

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2024

HORIZON ELEMENTARY NEWSLETTER

IMPORTANT DATES

- JANUARY 2 - CLASSES RESUME
- JANUARY 3 - PTO MEETING 7:00 PM
- JANUARY 11 - PTO FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT
- JANUARY 19 - MAD SCIENCE ASSEMBLY
- JANUARY 24 - 7:00 PM SAC MEETING
- JANUARY 27 - FAMILY LITERACY DAY
- FEBRUARY 1-29 - REGISTRATION MONTH
- FEBRUARY 1-29 - AFRICAN HERITAGE MONTH
- FEBRUARY 14 - PTO FAMILY BINGO NIGHT
6:30-8:30 PM
- FEBRUARY 15- PRIMARY FRENCH IMMERSION
INFORMATION SESSION 6:30 PM (FOR
FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN STARTING
PRIMARY IN SEPTEMBER 2024)
- FEBRUARY 19 - HERITAGE DAY (NO CLASSES)
HONOREE WILLIAM HALL
- FEBRUARY 21 - MARITIME CENTRE FOR
AFRICAN DANCE PERFORMANCES
- MARCH 10 - DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS
MOVE CLOCKS FORWARD ONE HOUR
- MARCH 11-15 - MARCH BREAK
(NO CLASSES)
- MARCH 18 - ASSESSMENT & EVALUATION
DAY (NO CLASSES)
- MARCH 28 - REPORT CARDS EMAILED
- MARCH 29 - GOOD FRIDAY (NO CLASSES)
- APRIL 1 - EASTER MONDAY (NO CLASSES)
- APRIL 4 - PD & PARENT TEACHER
APPOINTMENTS (NO CLASSES)
- MAY 20 - VICTORIA DAY (NO CLASSES)
- JUNE 27 - ASSESSMENT & EVALUATION DAY
(NO CLASSES)
- JUNE 28 - LAST DAY OF SCHOOL



Family Literacy Day

Family Literacy Day takes place every January 27th to raise awareness about the importance of reading and engaging in other literacy-related activities as a family. Since 1999, thousands of schools, libraries, literacy organizations and other community groups have taken part in the initiative. ABC creates free learning and promotional resources for anyone that wants to get involved. Taking time every day to read or do a learning activity with children is crucial to a child's development, improving a child's literacy skills dramatically, and can help a parent improve their skills as well. Family Literacy Day 2024 Theme: Let's have a family party! Barbara Reid will be doing a demonstration on how to use clay to create a picture. She will share unique techniques you can use to make different things.

<https://abclifeliteracy.ca/all-programs/family-literacy-day/>

African Heritage Month

This year's African Heritage Month provincial theme, Our Smiles, Our Joy, Our Resilience as African Nova Scotians, outlines the spirit of perseverance that people of African Descent have demonstrated over the centuries in our province. It can be said that our smiles can tell a story, they can share our joy and can share our resilience. This African Heritage Month we celebrate our heritage and culture and the incredible spirit to overcome. The theme also aligns with the final year of the United Nations' International Decade for People of African Descent (DPAD) 2015-2024. The goal of DPAD is to strengthen global cooperation in support of people of African descent, increase awareness and the passage towards presence in all aspects of society.

Nova Scotia has 52 historic African Nova Scotian communities with a long, deep and complex history dating back over 200 years. African Heritage Month provides us with another opportunity to celebrate our culture, legacy, achievements and contributions of our people – past and present.

<https://www.ahm.bccnswb.com/wp/home/>

Registration Month - February 2024

For up-to-date information on registering children for school for September 2024 visit <https://www.hrce.ca/families/student-registration>.

Children who are currently enrolled in pre-primary need not re-register if they are attending the same school in September. As well, children who are attending pre-primary at Ocean View Elementary and want to enroll their child in French Immersion, must inform the pre-primary lead of their intention. There is no need to re-register. Children who currently attend school do not need to register year to year. For families interested in enrolling their child in French Immersion, there is an information session on Thursday, February 15th at 6:30 PM at Horizon Elementary.

SAC Meeting

If you would like to participate on our School Advisory Council please email Nancy at nliberatore@hrce.ca to receive a link to the Zoom meeting. Our next meeting is Wednesday, January 24th at 7:00 PM.

We are in need of more SAC members. Please consider joining the meeting to see if this is something you would like to become involved in. The meetings are 30 minutes and they keep you informed with what the school is doing in terms of student success data, inclusive education, where SAC funds are spent, etc. There are six meetings a year, this will be our fourth meeting.

Dress For Colder Weather



The cold weather is here. Please pack a hat and mittens/gloves for your child so they can stay comfortable while they are playing outside. Thank you! If you need support with winter clothing and winter boots please contact Sam Galvin, our Schools Plus Community Outreach worker: samantha.galvin@hrce.ca.

Please write your child's name on their belongings/clothing. There is often a tag on the inside of the coat to write a name.

Students may not recognize their own clothing and many items end up in the lost and found.



After School Childcare

If your child goes to Kids and Company Childcare or Tallahassee Childcare and they are not attending the after school program that day because they are ill, away or got picked up from school during the day, please inform the daycare provider so that they are aware your child will not be attending.

Thank you!

Utensils & Water Bottles

Students need to bring a clean water bottle to school each day. The school fountains are water bottle refill stations and no longer have a spout to get a sip of water. Please ensure their name is on the bottle. Children need to bring the necessary utensils to eat their lunch. We purchase one time use forks and spoons in case a utensil is forgotten.

Peanut & Nut Aware

Please do not send food to school that contains peanuts and/or tree nuts, including Nutella, which is made with hazelnuts. Students who bring sandwiches with WOW butter or other types of non-nut spread please indicate, with a note in your child's lunch bag, what the spread is and that it does not contain nuts. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.



School Hours

8:15 am-8:25 am Students enter the school via their assigned door. Students traveling by bus enter through the Main Entrance.

8:25 am Begin morning routines

8:30 am Classes begin promptly

10:00-10:15 am Recess

11:30-12:20 am Lunch A

12:25-1:15 pm Lunch B

2:25 pm Dismissal

*If you are dropping your child(ren) off at school in the morning it is important that they arrive on time- by 8:25 am. Students who are late for class disrupt the flow of the learning environment and miss instructional time and important routines to begin their day. If possible, please schedule appointments for your child after 2:30 p.m.

Assigned Doors

If your child comes to school by **bus**, they enter the building through the **Main Entrance doors**. Walking students and those who get a drive enter and exit through their assigned door according to class. The numbers are displayed on each door.

DOOR #1	DOOR #2	DOOR #3
Pre-Primary	Primary-1 Carrington	3 Hodder
Grade 1-2 Johnson	Primary Gordon/Saturley	1 Boudreau
Grade 2 Pearson	Primary MacDonald	3 Kinch
Grade 2-3 Wilhelm	Primary MacLeod	2 Bigg
Grade 1 Haverstock	3 Boudreau	2 Comeau-Shantz
		Grade 1 Animashaun/ MacCallum

School Website

You can find lots of information on the school website: <https://hes.hrce.ca/>. Staff contact information is on the *Staff Directory* page. More information is located on the *Our School* page.

Parking Lot Safety

Please drive slowly and use extreme caution when entering and exiting the parking lot. There is a "kiss and go lane" to drop off students and proceed to exit the parking lot. If you are leaving your vehicle to walk your child to their assigned door, please park your vehicle in the marked spaces and watch for moving vehicles. The driveway loop at the front of the school is for buses.

Animals on School Property

Please **do not bring pets** on school property. Children and adults can be nervous around animals. We want to keep everyone safe, including your pet. Thank you for complying.



Lunch Monitors

We are looking for substitute lunch monitors. If you are interested in working one to two hours per day, one to five days per week, please call the office for details. New employees need to have their Criminal Record & Vulnerable Sector Check as well as a Child Abuse Register check and complete a lunch monitor application. Please call Ms. MacKenzie at 902-465-8651 ext.0 for more information.

PTO

We are looking for members for our Parent Teacher Organization. Members plan fun events for the children throughout the year. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 3rd at 7:00 PM in the staff room at the school. All are welcome to attend! Please consider volunteering at one of our events.

Administering Medication at School

In order to have medication administered to students while in school, parents/guardians need to drop off the medication and fill out the required forms. Medication needs to be in the original bottle with the prescription label. School staff can only administer prescribed medications. Please advise the school in advance of administering medication so that the appropriate forms can be sent home.

Appropriate Bus Behaviours



The Horizon team has conversations with students about bus safety. **Please speak to your child about the importance of staying seated on the bus and not distracting the driver while the bus is moving. It is important that children treat each other with respect and keep their hands to themselves.** Buses may return to the school if students are not acting appropriately therefore delaying their drop-off. Safety is our priority. Please speak with the bus driver or contact transportation@hrce.ca if you need to report a bus incident.

Safe Arrival

You can report future absences using the SchoolMessenger app, website, or toll-free phone number. If your child is absent and the absence has not been reported in advance, you will receive notifications via email, text, and phone calls from SchoolMessenger. If SchoolMessenger cannot reach you, office staff will follow up. To report your student absent, you can use any of the following methods:

PowerSchool Parent/Student Portal

Parents/guardians can log in to <https://sishrsb.ednet.ns.ca/public/> to access the SchoolMessenger website to report future absences.

SchoolMessenger App

Parents/guardians can download the SchoolMessenger app for Android and iOS devices and use their username and password for the PowerSchool Portal.

Toll-Free Number

Parents/guardians can call **1-833-582-6940** to report future absences using an automated system

Would you like to volunteer at Horizon Elementary?

Follow the steps below

1

Fill out the online form for the Child Abuse Registry search:
<https://beta.novascotia.ca/apply-child-abuse-register-search>

2

For your criminal record check email horizon@hrce.ca and ask for an invitation to mybackcheck.com or go to your local police station

3

Share your results from mybackcheck.com

4

When you receive your C.A.R. clearance, bring it to the school main office to be copied.

For more information visit:
<https://www.hrce.ca/volunteer>