Dear Shatford Families

As we say goodbye to February, we welcome March with hopes of seeing signs of Spring. The temperatures are varying greatly. Please continue to have your children pack

**mittens, hats, snow pants, winter jacket and boots.** Labelling these items ensures that they get back to their owner.

The Provincial Announcement that restrictions around the management of COVID 19 will be lifted as of March 21st has raised many questions on what this means for the education system. Please know that we are waiting for all the details from the Provincial Government and the Department of Education. I understand that this decision causes different feelings for each family and their specific circumstances. Please know that when I receive information, I will share it as soon as possible. Good news to share is that the students do not have to stay in their classroom groups while playing outside. Together we are stronger!

The installation of our outdoor classroom has been delayed and hopefully we will hear soon when this project will begin.

We continue to have a few children stay after school to play independently. Please let the school know in writing if your child has permission to stay after school without supervision. These notes need to be emailed to me directly. Include info about when this should occur. This helps us ensure that all children are safe.

A special “Shout Out” to 4/5 Penny for organizing a Food Drive for our local foodbank. Thank you to all the families who were able to send in goods for this worthwhile cause.

Sarah

**Home and School**

Home and School had its meeting on Feb 28. It was decided that we couldn’t go ahead with the Auction Fundraiser this year. Before COVID 19, the Auction has proven to be the main fundraiser at our school. Even if the restrictions are lifted, the committee felt that there was not enough time to plan this event. However, depending on what schools are allowed to do after March 21st, we would like to plan a family event in June. We are all excited in the thoughts that our school family will once again be able to come together as a school community. More details to follow.

Home and School are happy to support a small fundraiser selling vegetable and flower seeds. Many of our families enjoy gardening. Today, your child(ren) will come home with a pamphlet for selling seeds. The seeds are coming from Ontario as our local VESEYs is not doing fundraisers this Spring. There is no pressure to buy or sell. However, we would like you to consider our options. The school receives half of the price of the seed packages as profit. Any raised money will go towards buying seeds for the school garden, new books for library and classrooms, and for 2022-2023 School Trips and Special Projects.

The seller would be responsible to get the seed orders to anyone that has ordered from your child. More details to follow. The seed order sheet will be due March 22nd. This will ensure that our seeds are delivered by the first week in April just in time to start your seeds inside.

**Registration for School**

Student registration for the 2022-23 school year continues. It is an online process only, as schools are limited to essential visitors currently. If you are applying or know someone applying for an “Out of Area” or “Out of District” please call our school to let us know that you are interested in registering at our school.

Here is the Registration Page.

<https://www.hrce.ca/registration>

Parents/Guardians will complete the registration form and email it to our school, along with appropriate documentation. Out of Area and Out of District applications must first apply at the school that your child would normally attend.

If families have questions or do not have access to the internet, please direct them to HRCE’s Parent Navigators listed below:

**Parent Navigators**

**Parent navigators are HRCE employees that can help answer parent’s questions and/or help guide parents in making decisions for their child’s education.**

* Missy Searl: lsearl@hrce.ca or 902-464-2000 x 4362
* Zachary Garcia: zachary.garcia@hrce.ca or 902-464-2000 x 4361

**EXCEL Partnership**

 Effective January 17, 2022, the EXCEL program is partnering with the Departments of Education and Early Childhood Development and Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage to provide the Nova Scotia After Program at Shatford Memorial.

The After School Program promotes health, well-being and a physically active lifestyle by focusing on physical literacy, movement and outdoor play. For more information about the NS Before and After School Program, please visit <https://www.ednet.ns.ca/bap>.

**Excel Registration for 2022-2023**

Registration for the 2022-23 EXCEL Program will start in late April for Parents/Guardians with children currently enrolled and in early May for New Parents/Guardians. Please note: Siblings of current EXCEL participants who will be starting school in September 2022 are eligible to enroll during the Early Registration Period. Registration will be completed online by accessing the EZChildTrack Parent Portal. If you have an existing account with EXCEL, access the Parent Portal by entering your email and password in the Returning Parents Sign In section. If you are new to the EXCEL Program, enter the Parent Portal using the “New Parents Open Account” section. Once finalized, specific details on the registration process and fees for 2022-23 will be posted on the HRCE website at

[**https://www.hrce.ca/excel\_registration**](https://www.hrce.ca/excel_registration)

**Rapid Test Kits: Updated Instructions**

**Each child received 2 Covid kits on Monday Feb 28.**

**Nova Scotia Health is now recommending both a throat and nose swab to provide a more accurate test result than with a nose swab alone**. Please disregard the instructions included in the box from the manufacturer and refer to the updated instructions below.

Student kits (**SD Biosensor**): [updated instructions](http://policy.nshealth.ca/Site_Published/covid19/document_render.aspx?documentRender.IdType=6&documentRender.GenericField=&documentRender.Id=93146)

**Please also see the New instructions on isolation when a family member has tested positive it changed on Feb 2/21.**

**See current updated information in the 2 attachments.**

**School Cash Online**

HRCE is launching a new payment system that allows families to pay for student fees, fundraisers and other school expenses/items electronically. Effective immediately, ***SchoolCash Online*** will be our preferred method of payment.

Parents can register for SchoolCash Online even if your school does not yet have items to sell.  When items get posted, parents that are registered will be sent an email notification from the system advising that there is now an item available for purchase.

The URL to the site is: <https://hrce.schoolcashonline.com/> Check it out!

Please register for future fundraisers as our seed fundraiser will be cash or cheque only.

**Online School Clothing**

As a service to the school community, we do have an online clothing store. This store has different options to purchase t-shirts, hats, hoodies and mask ect. with Shatford’s Logo on it. Check it out..

Great presents!

**https://www.maritimepromotions.ca/collections/shatford-elementary**