

January-February 2023

## South Woodside Elementary School

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### From Mrs. Haase MacLeod & Mrs. Greenwood

We have had a great month of learning in January. The weather has certainly varied a lot this month. We really appreciate your support in ensuring students are dressed for the weather. Family literacy day is Friday, January 27<sup>th</sup>. Students will be participating in reading activities with their cross age buddies.

Please continue communicating with classroom teachers to keep that connection strong. We appreciate your support!

## Upcoming Events

January 27 – Family Literacy Day

February 1 – Pre-Primary & Primary Registration begins

February 1 – SAC meeting 6pm

February 13-17 – Lockdown drill

February 16 – SAC meeting 6pm

February 20 – Heritage Day (No classes)

March 13-17 – March Break

March 20 – Assessment & Evaluation Day (no classes)

March 30 – AM PD Day/PM Parent teacher (no classes)

### 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](#).

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](#).

### Heritage Day – February 20<sup>th</sup>

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](#).

**Reminder that there are no classes on Monday, February 20 in honour of Heritage Day.**



### Pre-Primary and Primary Registration

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](#) 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.

## REMINDERS

- If your child is going to have changes to their dismissal routine, please let us know at the office.
- Please let the office know if there has been a change to your contact information so that we have the most up to date details.
- We are a peanut/tree nut free school!
- Thank you for respecting the bus parking spaces. This helps keep everyone safe!

# Family Literacy Day 2023

Family Literacy Day takes place every January 27<sup>th</sup> to raise awareness about the importance of reading and engaging in other literacy-related activities as a family.



## Building a love of reading with your child:

- ♥ Create a reading routine
- ♥ Get a library card
- ♥ Show an interest in what your child is reading
- ♥ Read e-books or listen to audio books
- ♥ Create a reading nook
- ♥ Read with friends - start a book club!
- ♥ Swap/trade books with friends
- ♥ Give books as gifts



Click on the links for more info!

## Tips for supporting your child with writing:

- ✎ Create a recipe together and write it down
- ✎ Have your child write down a grocery list
- ✎ Write a story or a song together
- ✎ Design a birthday or holiday card
- ✎ Write a letter to a friend or loved one

## Tips for supporting your child with reading:

- 📖 Read aloud to model fluent reading
- 📖 Talk about the story together. Ask questions like, "What do you think will happen next?"
- 📖 Find a favourite author and read their books
- 📖 Read signs or billboards while driving
- 📖 Read a variety of books - lots of choice!

## Tips for supporting your child with oral language development:

- 🗨️ Spend time doing everyday activities - actively talk, play and listen together.
- 🗨️ Play games!
- 🗨️ Share in everyday activities such as setting the table, preparing meals and grocery shopping.
- 🗨️ Ask open-ended questions about stories that will encourage conversation and connections to your child's life experiences.
- 🗨️ Talk about the messages and ideas that they are writing, drawing and creating.
- 🗨️ Talk about a book, favorite characters, or how the book could have ended differently.

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

Nova Scotia winter weather can change quickly and can be challenging to predict. This document outlines the steps we take when deciding whether to cancel school and/or bussing.

## A 6:00 am announcement could be:

All schools are delayed in opening by 2 hours and bus pickups are delayed by 2 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 forecast to worsen throughout the morning

## An 11:00 am announcement could be:

Bussed students will be picked up 2 hours earlier than their regular dismissal time

AND

Walking students will be dismissed at their regularly scheduled lunch hour

### Remember:

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

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

By 4:30 am, 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 three 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 am, HRCE staff make recommendations to the Regional Executive Director (or designate), who then makes the final decision.

This decision is communicated by 6:00 am.

Cancellation information can be found:

Website: [www.hrce.ca](http://www.hrce.ca)

Twitter: @HRCE\_NS

Phone: 902-464-INFO (4636)

Local media outlets

Subscribe to email/text notifications at [www.hrce.ca](http://www.hrce.ca)



**Halifax**  
Regional Centre for Education

Updated: November 2022

# PARENT TUTORING PROGRAM

THE HALIFAX HELPERS  
& SCHOOLSPLUS

## APPLICATION DETAILS:

The Halifax Helpers, SchoolsPlus and HRCE have put together a series of workshops to help caregivers of K-5 students learn the "new way of math" in order to support their children.

## CAREGIVER MATH TUTORING

### STEPS:

- ✓ Check out our availability and book your sessions via the QR code;
- ✓ Contact [yu.zheng@thehalifaxhelpers.com](mailto:yu.zheng@thehalifaxhelpers.com) if you have any questions.



**Schools  
Écoles Plus**  
NOVA SCOTIA / NOUVELLE-ÉCOSSE