



2 Oceanview Drive  
Bedford, NS Canada  
B4A 4J6  
Phone: 902-832-5800  
Fax: 902-832-5805



**DATES TO REMEMBER:**

- Jan 01 New Year's Day
- Jan 02 First Day for students.
- Jan 06 Feast of the Epiphany
- Jan 07 Orthodox Christmas Day
- Jan. 09 SAC 6:00pm  
HSA 7:00 pm.  
Virtual
- Jan. 15 Pongal-South India
- Jan. 15 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Jan. 19 Popcorn Day
- Jan 27 Family Literacy Day



**Bedford South School**

2 Oceanview Drive

902-832-5800

- H. Healy, Principal
- S. Boudreau, VP
- J. Taylor, VP
- J. Ashton, Admin A.
- S. Haines Admin A.



**FAMILY LITERACY DAY 2023:**

***Family Literacy Day 2024 Theme:***  
**Let's have a family party!**

Celebrate 25 years of *Family Literacy Day* and learning together as a family by having a party!

Make food, sing songs, and play games. The possibilities for learning are endless – and it's fun when you do it together.

**Create your own invitations**

Make invitations to your party. They can all be the same or different. Send them to family and friends a few weeks before the big day.

**Take pictures in your own photo booth**

Create a fun photo area. Gather fun and silly accessories to wear. Make party signs for people to hold. Set up your area with a colourful backdrop created by you!

**Your party room**

Draw pictures of your family's favourite stories, books, and characters. After you colour them, use them as decorations for your party.

**Make yummy party food**

Create a menu filled with fun party foods. Look in cookbooks, online, and talk with family about traditional recipes. Ask family members to help, and make your party foods together.

**Sing and dance**

Make up a song or dance. Make a video while you perform for your party guests and watch it together afterwards.

**Play fun games**

Plan fun party games like BINGO, Go Fish, I Spy, Pictionary, or Memory. You could even make up a new game and teach it to everyone.

**Make a toast**

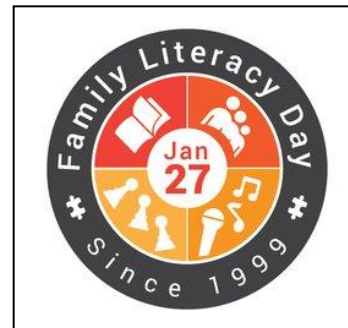
Write a toast to celebrate 25 years of *Family Literacy Day* and taking time to learn as a family. Your toast can talk about what you love most about learning or about the people at your party.

**Eat cake to celebrate**

Lots of parties have cake. Bake something yummy as a family. Use a favourite family recipe or find a new one in a cookbook or online.

**Thank your guests**

Everyone loves getting fun mail! Write and send a kind thank you note to each of your guests after the party. Share what you liked best, and make plans for the next get-together.



**Check out the new HRCE.ca!**

Last winter, we asked staff, families, and SACs for feedback on our website. We used that input to build a new family-focused site that prominently features the information our communities need most.

You'll notice:

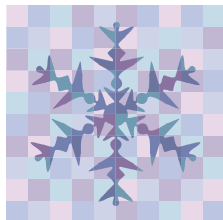
Fewer pages – we deleted outdated information.

A clean, modern look and feel – it's an easy-to-navigate, user-friendly experience. Significantly improved accessibility – this is better for our community members who use screen readers and translation services.



### **A Canadian Winter:**

Generally speaking, when the temperature reaches -15C or below we assess the appropriateness of sending children outside. We also consider wind chill factors. Wind chill is the cooling sensation caused by the combined effect of temperature and wind. Environment Canada advises there is an “increased risk” of frostbite and hypothermia with a wind chill below -27C. School administration consults the Environment Canada weather website frequently and uses common sense in determining whether or not students should be outside on a given day. We also consider the length of time students will be outside, their activity level (heat generation), and exposure to wind and sun (the sun does have a warming affect, even during the winter months). Whenever possible we do like to see our students being given the opportunity to socialize with friends, rather than being confined to their classrooms for extended periods of time. Student safety, health and well- being are always paramount. Parents are encouraged to dress their children appropriately for the weather and possible outdoor play, just as they would at home. Dressing in layers is always helpful along with extra hats and mittens.



### **INCLEMENT WEATHER:**

Winter is here. Are you prepared for when classes are cancelled? Centres For Education make decisions to cancel classes based on many factors, including the weather forecast and road conditions. Parents and families should have a plan in the event of cancelled classes. What is your families plan if school is cancelled? The Halifax Regional Centre takes great care when making the decision to alter the normal operations of schools and HRCE offices in the event of severe or inclement weather. It is their goal to make the decision **as close to 6 a.m. as possible.**

If the weather deteriorates during the day, the HRCE can decide to dismiss students early. In the event of a midday cancellation, the decision will be communicated to all schools as close to 11:00 a.m. as possible.

In the event of an early dismissal, students in grades primary to 4 will not be released from school unless parents, guardians or designates have been notified by the school. Here are a few ways you can find out:

- Check our website at [www.hrce.ca](http://www.hrce.ca)
- Follow us on Twitter at [Twitter.com/HRCE\\_NS](https://twitter.com/HRCE_NS)
- Call our information line at [902-464-INFO](tel:902-464-4636) (4636)
- Listen to your radio (All local radio stations are informed)
- Sign up to receive e-mail or text message notification of cancellations ([link](#))

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### **Concert Thank you:**

We would like to thank all staff, students and parents and guardians for making our Holiday concert such a wonderful event. Our music team did a fabulous job organizing the songs, technology and the logistics for the afternoon and evening concerts. We wish everyone a happy, restful holiday!

### **SAFE ARRIVAL:**

Parents are reminded to please call the safe arrival line and leave a message if your child is going to be absent. It is a lengthy process for both our volunteers and the secretary to track absent students to be certain they are safe. We know that teachers certainly appreciate notes and e-mails regarding their student absences but unfortunately we still require a phone call to safe arrival. **1-833-582-6940 or you can use the App.**