

## Sackville Heights Elementary School

1225 Old Sackville Rd. Middle Sackville NS B4E 3A6

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Welcome back! We hope that everyone had a chance to enjoy the holiday break with family and friends, get some rest and create some unforgettable memories.

The New Year is a wonderful time to reflect on how the school year is going. As we continue learning this year, we will be focusing on all our students' well-being and making sure all are experiencing success in literacy and math. We are ready to continue the important work of educating and caring for your children. We have some exciting plans for Literacy week later this month including a Read-A-Thon, Family Reading Party and fun theme days! We will be looking for other exciting and educational presentations for our students to experience in the coming weeks/months.

We will continue to go outside a lot and winter is here so please make sure your children are well equipped for whatever weather the day might bring. Please also put some extra clothes including socks and mittens in your child's backpack or send them to the school.

As I mentioned last week, I will be taking on a new role as Acting Elementary School Supervisor starting on Jan 19<sup>th</sup>. Until my return, Ms. Gray will be acting Principal, and Mrs. Stearns will be taking on the Acting VP role. I know the school will be left in very capable hands while I am in my new position at the HRCE.

Sincerely,

Tom Cleary (Principal)  
Lisa Gray (Vice-Principal)

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### Upcoming Events

#### January 20

SAC Meeting – 5:30pm

PTO Meeting – 6:30pm

Both meetings will be held virtually this month.

#### January 26

Literacy Week Begins!

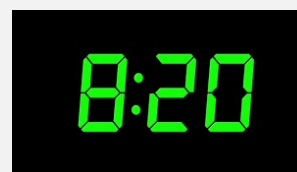
#### February 1

African Heritage Month Begins

Registration Month Begins.

### Reminders

*Please remember that instruction starts at 8:20am. When students are late, they are missing valuable learning time!*



## Literacy Day/Week:

Literacy Day takes place every January 27th to raise awareness about the importance of reading and engaging in other literacy-related activities. We will be celebrating this throughout the week of Jan 26<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>. Since 1999, thousands of schools, libraries, literacy organizations and other community groups have taken part in the initiative. Here at school, we make a whole week of it by having some extra fun school-wide activities. Taking time every day to read or do a learning activity with children is crucial to a child's development, improving a child's literacy skills dramatically, and can help a parent improve their skills as well.

The theme for this year is "Make Mealtime, Family Learning Time!" Use your imagination to find ways to celebrate reading together as a family. Explore your interests with those you love through books, websites and activities. For ideas for your own Family Literacy Day please visit <https://abclifeliteracy.ca/all-programs/family-literacy-day>.

At Sackville Heights Elementary, we will be celebrating Literacy week in the following ways:

1. We will be holding a Read-a-thon to raise funds to purchase fun reading/learning materials for the school and to support literacy initiatives – More information will be sent out later today.
2. Family Reading Party – January 30<sup>th</sup> from 12:30-1:15pm – we are welcoming family members to come and enjoy a book together.
3. Dress as your Favorite Book Character – Monday, January 26<sup>th</sup>
4. We will be having several other fun literacy-based activities happening at school throughout the week such as, "Stop! Drop! & Read", and "Mystery Reader".

## Safe Arrival – 1-833-582-6940:

Student safety is our number one priority. If your child is ill or not going to be at school, please call the toll-free number above so that the school is informed of the absence.

Other options you can take to mark your child as absent would be to go to your child's PowerSchool account <https://sishrsb.ednet.ns.ca/public> or download the PowerSchool app.

If you are aware that your child will be absent for more than a day (ex. If you are planning on going on a trip) you can let the main office know by phone – 902 869 4700 or by email – [shes@hrce.ca](mailto:shes@hrce.ca) and we can adjust attendance for you so you do not have to call in.



## 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).