



LESLIE THOMAS JUNIOR HIGH

Home of the Lions

100 Metropolitan Ave, Lower Sackville, NS

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February 2024

School Counselor

LT Families, we have been and will continue to be without our School Counselor, Julie Zinck, for a period. She would like to share that she is recovering and missing her LT Family. In the meantime, we encourage students to connect with trusted adults and school administrators if they require support. We are exploring ways to fill the absence and will keep you informed.

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



Celebrate African Heritage Month 2024

The theme for African Heritage Month 2024 is "Our Smiles, Our Joy, Our Resilience as African Nova Scotians." This month-long celebration is dedicated to recognizing and honoring the history and culture of people of African descent. The theme coincides with the final year of the United Nations' International Decade for People of African Descent (DPAD) 2015-2024, which aims to promote global cooperation in support of people of African descent, raise awareness, and acknowledge their full and equal participation in all aspects of society.

Nova Scotia is home to more than 50 historic African Nova Scotian communities with a rich, deep, and complex history that spans more than 400 years. African Heritage Month is an excellent opportunity to celebrate and showcase the culture, accomplishments, and contributions of African Nova Scotians, both past and present.

REMINDER

There will be no classes on Monday, February 19 for Heritage Day honouring William Hall.



Grade 7 Late French Immersion Registration

February is registration month and Grade 6 English students may register for Grade 7 Late French Immersion for September 2024. Starting next week, Students will receive information on the program and have a chance to ask questions.

For Grade 6 families interested, there will be an in-person meeting with current French Immersion teachers and administration on **Wednesday, February 7 at 6:00pm in the school Library**. There will be a slideshow about the program and an opportunity to ask questions.

We must have a response (either yes or no) from *every* grade 6 student to ensure that we are clear about your choice when scheduling for September begins next month. Please indicate your child's choice on the form below and return this letter to your child's Grade 6 classroom teacher by **March 1st, 2024**.

All of our grade 6 students will receive a hard copy of the registration form next week and forms will be available at the Parent meeting on February 7th.

Reminder: February 19 is Heritage Day

Observing Nova Scotia Heritage Day on the third Monday of February is an annual occasion to reflect on our province's rich history. It's a chance to recognize the remarkable people, places, and events that have shaped our unique heritage.

Please take time to learn about William Hall, the 2024 honoree, [here](#).

February is Registration Month

Do you have a child who will be starting pre-primary or primary this fall? It's time to register!

Registration for the 2024-25 school year begins on February 1. To ensure we have the right staff and supports in place for September, it's important that we gather enrolment numbers now.

Tip: Before you begin, make sure you have the following documents in electronic form (image, PDF or Word document):

- Proof of identity/age with one of the following: birth certificate, passport, immigration papers, or legal adoption papers) if you are new to the HRCE;
- Proof of home address (a recently dated official government or utility document with your current address that includes your name and date, such as water bill, power bill, internet bill, home fuel bill, a tax receipt, property assessment or a mortgage contract); and
- Nova Scotia Health Card or Canadian Province Health Card or, for non-citizens while in Canada, proof of Medical Insurance Information.

Visit the [HRCE website](#) for more information and to enrol your child today through PowerSchool Enrollment!

Don't have a child to register? Maybe you know someone who does! Please help us spread the word and pass this information on to friends, neighbours or relatives who will be looking to register for the fall.

Raise a Reader

Family Literacy Week provided us with an ideal opportunity to communicate with you, our students' families, about the importance of at-home reading and engaging with children in literacy-related activities.

To support you in your at-home reading journey, we are sharing a simple infographic with tips for families, as well as links to useful resources 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.



Scan to
learn more



Red Means Stop! School Bus Safety Reminder

HRCE has recorded 691 school bus stop-arm violations in Halifax Regional Municipality since the beginning of the school year. This means that motorists have failed to stop for a bus when its red lights were flashing and the stop sign was extended. This poses a serious risk to children and families who may be crossing the road to enter or exit the bus. Drivers may also face a fine and demerit points if caught by police.

Help us spread the word to remind drivers (including cyclists) that it is illegal to drive past a school bus when they see its red lights flashing and stop-arm extended.

Drivers must slow down and prepare to stop in all directions when they see flashing lights – either amber or red in colour – on a school bus. This means the bus is planning to stop or may have already.

Here are some safety tips from Safety Services Nova Scotia to keep in mind when waiting for or exiting the bus:

- Stand back from the edge of the road.
- Line up in single file when you see the bus coming.
- Wait for the bus to come to a complete stop.
- Walk, never run.
- Make sure the bus driver sees you if you are crossing the road. Take 10 giant steps in front of the bus before crossing.
- Wait for the bus driver to signal that it is okay to cross.
- Always look both ways before crossing the road and listen for traffic.
- Never cross the road from behind the bus.



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.

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.

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.

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

Two promotional cards for Homework Hub are shown side-by-side. Both cards have a blue header with the Nova Scotia logo and 'Nova Scotia Homework HUB' and 'APPL'auxiliaries Nouvelle-Ecosse'. The left card features a photo of three children and the text 'NEED HELP WITH A MATH QUESTION?'. Below this, it lists 'GNSPES Access' (Click the Nova Scotia Homework Hub icon), 'Available 24/7' (textbooks, videos, practice questions, vocabulary review), and 'Bilingual Tutors' (Tutors for Grade 4 - 6 Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.). The right card features a photo of four students and the text 'NEED HELP WITH A MATH QUESTION?'. Below this, it lists 'GNSPES Access' (Click the Nova Scotia Homework Hub icon), 'Available 24/7' (textbooks, videos, practice questions, vocabulary review), and 'Bilingual Tutors' (Tutors for Grade 7 - 12 Sunday through Thursday 5:30 - 9:30 p.m.). Both cards have a green footer with the phone number '1-888-444-6607', the Nova Scotia logo, 'Nova Scotia Homework HUB', 'APPL'auxiliaries Nouvelle-Ecosse', and the website 'gnspes.ca'.

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.