



LESLIE THOMAS JUNIOR HIGH

Home of the Lions

100 Metropolitan Ave, Lower Sackville, NS

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

Derek Ferguson (Principal)
dferguson@hrce.ca

Andrea Doucette (Vice Principal)
adoucette@hrce.ca

Janet Wells Balsom (Counsellor)
Janet.WellsBalsom@hrce.ca

February 2022

[Weather Network – Leslie Thomas Junior High](#)

Calendar of Events

February is Registration Month

February 1 – 6:30 in the school library. Parent Information session for Next Year's Grade 7 French Immersion

February 20 – Heritage Day (no classes)

February 23 – School Dance



Celebrate African Heritage Month

At LTJH, classes have been working on African History Projects. Perform Nova Scotia Artists will be in person providing African Dance Workshops with our students. During the daily announcements students will hear African Heritage Facts and African Proverbs.

February is African Heritage Month! This year's theme, *Seas of Struggle – African Peoples from Shore to Shore*, recognizes the resiliency, strength, and determination of people of African descent from the shores of Africa to the shores of Nova Scotia – with the Atlantic Ocean being the everlasting connection. Learn more [here](#).

Looking for ways to recognize and celebrate African Heritage Month?

- Attend events happening throughout the month at your local [Halifax Public Library](#).
- While you're at the library, [borrow books](#) that will inspire the whole family to learn more about African heritage.
- Visit local heritage sites, such as the [Black Cultural Centre](#), [the Africville Museum](#), and the [Black Loyalist Heritage Centre](#).

Ice Safety

At this time, it is not safe to be on frozen lakes or ponds, as there is noticeable thin ice and open water in many lakes across the region. Each year, the municipality provides weekly reports on ice thickness testing undertaken on more than 70 lakes throughout the region.

The [Canadian Red Cross](#) recommends that ice be at least 15 centimeters thick for individual skating, and at least 20 centimeters thick for group skating. Extreme caution is advised in areas where streams flow into and out of lakes. It is also important to note that ice conditions may vary over the entire surface of lakes and are subject to change with weather conditions.

The HRM ice testing program has not yet begun (<https://www.halifax.ca/parks-recreation/parks-trails-gardens/ice-thickness>).

Students of the Month

November 2022	
Grade 6	Landis Payne; Jarvis Hamilton
Grade 7	Victoria Hudson; Gracie MacIsaac
Grade 8	Cameron Wright; Riley Webb

December 2022	
Grade 6	Ethan Wood; Cadence Whynacht
Grade 7	Ella Boudreau; Isabella Young
Grade 8	Theseus Wozney; Meg Mercader

February is Registration Month

Effective February 1, 2023, we will be accepting registrations for the 2023-2024 school year through our new online portal, PowerSchool Enrollment.!

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!

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.

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

February 20 is Heritage Day

This year's Heritage Day honours Elder Rita (Bernard) Joe, a member of the We'koqma'q Mi'kmaq Community and published author, who was instrumental in paving the way for other Mi'kmaq authors. Her greatest wish was to see more writings come from her people and "that the children would read it." Learn more [here](#).

Reminder that there are no classes on Monday, February 20 in honour of Heritage Day.

Cannabis Caution for Families

Cannabis products can look like regular food such as baked goods, chocolate, or candy. As a result, children are potentially at risk of poisoning from unintentional cannabis consumption. In fact, in 2021, the IWK Poison Centre recorded an 83% increase in the number of cases regarding children eating cannabis edibles—a trend that continues to increase every year since legalization.

Here are some resources to help keep children safe:

- [IWK Child Safety Link tips](#)
- [Cannabis Talk Kit: How to talk with your teen](#)
- [Be in the Know: Talking with Youth about Cannabis](#)
- [Cannabis information for caregivers](#)
- [Alcohol, cannabis and other drugs: Know the facts](#)

HRCE website Feedback

What do you like about the HRCE website? What needs improvement?

We want to hear from you!

The Communications and Information Technology teams are currently planning a refresh and upgrade of the HRCE corporate website (www.hrce.ca).

To ensure the new site reflects what's important to families, community and staff, we are inviting your input! Your thoughts, ideas and feedback will help us develop a website that will better serve those who use it most.

Please take five minutes to share your perspective. This survey closes on Tuesday, February 7.

Click [here](#) to begin.

Winter is Coming: Guidelines for Inclement Weather

Making the decision to alter the regular operations of school and/or school buses due to inclement weather is never an easy task. To learn more about how the Halifax Regional Centre for Education (HRCE) makes this call, visit www.hrce.ca/weather.

When is the decision made?

HRCE's goal is to make the decision as close to 6 a.m. as possible.

A 6 a.m. announcement could be:

- All schools are delayed in opening by two hours and all bus pickups are delayed by two hours; or
- All schools are open, but some or all buses 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 the weather deteriorates through the school day, the HRCE can decide to dismiss early. In the event of an early dismissal, the decision will be communicated as close to 11 a.m. as possible.

An 11 a.m. dismissal means:

- Bused 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.

Please Note: students in Grades Primary to 6 will not be released from school until parents/guardians or designates have been notified by the school.

How will families be notified?

- Families will receive an email and text message (*opt-in is required: text Y to 978338*)*
- Check our website at www.hrce.ca
- Follow us on Twitter at [@HRCE_NS](https://twitter.com/HRCE_NS)
- Call the HRCE information line at 902-464-INFO (4636)
- All local radio stations are informed

[Click here](#) for a printable PDF of our guidelines.

**If you know someone who is NOT a parent/guardian who would like to receive an email and/or text message, let them know they can sign up here:*

www.hrce.ca/notifications

LTJH – Math Extra Help at Lunch

Our 7 & 8 Math teachers believe it is important to provide multiple opportunities a week to support our students with extra Math support. Students requiring or wanting extra help can attend any of the following lunchtime sessions regardless of who is their Math teacher.

Monday – Madame MacIlreith

Tuesday – Mr. Deveau

Wednesday – Madame MacIlreith

Thursday – Mr. Denny

Nova Scotia Homework Hub:

The [Nova Scotia Homework Hub](#) is now open for tutoring.

Grade 7-12 students will have access to tutoring every week, on school nights (Sunday to Thursday), from 5:30pm to 9:30pm.

Grade 4-6 students will have access to tutoring every Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday from 5:30pm to 6:30pm.

Homework Hub also provides students with video tutorials, practice exercises, vocabulary flash cards, digital math textbooks and an online graphing calculator.

Students and teachers are automatically enrolled in the NS Homework Hub. Tutors are Nova Scotia qualified mathematics teachers, and this is a free service.