



January 2025

Ross Road School

Happy New Year! Welcome to 2025, the season of new beginnings. Thank you to everyone for your cards, treats, gifts and greetings that were delivered to the school for staff prior to Christmas. Thank you to the Home and School for all their support in organizing the Santa Shop and decorating for the Holiday Concert. Thank you to all who supported our collection for Feed NS and our Music Program. Your generosity is another example of how caring our community is and how everyone contributes to making a positive environment at Ross Road School.

JR. HIGH LEADERSHIP

Our Jr. High Leadership team will be collecting, cleaning, and bagging our schools' recyclables. Students and staff are reminded to please throw recyclable cans and bottles into the correct bins to make the collection cleaner and faster. Families are also invited to bring their recyclables to Bluenose Bottle Exchange to donate to the "Ross Road Leadership Club" account. All funds raised will go toward the Gr. 9 end of year event. More information to come soon.

IMPORTANT WEATHER REMINDERS

Did you know? HRCE takes great care when making the decision to alter the regular operations of schools and school busses in the event of severe or inclement weather.

It is HRCE's goal to communicate any changes to the regular operations of schools and/or buses as close to 6:00 a.m. as possible. **A 6:00 a.m. announcement could be:**

- All schools are delayed in opening by two hours and bus pickups are delayed by two 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 forecasted to worsen throughout the morning, **an 11:00 a.m. announcement could be:**

- Bused students will be picked up two hours earlier than their regular dismissal time; and

- Non-bused students will be dismissed at their regularly scheduled lunch hour.

How will I find out?

- By email to the addresses in PowerSchool
- By text message, **if you have opted-in**. If you aren't sure if you have opted-in, text Y to the following number: **978338**
- On [our website](#)
- On [X \(formerly Twitter\)](#)
- On [Instagram](#)

It's important to always have a plan in place for childcare in the event of any cancellation.

For more information on how HRCE manages during inclement weather, visit www.hrce.ca/families/cancellations.

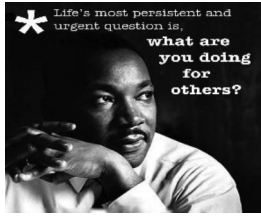
WINTER WEATHER

The cold weather has arrived! Please make sure that your child is dressed for cold weather – warm hats, mitts and boots make recess and lunch much more enjoyable. Having our younger children practice getting their winter gear on at home, on their own, is very helpful when they need to get ready with all their friends here at school. **Please ensure your child's mittens, hats, footwear and jackets are labelled with their name or initials. Please put extra pants, socks, hats and mittens in your child's backpack for wet days!** Please contact the office if you need winter wear as we may be able to help.

NATIONAL RIBBON SKIRT DAY

January 4 is newly celebrated as National Ribbon Skirt Day in Canada. The movement to recognize the importance of ribbon skirts to many Indigenous communities arose out of the experience of Cote First Nation youth Isabella Kulak, who was belittled by school staff in January 2021 for wearing a ribbon skirt to Kamsack Comprehensive Institute in Kamsack, Saskatchewan.

The community mobilized immediately to support Isabella, and it grew into a national movement to build pride in traditional Indigenous dress and resist ongoing assimilation in schools. January 4 became a nationally recognized date after Senator Mary Jane McCallum's bill became law in December 2023.



JANUARY 20 IS MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY

We will use his message of peace and equality for all as a springboard to a number of activities and learning opportunities where we will educate our students on how to **live together as caring, compassionate members of our school community.**

INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

International Holocaust Remembrance Day, observed on January 27, serves as a crucial reminder of the Holocaust. Through survivor stories, students learn empathy, compassion, and the importance of standing against antisemitism and prejudice. By observing this day, we ensure future generations uphold human rights and dignity, fostering a culture of respect and inclusion.

FAMILY LITERACY DAY

Did you know? January 27 is Family Literacy Day! This special day is meant to raise awareness about the importance of reading and engaging in other literacy-related activities as a family. This year's theme is "Learn to be Green, Together!" Make a pledge as a family to learn ways to be greener. Use less electricity, commute together, and reuse items. Being green together is a fun way to learn as a family while being kind to the environment.

READING WITH YOUR CHILD

There is no more important activity for preparing your child to succeed as a reader than reading aloud together. Fill your story times with a variety of books. Be consistent, be patient, and watch the magic work. "It's no secret that activities at home are an important supplement to the classroom, but there's more to it than that. There are things that parents can give children at home that the classrooms cannot give." Click on the following link for some great at home reading ideas!

<https://www.readingrockets.org/article/reading-your-child>

LUNAR NEW YEAR

Lunar New Year, also known as Chinese New Year or Spring Festival, will be celebrated on January 29. It marks the beginning of the Year of the Snake, an animal sign that symbolizes wisdom, intuition, and renewal. It's a time for families to come together, honor their ancestors, and welcome the new year with hopes of prosperity and happiness.

VIDEO SURVEILLANCE

Our school uses a video surveillance system as part of our continued efforts to support a safe, positive and effective learning environment. We recognize that the images recorded by this video

surveillance system are personal information and, as with all other personal information, we take steps to balance privacy rights with safety and security concerns. The school has the legal authority to collect this personal information under Section 24 of Nova Scotia's *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

Only designated staff has access to our video surveillance equipment and such access is restricted as required by law. The system is used to enhance school safety and to deter or take action in response to unlawful behaviors. If you have any questions about video surveillance at our school, please contact the school at 902-462-8340.

SCHOOL REGISTRATION 2024-25

All new Pre-Primary and Primary students must be registered during the upcoming registration period from **February 1 – 28**, so our school will receive adequate funding, which affect items such as book purchases and staffing. If your child will be **4 years of age by December 31, 2025**, and **starting Pre-Primary in September**, please register during this time. If your child will be **5 years of age by December 31, 2025**, and **starting Primary in September**, please register during this time. You must complete a **registration form** and have your child's **birth certificate/passport**; a **phone/power bill**, as **proof of address**. Registration forms can be found on the HRCE website as of February 1st. It must be completed and emailed with the required documents to our school secretary Natasha James at natasha.james@hrce.ca by February 28th. If you are unable to access the forms by computer, please contact us at the school. If you have a friend or neighbour with a child starting Pre-Primary or Primary, please pass this information along.

January Important Dates

- **January 2:** Teacher Directed Day – First day of 2025 for staff
- **January 3:** First day of 2025 for students
- **January 4:** National Ribbon Skirt Day
- **January 6:** Home and School meeting 6:30 pm in school library
- **January 7:** School Advisory Council meeting 6:30 pm in school library
- **January 10:** Jr. High Leadership “Hot Dog Day”
- **January 27:** International Holocaust Remembrance Day
- **January 27:** Family Literacy Day
- **January 29:** Lunar New Year

