February is African Heritage Month
February is a month to celebrate, honour and learn about the glorious history of people of African heritage. Teachers will be spending time focusing on the contributions and experiences of our people of African heritage. On February 26th, Keith Mullins will visit LT and provide our students with an African drumming experience. Our grade 6 students will be participating in a field trip to the Black Cultural Centre in Cherrybrook during February to discover and explore the rich history of Nova Scotians of African descent.

Dress for the Weather
We have had some subzero temperatures and there is more to come! We would like to remind students to dress for the weather. Grade 6 students go out for a fifteen minute recess daily, and most students who stay for lunch go outside for at least 45 minutes.
Head Check!
If you have ever had any experience with head lice, you know what a nuisance they can be to eradicate. Often during the winter we will see an increase in cases of head lice in schools. We remind parents/guardians to check your child’s heads from time to time.

Pancake Breakfast
As has been a bit of tradition at LT the last few years, we are pleased to offer students a pancake breakfast the morning of January 31. Cycling through 280 students will take a bit of time, so for some it may be more of a brunch! Regardless, all students will be treated to pancakes, bacon, fruit, and juice the last day of this month. This meal is supported by the Leslie Thomas Breakfast Program.

Cafeteria
MC Food Services operates our cafeteria. Besides the daily healthy choice meal, there are a variety of foods to choose from. If you would like to set up an online option, that’s doable. Check out our menu at the following link or go directly to the LT website.

Please note that students who bring their own lunches, should also bring their own utensils if required. The cafeteria does not provide utensils for lunches brought from home.

Students of the Month
Congratulations to our Students of the Month for November and December!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade 6</th>
<th>November</th>
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<th>December</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reece Thompson, Katie O’Hearn</td>
<td>Jase Rudolph, Olivia Boutilier</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Julian Briand, Grace Poisson</td>
<td>Dane Lidstone, Haley Hendry</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Jake Swinemar, Olivia Bond</td>
<td>Andreas Vietinghoff, Idara Akpan</td>
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Host a Student; Make a Friend
The International Services Department at the Halifax Regional Centre for Education is excited to welcome a group of visiting students from Colombia this spring (March—May) 2019. Students will be in Grades 7 and 8 and will stay for a period of 8 weeks. They will study in our classrooms and live with a family to learn English and experience our culture.

The HRCE is looking for families who would be interested in welcoming a student into their home. This is a great opportunity for your family to experience and share culture first hand. Your family would be matched up with a student and they would participate in your daily family routines.

To find out how you can get involved or if you would like to have more information about this unique hosting experience, please contact Judy Filshie, Project Manager, at jfilshie@hrce.ca or 902-225-5938

Yearbook
Work on the 2019 yearbook (actually more of a memory book) continues. Team and club photos are scheduled for February 1. Orders will be taken later in February and the option to pay online will be available. Once details are finalized, we will let you know.
**Guest Presenter**

On March 1 we are excited to host Derek Fisher, researcher and professor at Mount St. Vincent University. Dr. Fisher will be presenting to our grade 7 students about the effects of cannabis on the brain.

**Ice Safety**

We have had several concerned citizens from the community inform us about students walking and playing on the ice on First Lake. As a school, we cannot monitor this. With the fluctuation in temperatures, we can never be too sure about ice safety. It is best to check the HRM website to determine if the ice is safe for walking or other activities.

**Activities at Lunch**

There are some options for lunch students after they eat. The gym is open for intramural sports every day and the library is open on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

**SchoolsPlus**

Leslie Thomas is a designated SchoolsPlus site. SchoolsPlus is a collaborative inter-agency approach among education, health, justice, community services, and recreation which aims to support children, youth, and families. At Leslie Thomas we have the services of an IWK mental health clinician one day a week, and we have a community outreach worker to support students. If you would like to learn more about how Schools Plus may benefit your family, please contact Ms. MacDonald (guidance counsellor) at 864-6785 (ext 3).

**Regional Executive Director’s Monthly Report**

Inside, the December Report you’ll find a number of remarkable things happening in the HRCE.

**School Closure**

The Halifax Regional Centre for Education takes great care when making the decision to alter the normal operations of schools and regional offices in the event of severe or inclement weather. Please note that Leslie Thomas Junior High is part of the Sackville High Family of Schools. It is the goal of the HRCE to make the decision as close to 6 a.m. as possible. Here are a few ways you can find out:

- Check the HRCE website at www.hrce.ca
- Follow HRCE on Twitter at Twitter.com/HRCE_NSC
- Call the information line at 902-464-INFO (4636)
- Listen to your radio (all local radio stations are informed)
- Sign up to receive e-mail or text message notification of cancellations on the HRCE website

**New Logo**

If you haven’t been to LT since November check out the new artwork in our foyer!