



# February 2024 Newsletter



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**HOW TO REPORT AN ABSENCE:** If your child will be absent, please let us know by using one of the following methods:

- **Toll-Free Number**—Call 1-833-582-6940 to report an absence using an automated system.
- **PowerSchool Parent Portal** — Log into <https://sishrsb.ednet.ns.ca/public/> and access the SchoolMessenger website to report an absence.
- **SchoolMessenger App**—Download the SchoolMessenger app for Android and iOS devices and sign up using your PowerSchool username (full email address).

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Grade Primary Early French Immersion Info Astral Drive (6pm)	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 Happy Valentine's Day	15 Late French Immersion Info Astral Drive Jr. (6pm) Colby Valentine's Dance 6:00 7:30 pm	16	17
18	19 Heritage Day No Classes	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

## Guidelines for school and/or bus cancellations due to weather

It is HRCE's goal to communicate any changes to the regular operations of schools and/or school 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 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 weather deteriorates, or is forecasted to worsen throughout the morning, an

### 11:00 a.m. announcement could be:

- 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.



If there are any changes to our regular operations, we will communicate in the following ways:

- 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 [instagram.com/hrce\\_ns](https://instagram.com/hrce_ns)



How does Halifax Regional Centre for Education (HRCE) decide on school and/or bus cancellations?

- By 4:30 a.m., HRCE staff begin to gather information from:
  - A contracted weather service that provides radar and satellite imagery, real-time road conditions and weather warnings;
  - A meteorologist who provides forecast details, level and type of precipitation and impact on road conditions;
  - HRCE's transportation service providers, who provide updates on road conditions in their area;
  - Municipal and provincial transportation staff; and
  - Other local weather services, including Environment Canada and The Weather Network. By 5:30 a.m., HRCE staff make recommendations to the Regional Executive Director (or designate), who then makes the final decision. This decision is communicated as close to 6:00 a.m. as possible.

**Remember: Parents/guardians always have the right to keep their child home from school if they believe that the travelling conditions are unsuitable.**

## IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Many students are arriving late to school on a daily basis. We ask that students arrive to school on-time for the first bell at **8:25 am**. When students arrive late to class, it is not only disruptive to the late student, but also the rest of the class.

Parents/guardians are **not permitted** to park in the school parking lot.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation in these matters.

## FEBRUARY IS REGISTRATION MONTH

Effective February 1, 2024, we will be accepting registrations for the 2024-2025 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.

## VALENTINE'S CELEBRATIONS

Wednesday, February 14th Classroom teachers will reach out to families giving details on what will be happening in their class to celebrate Valentine's Day.



## STUDENTS GOING HOME FOR LUNCH

Just a reminder that if your child is going to be going home during lunch, they need permission from a parent/guardian. Please ensure you call, email or send in a note to the teacher and/or office giving permission for your child to leave school property. If this is a daily occurrence, one note or a phone call to the school stating they have permission to go home daily is fine. Students who do not have permission will not be permitted to leave school property.

## AFRICAN HERITAGE MONTH

This year's African Heritage Month provincial theme, **Our Smiles, Our Joy, Our Resilience as African Nova Scotians**, outlines the spirit of perseverance that people of African Descent have demonstrated over the centuries in our province. 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](#).

## NEWS FROM THE PTO

Well, we all managed to survive 500 days of January and now we can start to see the light! The PTO has some exciting stuff coming up to get you through the rest of Winter and looking forward to Spring.

First, keep warm with our upcoming Colby Gear fundraiser! We'll be selling hoodies, shirts and more with the Colby logo in both youth and adult sizes. Info on options and pricing coming soon!

Then comes dance up a storm at our Valentine's Day Dance on February 15th from 6 - 7:30 pm. Dress to impress and enjoy the music in the gym, along with a canteen, bake sale, candy shop, photo backdrop, and glitter tattoos! We're looking for volunteers to help run all these activities, so if you're available, please email Kaela at [kaela.goodman@gmail.com](mailto:kaela.goodman@gmail.com). Tickets will be sold online through School Cash, activities will take cash only onsite. Ticket info will be sent out this week!

If all else fails to get you through these cold Winter months, know that we will be selling Java Moose coffee again this year - you'll get your caffeine boost in March!!

Finally, let's all dream of brighter days by imagining ourselves at the Spring Fair on Saturday, May 25th from 11 am - 1 pm. Picture your kids jumping on the bouncy castle, playing games in the gym and getting their face painted. Maybe you'll win one of our amazing raffle prizes or theme baskets, or score big at the silent auction. Rain or shine, it'll be a great day, but an event this size takes a lot of coordination, so please join us at our next planning meeting on Tuesday, February 20th at 7 pm!

The PTO will be meeting again on February 8th at 7 pm. Hope to see you there, and until then, stay warm!!

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