



February 2024

Ross Road School

February Important Dates

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| Feb. 1 | School Registration begins for 2024-25
Kick off to African Heritage Month at RRS |
| Feb. 5 | Home and School Meeting 6:30 in school library |
| Feb. 7 | Global Day of Play |
| Feb.13 | School Advisory Council Meeting 6:30 |
| Feb. 15 | Jr. High and Grade 6 Dance (Valentine's Day Theme Fundraiser) 6:30 – 8:00 |
| Feb. 16 | 100th Day of School (P-2 celebration) |
| Feb. 19 | Heritage Day, no classes 2024 Honouree: William Hall |

AFRICAN HERITAGE MONTH

During the month of February, Canadians recognize African Heritage Month as an opportunity to acknowledge, value and learn about the contribution people of African heritage have made to communities and workplaces. When we use a wrench, fire extinguisher, furnace or elevator, or when we see a helicopter, or multi-stage rocket or stair climbing wheelchair – consider the inventor was a member of African descent. In addition, African-Canadians continue to contribute to everyone's life in areas like education, medicine, art, culture, public service, economic development and human rights.

This year's theme is "Our Smiles, Our Joy, Our Resilience as African Nova Scotians" encapsulates the enduring spirit and resilience demonstrated by people of African descent throughout the centuries in our province. Learn more [here](#).

Below is a link to Halifax Public Libraries African Heritage Month portal, with several webpages to explore! Click the links at the top of the page (EVENTS, COMMUNITY, GALLERY, TIMELINES, RESOURCES, LINKS) and help shine a light on African Heritage in your homes and in your classrooms:

<https://ahm.halifaxpubliclibraries.ca> . Looking for ways to recognize and celebrate African Heritage Month?

- Attend events happening throughout the month at your local [Halifax Public Library](#).
- While you're at the library, [borrow books](#) that will inspire the whole family to learn more about African heritage.
- Visit local heritage sites, such as the [Black Cultural Centre](#), [the Africville Museum](#), and the [Black Loyalist Heritage Centre](#).

Saturday, February 10, 2024 LUNAR NEW YEAR: YEAR OF THE DRAGON

What is it? Every year, millions of people celebrate the Lunar New Year in different parts of the world, including right here in Canada. Although it's commonly referred to as the Chinese New Year, it's actually the new year for anyone who follows the lunar calendar — as opposed to the Gregorian calendar, which we follow in North America. Many Asian countries and cultures other than China follow the lunar calendar, such as Vietnam, Cambodia and Indonesia. The official holiday is celebrated on a different day every year. In Chinese culture, the festival is celebrated for 15 days. Much like New Year's Eve on December 31, Chinese people count down to the next year, have fireworks and celebrate with family.(CBC Kids)



JR. HIGH STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Students in grades 7, 8 and 9 form our Jr. High Student Leadership Team have been busy showing their leadership by lending a helping hand in the library, cafeteria, reading with younger students, preparing and serving sandwiches at Jr. High lunch and providing feedback to student reps for School Advisory Council. This year students from a Grade 9 class proposed an idea for a special end of year event to celebrate the completion of their Jr. High years. The student leaders surveyed all grade 9 students and the most popular idea for an end of year Gr. 9 event: Halifax Harbour Boat Cruise. (more information to be shared with grade 9 families). Student leaders have been busy planning and supporting fundraisers such as: School recycling, Candy grams, Jr. High Dance. Thank you for all your work!

Thank you also to Home and School and parent volunteers, Ms. Ashley, Ms. Carter and now Mr. Foster for their support in getting us up and running. Students have Voice and Choice!

JR. HIGH/GRADE 6 DANCE

The Jr. High Student Leadership committee invites all Jr. High students and Gr. 6 students to a Valentine's Day themed dance. The dance will be Thursday, February 15 from 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm. Parents are not required to attend. Supervision will be provided. This dance is a fundraiser to support the Gr. 9 End of Year Boat Cruise. The cost to enter is: \$2 per student. The entrance to the dance will be the doors at the far end of the building, known as the EXCEL doors. Doors will open at 6:30 pm. There will be a canteen and a photo booth. All items will be priced at \$1.

GLOBAL DAY OF PLAY

On February 7, P-6 students will participate in its second Global School Play Day. We will join in with approximately 1 million students from over 75 nations in the world for a day of unstructured play. With technology becoming more and more prevalent with each passing year children are spending less time playing. Students and teachers alike enjoyed the day learning in a different way and are already looking forward to planning for next years' Global Day of Play.

DRESSING FOR THE 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 of 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 are in need of winter wear as we may be able to help.

PARENT VOLUNTEERS

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact the school. A current (within 3 months) criminal record check and Child Abuse Registry Check are required before volunteering.

HOME AND SCHOOL

Home & School of Ross Road will once again be hosting their Gift Card Family Bingo night on May 2nd!! In order to make this just as successful as last year we need your help. We are looking for donations of gift cards in any denomination for prizes! They can be from anywhere, with the exception of NSLC. Please send in any donations to your child's teacher. Thank you for your support!

AT HOME READING TIPS

Literacy Week was last week at RRS. This provides us with an ideal opportunity to communicate with families and reinforce the importance of at-home reading and engaging with children in literacy-related activities.

Thank you for everything you do to support your children to become readers!

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.



HERITAGE DAY

Observing Nova Scotia Heritage Day on the third Monday of February is an annual occasion to reflect on our province's rich history. It's a chance to recognize the remarkable people, places, and events that have shaped our unique heritage.

Please take time to learn about William Hall, the 2024 honoree, [here](#).

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 enrolment 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 enrol 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 fall. Visit the [HRCE website](#) for more information and to enrol your child today!

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.

SCHOOL WEBSITES: WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK

Now that HRCE's main [website](#) has been upgraded, we're ready to update our school websites to meet accessibility standards and to improve navigation.

As we begin this work, we're looking for your input.

Please take a few minutes to share your thoughts. We appreciate your time and effort!

To get started, [click here](#).