



# FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS



## Fairview Heights Elementary / February 2026 Newsletter

### Our Vision Statement:

Fairview Heights is a welcoming and safe school where learning happens because everyone belongs, and our many cultures and languages are celebrated.

### February is African Heritage Month

African Heritage Month in Nova Scotia is a time to recognize and celebrate the rich history, vibrant culture, and lasting contributions of people of African descent in our province. This year's theme, **"Strength in Unity – Moving Forward with Purpose, Prosperity, Power and Progress,"** reminds us of the importance of coming together as a community, learning from one another, and moving forward with shared purpose.



In our schools, African Heritage Month provides meaningful opportunities for students to explore African Nova Scotian histories and experiences, deepen their understanding of our shared past, and reflect on the values of respect, inclusion, and belonging. Through classroom learning, discussions, and activities connected to this year's theme, students are encouraged to appreciate diversity, build empathy, and recognize the strength that comes from unity. These experiences help foster welcoming school communities and inspire students to contribute positively to a more inclusive and equitable future for all.

### February is Registration Month



Do you have or know a child who will be starting Pre Primary or Primary this fall? It's time to register!

Registration for the 2026-27 school year begins on Monday, February 2. 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 with one of the following: 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, a mortgage contract or a residential lease agreement

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.

### **Please Ensure Children are Dressed for the Weather**

As the weather gets colder, please ensure your child is dressed appropriately for outdoor play. We go outside for recess and lunch whenever possible, and it can feel quite cold, especially with wind and snow.

Students should come to school with warm winter clothing, including:

- A warm coat
- Mittens or gloves
- Boots
- Hat and scarf
- Snow pants



We also strongly recommend sending extra socks and an extra pair of mittens or gloves, as these often get wet during recess and outdoor activities. Dressing warmly helps children stay comfortable, safe, and able to enjoy their time outside. Thank you for your support in helping us keep everyone happy and healthy this winter!

### **February 16 is Heritage Day**

Nova Scotia Heritage Day is celebrated on Monday, February 16, and provides an opportunity for students and families to learn more about the people, stories, and events that have shaped our province. There is **NO SCHOOL** on this day. Each year, Heritage Day honours a notable Nova Scotian, and in 2026 we recognize Joseph William Comeau, an important Acadian poet, writer, and cultural leader.

Joseph William Comeau is remembered for his contributions to Acadian literature and for helping to preserve and promote Acadian language, identity, and culture in Nova Scotia. His work reflected the everyday lives, resilience, and traditions of Acadian communities, and his legacy continues to influence Acadian culture today.



Heritage Day provides us with an opportunity to explore Nova Scotia's diverse history and to better understand how individuals from different backgrounds have contributed to our shared story. Learning about Joseph William Comeau helps students appreciate the richness of Acadian heritage and the importance of preserving culture, language, and community.

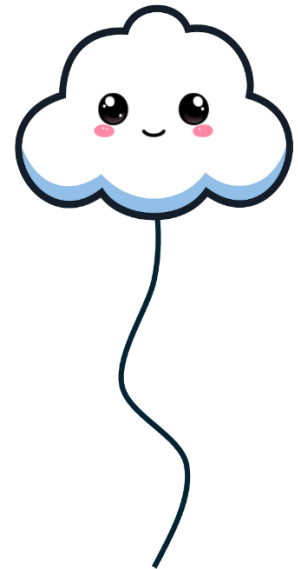
### **Vendor Fair!!**

Join us on March 7th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Main school gym for a Card Show and Vendor Fair featuring great finds and local sellers. Admission is \$3.00 or enjoy free entry with the purchase of a \$5.00 raffle ticket at the door. All proceeds will support Mr. Westhaver's Grade 5 class field trip fund—help us make this year's trip as memorable as possible.

### **Spring Concert**

Our Spring Concert, "Lizzy and the Cloud," for students in the Grade 2 through Grade 5, will take place on Tuesday, March 31<sup>st</sup> at the Bella Rose Auditorium located at Halifax West High School (283 Thomas Raddall Drive, Halifax, Nova Scotia).

More information will be shared closer to the date.



### **Upcoming Dates:**

Feb. 4<sup>th</sup> – World Reading Day  
Feb. 4<sup>th</sup> – SAC, 5:30 Main Learning Centre  
Feb. 16<sup>th</sup> – Heritage Day (No School)  
Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> – Lunar New Year  
Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> – Ash Wednesday  
Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> – First Day of Ramadan  
Mar. 7<sup>th</sup> – Vendor Fair  
Mar. 13<sup>th</sup> – Assessment and Evaluation Day (No School)  
Mar. 16<sup>th</sup> – Mar. 20<sup>th</sup> – March Break (No school)  
Mar. 31<sup>st</sup> – Spring Concert Grades 2-5





## Thriving Offline: How Delaying Smartphones Can Help Kids Flourish



Thriving Offline: How Delaying Smartphones Can Help Kids Flourish, a free community event hosted by Unplugged Canada at St. Margaret's Bay Elementary, is available both in person and virtually.

Designed for caregivers and educators, this session will explore how early smartphone and social media use impacts children's development and the latest research, practical strategies, safer alternatives, and age-appropriate boundaries to support healthy childhoods.

Join us! Thriving Offline: How Delaying Smartphones Can Help Kids Flourish

- Tuesday, February 24, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.
- St. Margaret's Bay Elementary - 24 Ridgewood Dr, Head of St Margaret's Bay, NS
- Please register for in-person or virtual [here](#).

### Two Truths & AI

Two Truths & AI is a free, interactive activity from Common Sense Education that helps students learn how to tell the difference between real and AI-generated content. Through guided examples, students practice asking good questions and thinking critically about what they see online. This resource can also be a helpful way for parents and caregivers to build their own understanding of AI and media literacy alongside their children. Learn more [here](#).

### English Tutoring

Trinity Church is offering English Tutoring on Wednesdays from 2:15pm – 4:00pm, beginning February 4<sup>th</sup> and ending March 25<sup>th</sup>. It is an 8-week program that requires you to register. Please contact Michael Ichoue at [Michealichou78@gmail.com](mailto:Michealichou78@gmail.com) for more information.

### Safe Arrival

You can report future absences using the School Messenger app, or toll-free phone number. If your child is absent and the absence has not been reported in advance, you will receive notifications via email, text, and phone calls from School Messenger. To report your student absent, you can use any of the following methods:

- PowerSchool Parent/Student Portal Parents/guardians can log in to <https://sishrsb.ednet.ns.ca/public/> to access the School Messenger website to report future absences. School Messenger App Parents/guardians can download the School Messenger app for Android and iOS devices and use their username and password for the PowerSchool Portal.



- Toll-Free Number Parents/guardians can call 1-833-582-6940 to report future absences using an automated system. Please see the link: <https://www.hrce.ca/families/general-information/safe-arrival> for more information.

### **Behaviour Expectations for Lunch Program**

All students are eligible to remain at school over the lunch hour. They need to bring or order their lunch each day. Please do not send items that need to be microwaved, we are unable to accommodate this. Our lunch program is run by lunch “monitors,” who are responsible for keeping your children safe over the lunch hour. Please remind your children to be respectful of the lunch monitors. Children need to build independence as well. Please ensure containers are not too difficult to open. We will encourage children to pick up their garbage and place it in appropriate recyclable containers or garbage. If behaviors become too challenging over the lunch hour, school administration will call you to discuss.

### **Peanut and Nut Awareness**

Due to food allergies and sensitivities at school, please do not send food to school that contains peanuts and/or tree nuts, including Nutella, which is made with hazel nuts. Students who bring sandwiches with WOW butter or other types of non-nut spread, please indicate, with a note in your child's lunch bag, what the spread is and that it does not contain nuts. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

### **Traffic Congestion**

Traffic is very congested in the mornings and at end of day pick up at both of our sites. For the safety and security of all in our school, if possible, we are asking parents to park on the blocks surrounding the school and walk over to drop off or pick up your child. Drop off (approximately 7:55am – 8:05am) and pick up (approximately 2:10pm – 2:20pm). Please be mindful of buses during these times.

### **Behaviour Expectations for Bus Students**

The bus drivers and bus companies have expectations for behavior. Children are expected to remain seated, use a reasonable voice level and refrain from using inappropriate language. The drivers and school staff remind students daily of these expectations. If your child's behavior is unacceptable, school administration will receive a misconduct report.

- 1<sup>st</sup> OCCURENCE: Administration will speak directly with your child to remind them of appropriate expectations.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> OCCURENCE: Administration will either call you or email you to inform you about the occurrence.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> OCCURENCE: Your child will be suspended from travelling on the bus for a determined time. Please speak with your child at home about their bus behavior. It is important for everyone's safety.



## Power Outage Information for Families

As we move into the winter months, we want to share how decisions are made when a school experiences a power outage.

Our priority is always to keep schools open safely when possible. A power outage does **not** automatically mean classes are cancelled – even if it happens during the school day. The decision depends on when power is expected to be restored.

### Here's what happens:

- When a school loses power, HRCE's Operations Team contacts Nova Scotia Power to gather available details on the cause and an estimated restoration time.
- Once we have this information, we consider:
- **Before school starts:** Have buses begun their routes? If so, we wait until students arrive before making a decision. If classes are cancelled, elementary families will be contacted before dismissal.
- **During the school day:** How close is dismissal? What is the temperature in the building? Does the school rely on power for water or septic systems? These factors, among others, help us decide whether to stay open or close. Often, power returns faster than we could safely send students home.



### If classes are cancelled:

- HRCE will notify families by email and text.
- Families of elementary students will also receive a phone call before dismissal.

Deciding to close schools during a power outage is never simple, but safety is always our top priority. We understand that cancellations can be inconvenient, and our goal is to keep students learning in class whenever possible.

More information about school cancellations for any reason can be found [here](#)

## Planning for Inclement Weather

Did you know? HRCE takes great care when making the decision to alter the regular operations of schools and school buses 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:**



- Bussed students will be picked up two hours earlier than their regular dismissal time; and
- Walking 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 the HRCE website](#)
- [On Instagram](#)

It's important to always have a plan in place for childcare in the event of any cancellation. Please remember: As a parent or guardian you always have the choice of whether or not to send your child to school.

For more information on how HRCE manages during inclement weather, visit [hrce.ca/families/cancellations](http://hrce.ca/families/cancellations).

**Student Insurance Program (SIP)**

SIP has provided information on the [Student Accident Insurance Program](#).

**Homework Hub (Mathematics) Update**

Tutoring is available during the following times:

- o **Grades 4-6:** Monday-Wednesday 5:30-7:30 pm

[NS Homework Hub 4-6](#)



**Open your home to an international student!**



Have you considered opening your home to an international student?

**BECOME A HOST FAMILY**  
OPEN YOUR HOME AND HEART TO AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT

<b>\$875</b> /month	PER STUDENT (Tax Free)	<b>\$975</b> /month	If you can accommodate a vegetarian or lactose free diet	<b>\$1075</b> /month	If you can accommodate a vegan or celiac diet
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\* Effective in September 2025

**RECEIVE \$100 FOR EVERY SUCCESSFUL REFERRAL OF NEW HOST FAMILY**  
Share the name and contact details of an interested host. Once they are approved and actively hosting, you'll receive \$100.

Halifax Regional Centre for Education | Learn More: [nsisp.ca/host](http://nsisp.ca/host) | Email [hostastudent@hrce.ca](mailto:hostastudent@hrce.ca) or call 902-464-2000 ext. 2548

HRCE's International Services welcomes students from all over the world who would like to attend schools in our region. Hosting a student in your home can be an enriching and rewarding experience. 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.

**What you can expect:**

- Host families receive a tax-free monthly stipend to help cover hosting expenses (\$825 current, \$875 effective September)
- Students stay for periods of three to 10 months
- Ongoing support is provided by an experienced Homestay Coordinator
- You will learn about and communicate with your student before their arrival
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Learn more [here](#) or contact:

**HRCE International Services**

(902) 464-2000 ext. 2548

[hostastudent@hrce.ca](mailto:hostastudent@hrce.ca)



Please share this message with anyone who may be interested.

Thank you! Gracias. Merci. Xie-Xie. Danke. Arigato. Grazie. Obrigado. Kamsa-Hamnida. Kawp-Kun-Ka. Shukran. Teşekkür Ederim.

HRCE International Services