

Welcome to the 2021-2022 School Year

Smokey Drive Elementary
School



Smokey Drive Elementary School

241 Smokey Drive, Lower Sackville, NS

Main Office: 902-864-6838

Safe Arrival: 902-864-6841

Website: <https://sde.hrce.ca/>

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Administrative Staff

Principal: Ms. C. Thompson

Vice Principal: Mrs. K. Longard

Administrative Assistant: Ms. L. MacNeil

Counsellor: Mr. B. Welcher



Introduction

We want to welcome all of our returning and new families to the 2021-2022 school year. This year will look a little bit like last year, and a little bit like times before. There were many changes to our school routines to keep our community safe from Covid-19 last year and some of those changes will be remaining, while others, as outlined in the Back To School Plan, will not. You can find the Back to School Plan here: <https://backtoschool.ednet.ns.ca/returning-to-class>

We are sending this message to our families to give you information about the return to school. You will be receiving more communications about school routines and other newsletter information in the coming weeks.

Healthy School

A healthy community is integral to a healthy school. Our communal health is our communal responsibility. Please ensure that students do not come to school when they are ill. Every student and staff must continue to do the Daily Covid-19 Checklist each day before attending school.

<https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/docs/Daily-COVID-checklist-en.pdf>

With a week left before students come back to school, we ask you to make sure that your child is able to wear a mask properly over their mouth and nose. For children who have not been wearing masks much this summer, practicing this to keep themselves and others safe is very important. We also ask that you remind your child about appropriate hand washing techniques.

Covid-19 and Health Protocols

Things that are staying (for the time being):

- Masks are to be worn by everyone in the building (PP-gr. 5, staff, visitors) unless seated 2 m apart or eating/drinking. Masks are not needed outside or in gym.
- Staying home if ill and doing the Covid-19 checklist (<https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/docs/Daily-COVID-checklist-en.pdf>) each day before coming to school
- Frequent hand washing/sanitizing
- Afternoon breaks (mask breaks) and/or outside learning.
- School entry: Students are welcome to arrive between 8:15 and 8:30 and will enter the school as soon as they arrive. Teachers will welcome and supervise their students in their classrooms until classes begin at 8:35.

Covid-19 and Health Protocols

Things that are changing this year:

- All students will have their lunch break from 11:35-12:30. Half the school will eat first, and the other half will go outside to play first.
- Students are allowed to play and interact with students in other classes.
- Students will be allowed to travel to music class and the library.
- Schools are allowed to have visitors who follow public health measures and public health screening information (Covid-19 Daily Checklist).

Employment Opportunity

Lunch Monitors are needed to support our students. This is a paid position from 11:30-12:30 daily. If you are interested, or know someone who is interested, please call the main office at 902-864-6838 or email our vice principal, Mrs. Longard, at KLongard@hrce.ca.

We are willing to consider part-time as well as full-time candidates.

School Visit - Thursday, September 2nd

Families new to our school, including students who started attending last year (i.e. pre-primary to grade 1 and new residents of our area), are invited to drop by the school on Thursday September 2nd between 3 pm and 4 pm to see the school and our classrooms. This is an opportunity we are extending to all families who, due to Covid 19 restrictions in place for the past year and a half, were unable to attend orientations or school events and have not been inside Smokey Drive Elementary. All teachers may not be available, but we will be able to give a tour of the school, see classrooms and meet the office staff.

Class Placements/Lists

The creation of class lists is always a collaborative task. Last spring, teachers, including classroom, specialist and resource, worked together to balance our classes. They take many factors into account when making up lists, including class caps, number of boys and girls in each class, strengths and needs of each student, healthy peer support, etc. Class changes are not possible.

Class lists will be not posted this year. Teachers will be in contact with the families of their students on Thursday or Friday, prior to the first day of school. This may be via email or phone call. If you check PowerSchool to see your child's teacher, please be aware that due to new registrations that are still being processed, there may be changes. You will be contacted by your child's teacher to confirm which class they are in.

SAC (School Advisory Council)

The SAC is a group of parents, staff and community members who act in an advisory capacity to the school principal and Regional Centre of Education on a range of issues related to the school and the school system. School Advisory Councils play an important role in supporting student success at the school community level.

We will be filling 2 parent representative positions on the SAC. If you are interested, please email Ms. Thompson at cthompson@hrce.ca. If more than 2 parents express interest, we will hold an election at Curriculum Night on Sept. 23rd.

School Hours

8:15-- the earliest that students can come to school. There is no supervision prior to 8:15 am. Students should endeavor to arrive between 8:15 and 8:30 to be ready to learn when classes begin at 8:35.

8:35--classes begin

10:05--recess for grades 3-5

10:35--recess for grades P-3

11:35-12:30--lunch-all grades

2:30--dismissal-all grades

First Day of School

On the first day of school, we invite students to arrive between 8:15 and 8:30 and for them to come directly into the school. Students in grades 1-5 will enter by the main entrance, and students in Pre-Primary and Primary will enter by the basketball courts. Students will be dismissed by the same doors. Staff will be at the entrances to help students find their classrooms where their teachers will be waiting for them.

Remember to send a full water bottle, and dress for the weather as we will be spending time outdoors.

Safe Arrival

We do attendance each day to make sure that students have safely arrived at school. Phone calls are made to parents/guardians if students are absent and we have not received notification of the absence. It is very important that you call or email our safe arrival program before 8:35 if your child is going to be absent. We have a dedicated voicemail so messages can be left at any time.

Phone: 902-864-6841

Email: sdeSafeArrival@gnspe.ca

Up-Coming Dates

Sept. 2--School visit for new students/families (3-4 pm)

Sept. 6--Labour Day--no school for students/staff

Sept. 7--First day of school

Sept. 9--Stand Up to Bullying Day

Sept. 22--Picture Day

Sept. 23--Curriculum Night and 1st PTA meeting

Sept 24--PD Day--no school for students

Sept. 29--SAC Meeting