



# LESLIE THOMAS JUNIOR HIGH

Home of the Lions

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

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## March 2024

### Halifax Library African Heritage Youth Quiz

The Leslie Thomas African Heritage Youth Quiz team competed in the HRM Quiz finals on Wednesday. The team of Mathias Aladejebi, Alex Aliga, Tony Aliga, Ava Clement, and Elliot Roop won every match on the way to capturing first place in all of Halifax. The 1<sup>st</sup> place match was a nailbiter as our team came from behind on the last question.

**Congratulations** to our team members and coach Colleen Parsons for our first-place finish. Not only was this LT's first win at the competition, but this was also our first year competing.

### School Counselor

LT Families, School Counselor Julie Zinck continues her recovery, and all our thoughts are with her. We thank the students who have expressed their concern and are missing Counselor Zinck. We would like to introduce and welcome retired School Counselor John Blakeney. Mr. Blakeney will be present three days a week until Mrs. Zinck's return. This is very welcome news and appreciate Mr. Blakeney joining the LT team.

### 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](mailto:dferguson@hrce.ca).

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

### Student Monitors

## Calendar of Events

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 5 – 7 PM

We are currently in the process of hiring Student Monitors and expect them to start sometime after March Break. These individuals will be present the whole day and will be supervising lunch hours, school property and school hallways.

## March Break

Reminder that schools will be closed for March Break – March 11 to 15.

**For elementary and junior high:** Please note that Monday, March 18 is an Assessment & Evaluation Day. Classes will resume on March 19.



## March is Nutrition Month

Did you know? March is Nutrition Month! This is a great time to explore and learn about food. An important part of this is food literacy, which includes having the knowledge and skills to grow, choose, prepare, and talk about food.

Some ways to engage your family during Nutrition Month:

- Get kids involved in meal planning. Ask them to help choose recipes, write out grocery lists and explore grocery store flyers.
- Make cooking a family event! Kids can participate in age-appropriate tasks, such as measuring ingredients or setting the table.
- Enjoy meals together when you are able. Mealtimes can be a great time to connect in conversation.
- Start planning for an indoor or outdoor garden. This is a great way to explore where our food comes from.

## 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!

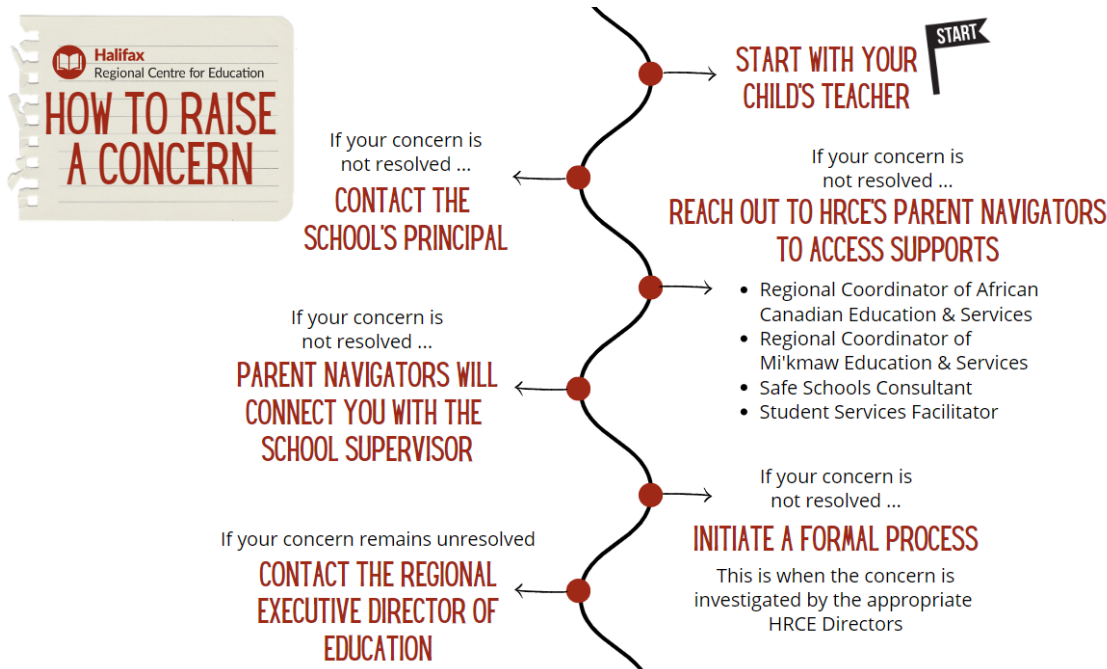


## Do you know how to raise a concern?

Did you know that there's a protocol in place to help families contact schools, or HRCE Central Office, when you have concerns about your student's education or well-being?

- All concerns should first be shared with your child's teacher.
- If your concern is not resolved, you should then contact the principal.
- If your concern remains unresolved, you can reach out to [HRCE's Parent Navigators](#) who can provide information about a wide range of supports and resources or connect you with the school supervisor.
- If your matter continues to be unresolved, you can then initiate a formal review process in which the matter will be investigated by the appropriate HRCE Directors.
- The final step is for your concern to be passed on to the Regional Executive Director.

Click here to view the [Parent/Guardian Concern Policy](#).



## 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](http://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/](https://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](http://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](http://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](http://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 APPL/aux/leçons Nouvelle-Écosse gnspe.ca

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