



LESLIE THOMAS JUNIOR HIGH

Home of the Lions

100 Metropolitan Ave, Lower Sackville, NS

<https://lj.hrce.ca> 902-864-6785 B4C 2Z8

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January 28, 2024

The theme of this update will be safety and include safety reminders from early memos.

Arrivals and dismissals

For safety reasons, it will be important that we all do our part to limit the number of non-staff vehicles in the parking lot before and after school. If you drive or walk your child to school, you can support this measure by:

- Dropping off between 8:50 and 9:00
- Picking up between 3:10 and 3:20 During arrival and dismissal, parents picking up their child(ren) are asked not to enter school property.

These times are also in alignment with staff Supervision. Staff supervision begins at 8:50 and ends at 3:20 or when the last bus leaves.

Off Property

We kindly request your assistance in reinforcing important safety measures for your child's journey to and from school. Please have the following conversations with your child if they walk to and from school or leave school property for lunch.

Staying on Designated Routes: If students are heading to the Sobeys commercial area, students should stick to the roads and avoid short cuts and paths that go onto private property. By working together, we can create a safer environment for all our students. Thank you for your cooperation.

Students are also strongly encouraged to use marked sidewalks when crossing the street.

Calendar of Events

February is Registration Month – More information to follow in future memos.

February 7 – Grade 7 French Immersion Parent Information Session 6:00

February 19 – Heritage Day (No Classes)

February 22 – School Dance 6:30 – 8:00

March 11 – 15 – March Break

March 18 – Assessment and Evaluation Day (No Classes)

March 29 – Good Friday (No Classes)

April 1 – Easter Monday (No Classes)

April 3 – Report Cards Sent home.

April 4 – No Classes
AM – Professional Learning
PM – Parent / Teacher Meetings 1 – 3 PM and

Slow Down in School Zones

To ensure our students' safety, here are a few reminders for drivers navigating school zones.

- Follow school zone speed limits whenever children are present. This always applies, not just during school hours.
- Be prepared to stop for a school bus at any time.
- Remember to stop whenever you approach a stopped school bus with its red lights flashing, regardless of the direction of travel or which lane the bus is in.
- Give yourself extra time during your morning commute.
- Always watch for pedestrians. There are more kids walking, riding, and getting dropped off in school zones.
- Always obey crossing guards.
- Avoid distractions while driving.

[Halifax](#) School Zone Safety

Bus Stop Safety

- Be on time for the bus and please don't run to/from the bus
- Stand back off the road and don't push or shove when waiting at a stop.
- Always cross in front of the bus. Walk three metres (10 feet) in front of the bus to a point where you can see the driver and wait for the driver's signal to cross. Proceed to the centre of the road, STOP, LOOK & LISTEN and cross the road when it is safe.
- Never crawl under a school bus or cross the road behind the bus.
- Know the danger zones around the bus.

School Bus Safety

- Please respect and listen to the driver and avoid distracting them.
- Please keep noise levels to a minimum.
- Do not stand or move seats while the bus is in motion.
- Never put your hands, arms, feet or head out of the bus window.
- Ask the driver for permission before you open the bus windows.
- Do not throw anything inside the bus or out of the windows.
- Keep the aisle clear at all times when the bus is in motion.

You can find out more information about School Bus Safety Week, including more safety tips, [here](#).

Ice Safety

Here is the information from the city of Halifax's web page:

Ice Thickness Testing

Please note that the municipality is no longer conducting ice thickness testing.

Over the last number of years, there has been a decline in the number of days available for skating. Based on these changed climate patterns, including rapidly fluctuating temperatures, ice thickness testing is no longer feasible.

We realize that some residents may wish to continue skating on lakes, and there may occasionally be times when it is safe to do so.

Residents are asked to take safety precautions for themselves and their families by avoiding any further recreation activities on frozen lakes and ponds, including walking, snowmobiling, and skating.

The Red Cross recommends the following:

- 15 cm for walking or skating alone
- 20 cm for skating parties or games
- 25 cm for snowmobiles

See a complete list of [guidelines from the Canadian Red Cross](#) regarding ice safety.

Important weather reminders

Did you know? HRCE takes great care when making the decision to alter the regular operations of schools and school busses in the event of severe or inclement weather.

It is HRCE's goal to communicate any changes to the regular operations of schools and/or buses as close to 6:00 a.m. as possible. **A 6:00 a.m. announcement could be:**

- All schools are delayed in opening by two hours and bus pickups are delayed by two hours; or
- All schools are open, but some or all busses are not operating for the day; or
- Some schools (either individually or by family) are closed for the day; or
- All schools are closed for the day.

If weather deteriorates, or is forecasted to worsen throughout the morning, **an 11:00 a.m. announcement could be:**

- Bussed students will be picked up two hours earlier than their regular dismissal time; and
- Walking students will be dismissed at their regularly scheduled lunch hour.

How will I find out?

- By email to the addresses in PowerSchool
- By text message, **if you have opted-in**. If you aren't sure if you have opted-in, text Y to the following number: **978338**
- On our website www.hrce.ca
- On X (formerly Twitter) at [Twitter.com/HRCE_NS](https://twitter.com/HRCE_NS)
- On Instagram at www.instagram.com/hrce_ns/

It's important to always have a plan in place for childcare in the event of any cancellation.

For more information on how HRCE manages during inclement weather, visit www.hrce.ca/families/cancellations.

January 27 is Family Literacy Day

Family Literacy Day takes place each year on January 27 to raise awareness about the importance of reading and engaging in other literacy-related activities as a family.

This year's theme, in honour of Family Literacy Day's 25th anniversary, is let's have a party! Make food, sing songs, and play games. The possibilities for learning are endless.



Supports for Families

<https://beaconhousens.org/>

<https://www.freedomkitchensackville.com/>

Find food

Find a food bank or meal program. If you are in need of food for yourself or your family we can find the closest location near you.

www.feednovascotia.ca

Home | Freedom Kitchen | Lower Sackville, NS

Freedom Kitchen & Closet is an outreach program of Knox United Church Lower Sackville. We provide free meals to those in need every Monday night. We also provide free clothing, toiletries, and other essentials for those in need.

www.freedomkitchensackville.com

LTJH School Clothing

School Clothing can be found here: <https://lesliethomasjuniorhighschool.entripyshops.com/>

Entripy is the official online shopping portal for Leslie Thomas Junior High School. You can browse a wide selection of products from a variety of brands that you can then customize with the approved logos and graphics found on the site. Display your pride in fantastic apparel customized entirely by you. Entripy lets students, families, fans, & staff choose from approved merchandise to fit their needs 24/7 with no minimum order quantities.



Homework Hub: Homework Hub continues to be available to all Nova Scotian students from grades 4-12. The Homework Hub provides electronic textbooks, instructional videos, vocabulary review, practice questions, and live tutoring. Tutors at The Homework Hub are all Nova Scotia teachers. Please reassure students that while they interact with the tutor, it is through typing and/ or speaking depending on their comfort level (this is not a video chat). Students can find the link on their GNSPES launch page. The EECD has produced web versions of promotional cards that can be shared on your website: NS [Homework Hub 4-6](#) and NS [Homework Hub 7-12](#). These cards are also attached. I encourage you to share these with your families.

The hours of operation for online tutoring via Homework Hub can be found below. We invite teachers to take a few moments to show students where to find it and share its benefits.

- Grades 4-6: Monday-Wednesday 5:30-6:30 pm
- Grades 7-12: Sunday-Thursday 5:30-9:30 pm



NEED HELP WITH A MATH QUESTION?

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GNSPES Access
Click the Nova Scotia Homework Hub icon

Available 24/7
textbooks
videos
practice questions
vocabulary review

Bilingual Tutors
Tutors for Grade 4 - 6
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday
5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

GNSPES Access
Click the Nova Scotia Homework Hub icon

Available 24/7
textbooks
videos
practice questions
vocabulary review

Bilingual Tutors
Tutors for Grade 7 - 12
Sunday through Thursday
5:30 - 9:30 p.m.

1-888-444-6607 Nova Scotia Homework HUB APPLAudiorevis Nouvelle-Ecosse gnspe.ca

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Lunch Monitors

We are looking for several lunch monitors for the upcoming school year. Lunch will be from 12:10 – 1:10. This is a paid position. If interested, please contact Principal Ferguson at dferguson@hrce.ca.

All applicants will be required to provide a current Criminal Record Check and Child Abuse Registry Search.