

What's Happening @SHES – March 27th

Upcoming Dates

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| March 31 | Link for Progress Conversations will open |
| April 1 | Report cards will be sent home electronically |
| April 3 | PD Day / Progress Conversations – no school for students |
| April 4 | Next ordering period for school lunches opens |
| April 15 | SAC / PTO meetings |
| April 18 | Good Friday – no school |
| April 21 | Easter Monday – no school |
| April 22 | Earth Day |

1. Progress conversations and student led conferences will take place next Thursday. The afternoon timeslots will be for phone interviews for families who have specific concerns about their child or for specific concerns the classroom teacher would like to discuss with you (they will be in touch if that is the case). The evening will be set up as student led conferences for all grades. This format does not allow for private conversations about your child during that time. Student-led conferences provide an opportunity for students to take an active role in their learning by showcasing their progress, strengths, and areas for growth. Unlike traditional parent-teacher meetings, these conferences empower students to:
2. Teachers facilitate and support these conferences, ensuring a positive and productive experience for all involved. Families who request or require a phone interview are also invited to participate in the evening open house. The online booking portal will open on Monday, March 31 at noon and will close Wednesday at 2:20. Use the following link to book either or both afternoon and evening times: <https://schoolinterviews.ca/code/ggnta>

Take Ownership – Students reflect on their work, set goals, and discuss their learning journey with their families.

Build Communication Skills – Presenting their progress fosters confidence and responsibility in sharing their academic experiences.

Encourage Meaningful Conversations – Families gain insight into their child's learning process, work habits, and achievements from the student's perspective.

Promote Growth Mindset – Students learn to self-assess and develop strategies to improve their learning.

3. World Autism Awareness Day

Recognizing and celebrating World Autism Awareness Day in our schools fosters inclusion, understanding, and support for those with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). On April 2 and every day, we strive to raise autism awareness among peers and educators, celebrate accomplishments and promote acceptance for those with ASD. Join us in creating a positive community where all students can thrive and learn about each other's diverse experiences.

4. Measles Prevention in Nova Scotia: *We are sharing the following on behalf of Nova Scotia Public Health:*

Measles cases are rising in Canada. Measles is a virus that spreads easily and can cause serious complications. The best way to prevent measles is vaccination.

Nova Scotia offers free vaccines to eligible people. These can be given by primary care providers, pharmacists and Public Health.

Parents are encouraged to check their family's vaccine records and get the measles vaccine if missing doses. Check your vaccine records at vaxrecordns.nshealth.ca.

Who should get vaccinated?

Anyone born in or after 1970 should get two doses of vaccine, typically given at 12 and 18 months. If missed, children and adults can catch up for free.

Adults born before 1970 are generally considered immune but can get a single dose if travelling.

Infants 6-12 months old can get a single dose if travelling but still require two doses after their first birthday to complete the series.

Find out more about measles vaccination: www.nshealth.ca/measles.

5. Supporting literacy at home

Did you know? Teachers use the [Six Pillars of Effective Reading Instruction](#) to support students' learning.

Reading is best learned when children get clear and structured support in key skills: listening, recognizing sounds in words, learning letter sounds, building vocabulary, reading

smoothly and understanding what they read. These skills work together and when you strengthen one, it helps improve the others.

Good reading instruction includes learning how letters and words work and practicing reading in books. The goal is for children to understand what they read, enjoy reading and learn new things from books.

6. The links below may help you support your children with reading at home:

- [Ideas for parents to help children to practice their reading and writing skills](#)
- [10 Ideas to Raise A Reader](#)

7. Purple Tag Program reminder

Just a friendly reminder that children in Pre-Primary to Grade 2 who use school transportation must have a purple tag on the left side of their backpack. This is to ensure they are not left alone at a bus stop. If your child doesn't have a purple tag or needs a new one, please reach out to the main office. Children who use special needs transportation do not require a purple tag.

To learn more about the Purple Tag Program, watch [this short video](#)

or visit HRCE's website [here](#) and click on *Purple Tag Program*.

8. When packing your child's lunch, please ensure you include any utensils they may need (e.g., forks, spoons). This will help ensure they have everything necessary to enjoy their meal.

Thank you as always for your continued support,

Rachael