

African Heritage Month

February is African Heritage month and I know a lot of our teachers are doing some special activities during this month. We will be sharing a fact each day for students in a Bingo format.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Feb 1 Pre-Primary and Primary Registration Month begins online
- Feb 2 Groundhog Day
- Feb 6-10 White Cane week
- Feb 10 PJ family dance
- Feb 13 International Epilepsy Day
- Feb 14 **Valentine's Day**
- Feb 15 Flag Day
- Feb 17 Popcorn Day
Winter Walk Day
- Feb 21 N.S. Heritage Day
Honouree Rita Joe
No students



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| H. Healy, | Principal |
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February is Registration Month!

Effective February 1, 2023, we will be accepting registrations for the 2023-2024 school year through our new online portal, PowerSchool Enrollment!

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 (utility document with your current address that includes your name and date, such as water bill, power bill.
- 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!

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.

PRIMARY EARLY FRENCH IMMERSION INFORMATION SESSION:

In February, Sunnyside Elementary will be sending information to us regarding French Immersion for interested parents of new primaries for the 2023-24 year. The information will be communicated when Sunnyside School provides us with it. If you are not familiar with the program and/or not sure whether it is a program suited to your child then it is important for you to have a look at this information. Primary registration for French Immersion is completed by the end of February. As Bedford South does not have an Early French Immersion program, parents who would like to have their children considered for the program must first register in the English program at our site. Then, parents must follow the Out Of Area process to attend Sunnyside Elementary.

Out of Area Requests

Parents/guardians may seek placement for their child in a school outside of the neighbourhood in which they reside under the guidelines of the [Student Registration Policy](#).

Parents/guardians may complete the online Out-of-Area Request form at www.hrc.ca beginning **on the first school day in April at 8:00 a.m.** The electronic submission is automatically sent to the receiving school. Instructions on completing the online option can be found at the above site.

Driveway Gate Closure:

Please remember that for the safety of students the gate is closed to vehicular traffic at the following times:

8:15am-9:15am
2:15pm-3:15pm

We appreciate everyone's support in keeping our children safe.

February 20 is Heritage Day

This year's Heritage Day honours Elder Rita (Bernard) Joe, a member of the We'koqma'q Mi'kmaq Community and published author, who was instrumental in paving the way for other Mi'kmaq authors. Her greatest wish was to see more writings come from her people and "that the children would read it." Learn more [here](#).
Reminder that there are no classes on Monday, February 20 in honour of Heritage Day.

Student Reminders:

In an effort to help parents from having to bring items their little ones often forget, we offer the following reminders:

- Spoons or forks for lunch-please pack a spare one. We do not always have spoons on hand and don't have any forks.
- Please pack extra mittens or gloves.
- Please pack a water bottle.
- Thank you for your support.



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Weigh in on the HRCE website

What do you like about the HRCE website? What needs improvement? We want to hear from you!

The Communications and Information Technology teams are currently planning a refresh and upgrade of the HRCE corporate website (www.hrce.ca).

To ensure the new site reflects what's important to families, community and staff, we are inviting your input! Your thoughts, ideas and feedback will help us develop a website that will better serve those who use it most.

Please take five minutes to share your perspective. This survey closes on Tuesday, February 7.

WINTER WALK DAY:

Winter Walk Day at Bedford South will take place on February 17th. We encourage as many children, youth and their families as possible to walk that day. Winter is still a great time to walk and be outside! Schools, youth groups and others are invited to walk at school or around the neighbourhood, walk to school, or go for a hike on Winter Walk Day. Don't let cold, wind, snow or rain keep children and youth from heading out for a walk. If they dress properly and practice winter safety, they're ready to go! Walking is fun when you walk together. The extra physical activity is good for our bodies. It's good for the Earth too because it cuts down on the number of polluting cars on our streets.



Celebrate African Heritage Month!

February is African Heritage Month! This year's theme, *Seas of Struggle – African Peoples from Shore to Shore*, recognizes the resiliency, strength, and determination of people of African descent from the shores of Africa to the shores of Nova Scotia – with the Atlantic Ocean being the everlasting connection. Learn more [here](#).

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](#).

Slow down in school zones

To ensure our students' safety, here are a few reminders for drivers navigating school zones.

- Follow school zone speed limits whenever children are present. This always applies, not just during school hours.
- Be prepared to stop for a school bus at any time.
- Remember to stop whenever you approach a stopped school bus with its red lights flashing, regardless of the direction of travel or which lane the bus is in.
- Give yourself extra time during your morning commute.
- Always watch for pedestrians. There are more kids walking, riding, and getting dropped off in school zones.
- Always obey crossing guards.
- Avoid distractions while driving.