



# Sydney Academy

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## Sydney Academy

October 6, 2008

### Newsletter

#### Renovations

At present, we are undergoing major renovations to our gym including: a new floor, lighting, heating, ventilation and painting. We are also preparing to install a rock climbing wall for our students. Renovations should be complete in October. The new music room is in operation with some minor deficiencies. In addition, plumbing and four bathrooms in the old wing have been upgraded.

#### Allergies

We have students in our school community with Peanut Butter Allergies. We ask that no products containing any form of peanut be taken to the school. It is our collective responsibility to make a safe school environment

#### Safe Grad

Our **Prom/Safe-Grad** has been confirmed for **Wednesday, June 24, 2009**. Please note the policy for the Safe Grad is that dates of grads must be students from our high school or another high school. If one of our students wishes to take a date that is not in high school then that date must be approved by the administration in order to attend. Dates 19 years and older will not be permitted at the overnight Safe-Grad event at CBU.

**Graduation Exercises will be on Friday, June 26, 2008.**

#### Breakaway Tours

Please note that Breakaway Tours is in no way connected to Sydney Academy and is **Not Endorsed** by the school. Advertising and promoting of this event is not permitted at Sydney Academy.

#### School Accreditation

Sydney Academy is in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the accreditation process. We are actively working on our goals in Literacy, Communication and Engagement. One of the actions we are taking this year is the introduction of a Reading Improvement Program (RIP) that will take place for the last fifteen minutes of fifth period each day. The program involves teachers and students taking 15 minutes each day to read. We are also doing professional development on the use of portfolios for learning and assessment and on assessment rubrics. Further we have begun the process of updating our website and are hoping to install an electronic message board outside the school. For more information on our goals strategies and action plans check out the Accreditation link on the school Website.

#### Boston Pizza

Boston Pizza contributes a portion of any bill paid in the name of Sydney Academy back to the school. When paying your bill, simply tell the cashier that you wish to have your bill credited to Sydney Academy.

#### E-mail communication

Any parents who wish to receive newsletters and other school-wide communication via e-mail are asked to send an e-mail to [sydacademy@staff.ednet.ns.ca](mailto:sydacademy@staff.ednet.ns.ca) indicating that they would like to be added to the parent distribution list.

#### Hats/Cell Phones/Electronic Communication Devices

- **Hats are not to be worn by students in the school.**
- **Students are not permitted to use cell phones or other electronic communication in the school.**

(Students who have these devices out in the school will have them confiscated.

The items will be only returned to a parent or guardian.)

Apart from the disruptions to the learning environment caused by these devices, we have had a number of serious incidents in the school that have been incited by students text messaging or posting images of students on the internet. We ask the cooperation of all members of the school community in maintaining a safe school environment.