know that you can sign up for text messages from the Board when there are school cancellations? To receive a text or an email notification from AVRCE please, sign up at www.avrce.ca/content/notify-me. If you have any questions about the text/email notification service, please contact communications@avrce.ca.
WINTER SAFETY
At this time of the year children like to play in the snow and it’s important to remind them of the safety issues involved. Weather sometimes makes frostbite a real possibility but our bigger concern is children playing near roads busy with snowplows and other traffic. Students should not be playing on snow banks near the road while waiting for the bus. This can cause a safety hazard for students and the bus driver. Please remind your child to play in a safe area and dress appropriately. During school hours students playing on the ice or on the fields must wear snow pants. Remember to pack extra socks and mittens in your child’s backpack. We are outside unless it is raining or wind chill drops the temperatures to below -18.

SKATING
Parents/Guardians are reminded to have your children try on their skates before our program begins. If your child does not have skates we have skates that can be borrowed from the school. Students must wear snow pants and mittens or gloves while skating and will be required to wear a helmet. Also, warm high cut socks are best to keep skates from chaffing legs. The school has helmets to use while skating during Phys. Ed. classes. If your child uses their own helmet it needs to be a skating or hockey helmet unless you sign a release form.
We will be looking for volunteers who have their CRC/CAR up to date to help get skates on and off students. If you are available to help tie skates and your checks are up to date, please let your child’s classroom teacher know. Many hands make the process very efficient!

SNOWSHOES
Snowshoes may be signed out at the office by families to use on weekends. Please be sure to return the borrowed equipment before classes on Mondays as we use the snow shoes in Phys. Ed. classes and at noon time.

PRIMARY REGISTRATION
In order to plan for next school year, we would like to obtain an estimate of the number of children who will begin school in the fall. A child must be five years of age on or before December 31, 2020 to be eligible to start school in September 2020. If you have a child who will be entering Falmouth District School please contact the school at 902-792-6710 by Friday, January 31st, 2020. We will be holding our registration day earlier this year on February 28th, 2020. If you know of someone who will be sending their child to school for the first time, and they do not have any other children in this school, please ask them to contact us at 902-792-6710 to register their child.
Parents/guardians are welcome to come into the school to check the Lost and Found box for articles that may belong to their children. Unclaimed clothing will be donated to a local charity.

**January**
Monday, Jan. 6th - First Day of School After the Break
Tuesday, Jan. 7th - Home & School Meeting 6:30pm
Friday, Jan. 10th - Early Dismissal (11:10am)
Friday, Jan. 17th - School Dance 6:30pm
Friday, Jan. 31st - No School (Inservice)

**February**
Tuesday, Feb. 4th - Home & School Meeting 6:30pm
Monday, Feb. 17th - No School (Family Day)
Wednesday, Feb. 26th - Parent Night 6:30pm (For New Primaries)
Friday, Feb. 28th - Primary Registration

**March**
Tuesday, Mar. 3rd - Home & School Meeting 6:30pm
Friday, Mar. 13th - No School (Marking Day)
Mar. 16th - Mar. 20th - No School (March Break)
Monday, Mar. 30th - Reports Cards Home
Taekwondo classes are available for ages 4 and up. Students will learn in a fun and encouraging environment. Classes are great for learning focus, discipline and teamwork while developing the fundamentals of sport martial arts. Everyone learns at a different pace and instructors are skilled at working with all fitness and experience levels. There are two head coaches, a 4th Degree and 5th Degree Black Belt. They are the only Nationally certified Taekwondo coaches in the Annapolis Valley.

Classes are Tuesdays and Thursdays as follows:
Ages 4-7: 5:45pm-6:30pm
Ages 8-12: 6:30pm-7:30pm
Adult: 7:30pm-8:30pm

Email: tkdvictory@hotmail.com or call 902-670-7897