

May 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. C. LeBlanc

Safe Arrival: 1-833-582-6940

Admin Assistance Ms. L. MacNeil



Principal's Message

Welcome to May! We have two months of school left and lots of fun and learning in those two months. We hope that you are as proud of our students as they are of themselves.

This week we will be celebrating our wonderful staff during Staff Appreciation Week. We are incredibly fortunate to have such dedicated, committed, hard working staff who ensure our students receive engaging learning opportunities each day

Important Dates:

May 8- SAC/PTA meetings 6pm and 7pm

May 13-17 - Fire drill

May 15 - Black Excellence Day

May 15, 16, 22, 23- Gr 3 Provincial Assesements

May 20 - Victoria Day - No School

May 23 - Grade 5 Parent Meeting at Leslie Thomas 6pm

May 30 - New Primary Parent Meeting 3pm

Planning for September 2024

It is the time of year when staffing is updated and we plan for next year. If you know your child will not be returning to Smokey Drive, for Sept 2024, due to a move please notify us asap.

We will begin the process of configuring classrooms for next year while acknowledging there may be changes due to the fluctuation of enrolment numbers. The process of creating classes is a well thought out process with many staff members involved who work with the grade level. Our goal is to create balanced classes with consideration to academic achievement, gender, friendships and required supports. We ask that you please trust our professional judgement that we will make the best decisions for your child's placement based on their needs, learning profile and friendships. If there is anything that you feel we need to know regarding placements please inform your child's teacher and Mrs. Miller. We cannot accept requests for specific teachers. Thank you for your understanding.

Grade 3 Provincial Assessments

Students in grade 3 will participate in the Nova Scotia Provincial Assessment in Literacy and Mathematics this month. It is important that students are **present** on the mornings the assessment is being administered, and that they arrive **on time** so they are ready to start with the class. This will help set them up for success!

The assessment will be administered on the mornings of:

→ May 15 and 16- Literacy

→ May 22 and 22 - Mathematics

Student Attendance

Regular school attendance plays a key role in setting students up for success. We understand that sometimes special circumstances arise and we work collaboratively with our families to navigate these challenges. Please let us know if there is anything we can do to support regular, consistent attendance for your child.



PTA News


Our next PTA meeting is **May 8th @ 7:00pm** for our next meeting. All are welcome. We will plan our family event scheduled for early June.



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.

New Primary Parent Meeting/Grade 5 Transition to Leslie Thomas

We will be holding a parent meeting for all parents/guardians of the incoming primary students on May 30th at 3:30pm. Leslie Thomas will be hosting a meeting for grade 5 parents on May 23 @ 6pm.



Recreation-based, fee-for-service before
and after school program run by HRCE

2024-25 EXCEL Registration

Registration for returning EXCEL participants begins April 29.
Registration for new EXCEL participants begins May 13.

 **Halifax**
Regional Centre for Education

2024-25 EXCEL registration

The EXCEL program is a recreation-based, fee-for-service before and after school program run by the Halifax Regional Centre for Education, offering before and after school care for elementary-aged children.

At each school site, the dedicated and qualified staffing teams plan weekly games and activities that suit the needs and interests of the registered students. These individual plans are framed around EXCEL's overall philosophy which is focused on physical activity and positive social interaction in a safe and fun environment.

Registration for returning children began April 29 and registration for new EXCEL participants will begin on May 13. [Click here](#) for more information.

Asian Heritage Month

Asian Heritage Month is an opportunity for us to learn more about the diverse culture and history of Asian communities in Canada, as well as to acknowledge the many achievements and contributions of people of Asia.

The theme for Asian Heritage Month 2024 is “*Preserving the Past, Embracing the Future: Amplifying Asian Canadian Legacy*”. The theme celebrates the rich heritage and contributions of people of Asian origin in Canada while also looking forward to the future- with optimism and hopefulness.

Gaelic Nova Scotia Month

May is Mìos nanGàidheal/Gaelic Nova Scotia Month which is a time to celebrate and create awareness of the history, culture, language, contributions, and achievements of Gaels across the province.



Black Excellence Day

Wednesday May 15th is Black Excellence Day, which highlights the brilliance, achievements, and talents of students of African descent. The inaugural celebration was held on June 17, 2022, in schools across the province. Celebrating Black Excellence in schools provides an opportunity for us to acknowledge and recognize the past and present achievements, stories, art, and innovations of people of African descent.





Finish the year off strong with Homework Hub!



GNSPES Access

Easy access to online resources and tutoring through your GNSPES account (gnspes.ca) by clicking on the Nova Scotia Homework Hub icon.



24/7 Access

Anytime access to video tutorials, practice questions and vocabulary review.



Bilingual Tutors

Tutors available for students in:

- Grade 7-12 on school nights 5:30 to 9:30 p.m.
- Grade 4-6 Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Find the Homework Hub at gnspes.ca or call 1-888-444-6607



Halifax
Regional Centre for Education



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**