Shatford Newsletter- February 2023

Dear Shatford families,

Can you believe it is February! What a very strange winter. Sometimes, we are in full winter gear and other times running around in a sweatshirt. We appreciate that you continue to dress your child(ren) in all the winter gear. It is easier to take a layer of clothing off when too warm rather than being cold.

We had a great “Spirit Day” to celebrate our school community. The children are working so hard academically, socially, and emotionally. Feel free to reach out to your child’s teacher if you have any questions.

**Sarah**

Home and School

**Our parent teacher association is moving forward in planning and organizing a huge auction as a fundraiser event. This is how we finance many of the events that happen in the school such as field trips, special events and special art projects.Historically, this event has been a huge success. If you are interested in helping with the planning and organizing or even want to learn more, please come to the meeting on Feb 15 . this will be a virtual meeting. All are welcome! If you know a business or company that would consider donating , a hard copy of a letter will be sent out to all parents that they can use to collect donations. We are still waiting on a date to hold the auction.If you need more copies please contact Megan mgale @hrce.ca or Sarah at swile@hrce.ca.**

**It does “ take a village” to pull this type of fundraiser off. We appreciate any support you might be able to provide.**

**Living Values**

**We continue to learn about other cultures and their traditions and celebrations. Each month we learn about a living value. In February we will be learning about Loving and Caring.**

**African Heritage Month**

**Our school will be learning in each classroom about African Nova Scotians – History , culture and contributions to Nova Scotia. On Feb 16 we will have African dance presentations.**

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](https://ansa.novascotia.ca/african-heritage-month).

Looking for ways to recognize and celebrate African Heritage Month?

* Attend events happening throughout the month at your local [Halifax Public Library](https://halifax.bibliocommons.com/v2/events?_gl=1*1r6i7ji*_ga*MTk1MTcyOTYyMS4xNjY4MDEwMjU5*_ga_G99DMMNG39*MTY3MzU1NDg0OC4xMy4xLjE2NzM1NTQ4NzMuMC4wLjA.&_ga=2.146884983.150371655.1673543602-1951729621.1668010259&programs=5a04dbb744fbe2b302332d99&utm_source=Nav+Menu&utm_medium=All+Events&utm_campaign=African+Heritage+Month).
* While you’re at the library, [borrow books](https://www.halifaxpubliclibraries.ca/explore/?post-type=staff-list&programs=african-heritage-culture%2Cafrican-heritage-month&tag=staff-lists) that will inspire the whole family to learn more about African heritage.
* Visit local heritage sites, such as the [Black Cultural Centre](https://bccns.com/visit-us/), [the Africville Museum](https://africvillemuseum.org/), and the [Black Loyalist Heritage Centre.](https://blackloyalist.novascotia.ca/)

**Indoor Sneakers**

Since COVID we have asked children to travel with their indoor sneakers back and forth to school. It has allowed us to clean the school in an efficient way. However, we know that they take up a great deal of space in school bags. Some parents have shared that they like having the indoor sneakers home others do not. Starting Monday, if you want to leave your child’s sneakers at school just write a note to teacher or tell your child not to pack them. At this point in time, it is up to families to make the decision.

**February is Registration Month!**

**Please pass this information to anyone that has child(ren) that will be four years old before Dec 31th.**

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](https://www.hrce.ca/registration) 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.

**School Cancellation Info: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](http://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](http://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](https://www.hrce.ca/sites/default/files/hrsb/Departments/BoardServices/Communications/inclementweather_landscape_nov_22.pdf) 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*](http://www.hrce.ca/notifications)

**New year, new job? HRCE is hiring!**

Did you know that there are multiple teaching and non-teaching roles across HRCE - all of which are vital to our students' success? Looking for a new opportunity? Know someone who would be a great fit?

We’re currently in immediate need of substitutes to replace teachers, Pre-Primary staff, EPAs (Educational Program Assistants), custodians and administrative assistants. If you’re interested, please contact [careers@hrce.ca](mailto:careers@hrce.ca).

Visit myhrce.ca/jobs to view current job openings and sign up to apply today. Postings are updated every Wednesday at noon.

**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](https://heritageday.novascotia.ca/content/2023-honouree-rita-joe).

**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](https://childsafetylink.ca/sites/default/files/2022-06/Cannabis%20Food%20infographic.pdf)
* [Cannabis Talk Kit: How to talk with your teen](https://drive.google.com/file/d/11BKnnX5arU1eMkWoa54YKL0FnyrI1KqB/view)
* [Be in the Know: Talking with Youth about Cannabis](https://www.novascotia.ca/cannabis/children-youth/)
* [Cannabis information for caregivers](https://mentalhealthliteracy.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/FINAL-Cannabis-One-Pager-for-Caregivers.pdf)
* [Alcohol, cannabis and other drugs: Know the facts](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1z1yYFHbTY6hAa31Kt9BTmmHVb52bpLWJ/view)

**Weigh in on the HRCE website**

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](http://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](https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=lXjE3ZHjQUSeidBD16XaWHxG3rc7z1lJnXjPlVDfs1hUMTgwSDRBRDE0NThLRVhOQjVPSEY3NzNOUS4u&web=1&wdLOR=c8753CD93-AD38-4536-9C8D-6B2AA551E147) to begin.