

MARCH/APRIL 2024

HORIZON ELEMENTARY NEWSLETTER

IMPORTANT DATES

- MARCH 5 PTO MEETING 7:00PM
- MARCH 6 SAC MEETING 7:00 PM VIA TEAMS
- 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 20 - FAMILY MERCHANDISE BINGO-
TO BE HELD AT SEASIDE ELEMENTARY
- MARCH 28 - REPORT CARDS EMAILED
- MARCH 29 - GOOD FRIDAY (NO CLASSES)
- APRIL 1 - EASTER MONDAY (NO CLASSES)
- APRIL 2 - WORLD AUTISM
AWARENESS DAY
- APRIL 4 - PD & PARENT TEACHER
APPOINTMENTS (NO CLASSES)
- MAY 14 - NEPTUNE THEATRE PERFORMANCES
- MAY 17 - PRIMARY ORIENTATION
- MAY 20 - VICTORIA DAY (NO CLASSES)
- JUNE 27 - ASSESSMENT & EVALUATION DAY
(NO CLASSES)
- JUNE 28 - LAST DAY OF SCHOOL
REPORT CARDS EMAILED



Spread Kindness Like Confetti

Did you know? March is Nutrition Month

A Healthy School Community:

- Recognizes that healthy students learn better and achieve more;
- Understands that schools can directly influence students' health and behaviours;
- Encourages healthy lifestyle choices, and promotes students' health and well-being;
- Incorporates health into all aspects of school and learning;
- Links health and education issues and systems; and
- Needs the participation and support of families and the greater community!






 Halifax
Regional Centre for Education



Reading Tips For Caregivers



At-home reading tips for caregivers

-  **Look at your child's books** with them. Discuss the pictures and build vocabulary by talking about new words.
-  **Talk with your child about their books.** Ask questions about the story and encourage your child to ask their own questions.
-  **Make reading aloud a regular part of your routine** – just 15 minutes each day can make a big difference in raising a reader.
-  **Discuss examples that help them relate** to what they're reading. Connect the story to your child's world.
-  **Connect with your child's teacher** for more suggestions on how to support reading at home.



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.

SAC Meeting

If you would like to participate on our **School Advisory Council** please email Nancy at nliberatore@hrce.ca to receive a link for the Teams meeting. Our next meeting is Wednesday, March 6th at 7:00 PM.

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 Tuesday, March 5th at 7:00 PM in the staff room at the school. All are welcome to attend! Please consider volunteering at one of our events.

What is Schools Plus?

SchoolsPlus is a confidential, free service available in every school in Nova Scotia. Our goal is to build positive relationships between families, schools, and communities. We can help students with what they need to succeed – from home, to school, and back again!

Our Schools Plus Community Outreach Worker is: Samantha Galvin

Phone: 902.430.2387

Email: samantha.galvin@hrce.ca

To learn more you can go to the web page:

<https://www.hrce.ca/students/student-services/schoolsplus>

After School Childcare

If your child goes to Kids and Company Childcare or Tallahassee After School Care 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 if a utensil is forgotten.

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.



World Autism Awareness Day

World Autism Awareness Day (WAAD) aims to put a spotlight on the hurdles that people with autism and others living with autism face every day. As a growing global health issue owing to its increasing exposure in the press and common knowledge, autism is an issue that is only gaining more understanding and WAAD activities are planned every year to further increase and develop world knowledge of children and adults who have autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

What's more, World Autism Awareness Day goes one step further to celebrate the unique talents of those with autism, while putting a huge focus on the warm embrace and welcome that these skills deserve through community events around the globe.

From Ms. C., our Music Teacher



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.

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.

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.

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.** Students are not permitted to eat on the bus. 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 theSchoolMessenger website to report future absences.

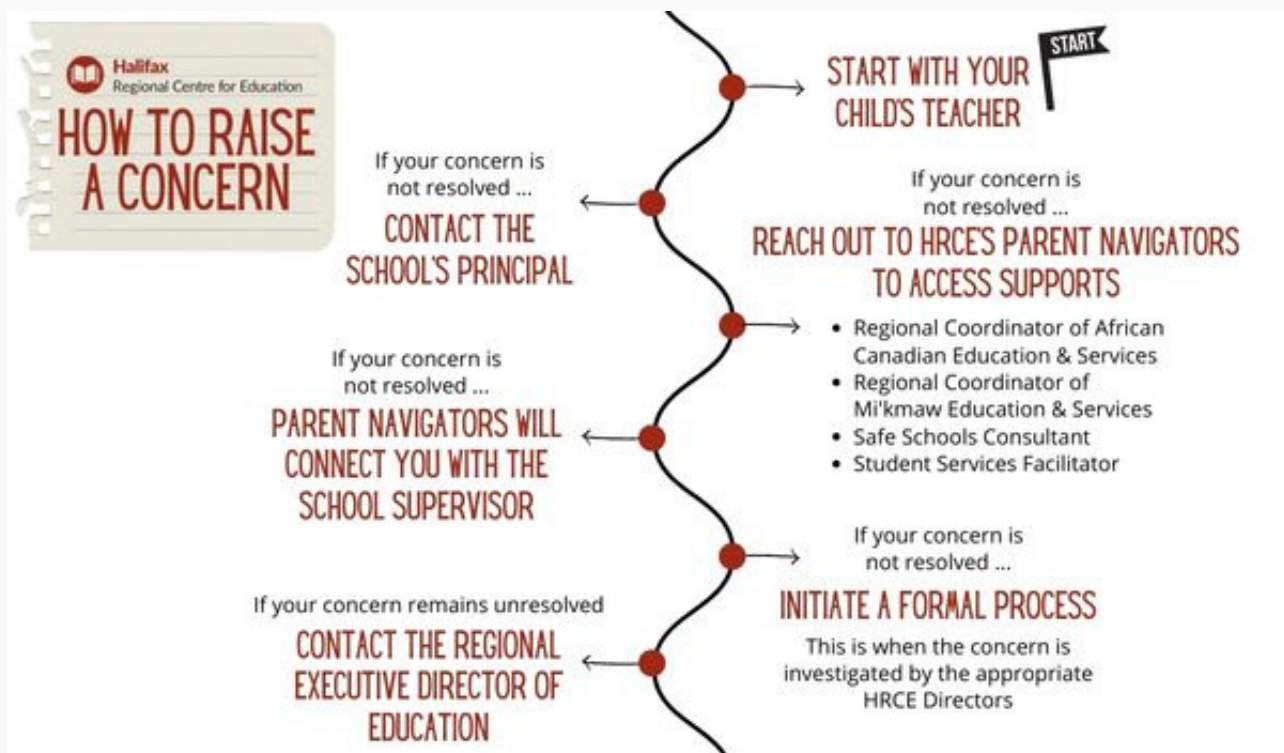
SchoolMessenger App

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

How to Raise a Concern



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>