

March 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 March! We celebrated African Heritage Month in February by honouring the culture, legacy, achievements, and contributions of people of African descent, and it was wonderful to see our students so engaged in their learning! Students had the opportunity to showcase this learning at an assembly last week. We welcomed two wonderful cultural performances. Master Drummer Amadou Kienou and Djeli Sira Band returned to Smokey Drive for the second year in a row. They treated us to music, dance, stories, and a little travel to Africa. We were also very fortunate to welcome Morgan Toney and Keith Mullins. They shared their created music genre Mi'kmaltic (Mi'kmaq + Celtic),

I wish all our families a safe and restful March Break.

Important Dates:

March 11-15 March Break

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

March 29 - Good Friday -No School

April 1 - Easter Monday - No School

April 2 - Report Cards sent home

April 3 - Family/Parent Teacher conferences 4-6pm

April 4 - PD Day am/Family/Parent Teacher 1-3pm - No School for students

Staff Announcements

We want to thank Ms. Quigley for her time with us at Smokey Drive. Her last day will be Friday, March 8th. It has been a pleasure having her positive contributions to our school this year. We wish Ms. Quigley the best as she once again enters the world of retirement.

We are excited to welcome Ms. Carolyn LeBlanc as our Vice Principal starting March 18. She will also be teaching 50% in grade primary with Mrs. Waddell. We know Ms. LeBlanc will love the Smokey Drive community.

Report Cards and Family/Parent Teacher

Report cards will be emailed home April 2-3. You will receive an email with a link to the report card. For added security, you must use a password to access the report through the link. The password is your child's birthday in the format of YYYY-MM-DD. **The dashes are part of the password.** Some email servers have detected messages as spam, so please check your junk mail. If you would prefer a hard copy of the student's report card, please let Mrs. Miller know by March 28th.

Our Family/Parent Teacher Conferences will be on April 3rd from 4-6pm and April 4th from 1-3pm. Teachers will be in contact to schedule times.

PTA News

We have started plans for our SPRINGO BINGO, scheduled for April 18th at 6:30pm. More information will be sent home after March Break in ways you can get involved to make this another great family event.

Our next PTA meeting is May 8th @ 7:00pm for our next meeting. All are welcome.



SAC- School Advisory Council- We are currently recruiting new members to our SAC. We are in need of a 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 **May 8 at 6:00 pm**. All parents/guardians are welcome to attend.

Lost & Found

We continue to have a large collection of unclaimed items in our Lost and Found. All items will be donated on March 8. If you are looking for any items please drop by and look prior to the 8th. We are hopeful the winter items will no longer be needed when we return to school after March Break.



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!



International Student Host Families Wanted

Would you consider opening your home to an international student?

Each year, HRCE's International Services welcomes students from all over the world who would like to attend schools in our region. We're looking for warm and caring families like yours to provide them with a home away from home.

Hosting an international student is a once-in-a-lifetime experience that gives your family the opportunity to bring the world home. For students, it's a way to learn about the Canadian way of life.

As a host, your family would be matched with a student who will attend your neighbourhood school and participate in your daily routines. The next groups of students will arrive in February 2024 and we're already preparing for their arrival!

Interested in learning more?

Click here:

<https://www.hrce.ca/students/general-information/international-students/become-host-family-help-international-student>

or

Contact: HRCE International Services (902) 464-2000 ext. 2548 hostastudent@hrce.ca

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**