

March 2024 Newsletter



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	2
3	4 JERSEY DAY	5 CRAZY HAT DAY	6 BEACH DAY	7 PAJAMA DAY	8 ST. PATRICK'S DAY	9
10	March Break					16
17	18 Assessment & Evaluation Day— No classes	19	20	21	22	23
24 31 Easter Sunday	25	26	27	28	29 Good Friday	30

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
- On X (formerly Twitter) at twitter.com/hrce_ns
- On Instagram at [instagram.com/hrce_ns](https://www.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.

PARKING LOT SAFETY

Please do not drive or park in parking lot to drop-off or pick up students at any time. This includes Excel before and after school. Our driveway and parking areas are for the use of busses and staff only. Please let any caregivers know (grandparents, aunt and uncles, etc) that they should not enter the parking lot.

We limit traffic as a way to promote safety for our students.



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.

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!



NEWS FROM THE PTO

Happy March!! The kids might get a break this month, but the PTO is still working hard to raise funds for the school, and having a blast planning for our biggest fundraiser of the year, the Spring Fair!!

The Valentine's Dance was so much fun - we hope all the kids enjoyed the music, activities and SO MANY TREATS. We raised about \$2,000 with this event, and all that money goes back into the school with technology updates, paying for school trips and fulfilling teacher requests. Thank you for your support!

Due to the snow day on February 14th, you should have a credit on Healthy Hunger if you ordered Pita Pit that day.

We're so excited to see all of you in your Colby gear over the coming months. We'll send home an email and update the Facebook page once we have a pick-up date set for these items.

Keep an eye out for information on our Java Moose coffee fundraiser coming later this month!

As a celebration of Spring and our community, we are once again looking forward to the transformation of our school into a Carnival of Fun! We're looking for donations for our Silent Auction (email Jessica at jessicarobinson.ns@gmail.com with any questions) and requests will be sent home for theme basket items closer to the event. We're always in need of volunteers to make the Spring Fair a success, so if you can help out in any way, please email Kaela at kaela.goodman@gmail.com. Our next meeting for the Spring Fair is on Thursday, April 4th at 7 pm.

The PTO will be meeting again on Thursday, March 7th at 7 pm. It's never too late to join, we hope to see you there!

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Kaela Goodman
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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.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation in these matters.