

February 2024

Smokey Drive Newsletter

Smokey Drive Elementary School

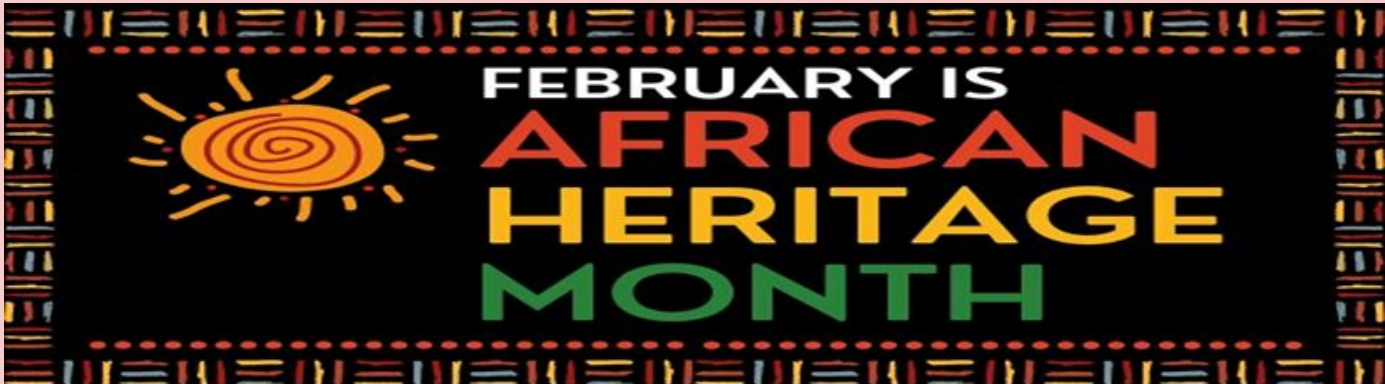
School Phone: 902-864-6838

Principal Mrs. J. Miller

School Website: <https://sde.hrce.ca> Vice Principal Ms. E. Quigley

Safe Arrival: 1-833-582-6940

Admin Assistance Ms. L. MacNeil



Principal's Message

Happy February! It is hard to believe that this month marks the halfway point in our school year. In February we celebrate African Heritage Month! We look forward to honouring the culture, legacy, achievements, and contributions of people of African descent – past and present. Our students will engage in learning that highlights art, experience, dance, and literature.

The recent snow has brought lots of fun and exploration outside. More to come given our winter weather.

Important Dates:

Feb 1-29- Registration Month

Feb 8- PTA Family Dance

Feb 12-16 - Lock down drill

Feb 19 Heritage Day- William Hall Honoree 2024

Feb 21- SAC/PTA meetings 6pm/7pm

March 11-15 March Break

March 18- Assessment & Evaluation Day- No school for students

REMINDER

There will be no classes on Monday, February 19 for Heritage Day honouring William Hall.



Lockdown Drill

During the week of February 12-16th we will conduct our second and final lockdown drill of the year. During a lockdown drill, classroom doors are secured, and the students remain inside the room until instructed by the teacher to resume their activities. All exterior doors are locked, and no one is permitted to enter or leave the building. When possible, our School Liaison Officer may assist us in conducting the lockdown drills just as the Fire Department assists with evacuation drills. Please take the time to speak with your child about this procedure and reinforce its importance. We practice these drills to ensure our school remains a safe place for teaching and learning.

Registration 2024-25

Effective February 1st, HRCE will be accepting registrations for the 2024-25 school year for students **new** to HRCE, through our online portal, PowerSchool Enrollment.

Registration is only required if you are **new** to Halifax Regional Centre for Education or your child is beginning school in ***Pre-Primary or Primary***. **Current Pre-Primary** students are **not** required to re-register for Primary.

PTA News

Our next family event, a Valentines Family Dance. Will take place on Thursday, Feb 8 @ 6:30pm. We hope to see many families.

If you are able to volunteer please sign up [Here.](#)

Our next PTA meeting is Feb 21 @ 7:00pm for our next meeting. All are welcome.



SMOKEY DRIVE ELEMENTARY PTA

Valentine's DANCE

FEB 8TH 6:30-7:30

Doors open at 6:15

Pay what you can at the door

Volunteers appreciated

Head Lice

Please ensure that you are checking your child's head frequently for lice. If you find any live lice, or nits, students can return to school once they have been treated.

Valentine's Day

Classroom teachers will communicate how they will be celebrating Valentine's Day in their rooms.

SAC- School Advisory Council- We are currently recruiting new members to our SAC. We are in need of a parent and community member. If you are interested please reach out to Mrs. Miller @ jean.miller@hrce.ca. SACs play an important role in supporting student success at the school community level. Our next SAC meeting will be **Feb 21 at 6:00 pm**. All parents/guardians are welcome to attend.

Extra Clothing

Please ensure all students have extra clothing in their backpacks. With the wet weather now here, students often require their clothes to be changed throughout the day. An extra set of clothing will prevent us from needing to contact families when changing is needed. If you are interested in donating any outgrown snow pants or splash pants we would gladly take them.

February is Registration Month!

If your child was born between January 1 and December 31, 2020, they are eligible to begin school in September 2024!

Visit [HRCE.ca](https://hrce.ca) to register!



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February is Registration Month!

Do you have a child who will be starting pre-primary or primary this fall? It's time to register! Registration for the 2024-25 school year begins on February 1.

To ensure we have the right staff and supports in place for September, it's important that we gather enrollment numbers now.

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 enroll your child today through PowerSchool Enrollment! 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

Link to registration [here](#)

Lunar New Year!

We extend Happy Lunar New Year greetings to our families who celebrate! Lunar New Year is typically celebrated for 16 days starting on the eve of the celebration- this year falling on February 10, 2024. This year, we usher in the Year of the Dragon, which is said to bring ambition, energy, and charisma to the new year.



Celebrate African Heritage Month! The theme for African Heritage Month 2024 is "Our Smiles, Our Joy, Our Resilience as African Nova Scotians." This month-long celebration is dedicated to recognizing and honoring the history and culture of people of African descent. The theme coincides with the final year of the United Nations' International Decade for People of African Descent (DPAD) 2015-2024, which aims to promote global cooperation in support of people of African descent, raise awareness, and acknowledge their full and equal participation in all aspects of society. Nova Scotia is home to more than 50 historic African Nova Scotian communities with a rich, deep, and complex history that spans more than 400 years. African Heritage Month is an excellent opportunity to celebrate and showcase the culture, accomplishments, and contributions of African Nova Scotians, both past and present.



Red Means Stop! School Bus Safety Reminder

HRCE has recorded 691 school bus stop-arm violations in Halifax Regional Municipality since the beginning of the school year. This means that motorists have failed to stop for a bus when its red lights were flashing and the stop sign was extended. This poses a serious risk to children and families who may be crossing the road to enter or exit the bus. Drivers may also face a fine and demerit points if caught by police. Help us spread the word to remind drivers (including cyclists) that it is illegal to drive past a school bus when they see its red lights flashing and stop-arm extended. Drivers must slow down and prepare to stop in all directions when they see flashing lights – either amber or red in colour – on a school bus. This means the bus is planning to stop or may have already.

Here are some safety tips from Safety Services Nova Scotia to keep in mind when waiting for or exiting the bus:

- Stand back from the edge of the road.
- Line up in single file when you see the bus coming.
- Wait for the bus to come to a complete stop.
- Walk, never run.
- Make sure the bus driver sees you if you are crossing the road. Take 10 giant steps in front of the bus before crossing.
- Wait for the bus driver to signal that it is okay to cross.
- Always look both ways before crossing the road and listen for traffic.
- Never cross the road from behind the bus.



SAFETY REMINDER!

When a school bus is stopped, with its lights flashing, drivers must stop and not proceed past the bus.




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Raise a Reader

Family Literacy Week provided us with an ideal opportunity to communicate with you, our students' families, about the importance of at-home reading and engaging with children in literacy-related activities.

To support you in your at-home- reading journey, we are sharing a simple infographic with tips for families, as well as links to useful resources for caregivers.

 Halifax
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At-home reading tips for caregivers

-  **Look at your child's books** with them. Discuss the pictures and build vocabulary by talking about new words.
-  **Talk with your child about their books.** Ask questions about the story and encourage your child to ask their own questions.
-  **Make reading aloud a regular part of your routine** – just 15 minutes each day can make a big difference in raising a reader.
-  **Discuss examples that help them relate** to what they're reading. Connect the story to your child's world.
-  **Connect with your child's teacher** for more suggestions on how to support reading at home.

Scan to learn more

Reminders

- There should be no dogs on the school grounds between 8am-6pm.
- Please use the entrance on Smokey Dr when arriving each day. We do not want people walking up the driveway, or between parked cars .
- Please watch for signs indicating areas that parking is permitted around the school grounds.
- SDE is a peanut and nut free, and scent aware site. Please do not send nut or peanut products to school.
- Supervision of students does not begin until **8:15**, so they should not arrive until that time.
- Please label clothing items, water bottles, etc.
- Please send water bottles and cutlery each day with your child.
- Keeping a change of clothes in backpacks is a great idea that prevents us from calling home when a change is necessary.
- Student cell phones or other devices used to message should not be used during the school day.
- If you child is absent from school please call the Safe Arrival Line at **1-833-582-6940**