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DATES TO REMEMBER:

- April 01 April Fools
- April 02 World Autism Awareness Day
Palm Sunday
- April 03 Wear blue to Support Autism Awareness
- April 05 Neptune Theatre
- April 05 First day of Passover
- April 07 Good Friday
No school
- April 10 Easter
No school
- April 11 SAC 6:00pm
HSA 7:00pm
- April 13 Passover Ends
- April 14 Baisakhi
Wear yellow
Sir Lanka New Years
Tamil New Year
- April 16 Orthodox Easter
- April 20 Eid
- April 22 Earth Day
- April 28 Popcorn Day

Bedford South School

2 Oceanview Dr.
Bedford, NS
B4A 4J6

902-832-5800

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



EXCEL REGISTRATION INFORMATION FOR 2023-2024:

EXCEL Registration is divided into two periods: (1) Early Registration for families with a child(ren) currently enrolled in the 2022-23 EXCEL Program and (2) General Registration for families who **do not** have a child(ren) currently enrolled in the 2022-23 EXCEL Program. As in previous years, families may only submit an EXCEL application for the school(s) in which their child(ren) is registered for 2023-24. Applications are processed based on the date and time they are received.

EARLY REGISTRATION Week of April 24, 2023

In order to be eligible for Early registration, families must have children enrolled in a 2022-23 EXCEL program as of April 22nd, 2023. Siblings of 2022-23 EXCEL participants who will be starting school in September 2023 are eligible to be enrolled during the Early Registration Period.

General Registration: May 8-12, 2023 and onward.

Registration will be completed online by accessing the EZChildTrack Parent Portal. If you have an existing account with EXCEL, access the Parent Portal by entering your email and password in the Returning Parents Sign In section. If you are new to the EXCEL Program, enter the Parent Portal using the "New Parents Open Account" section.

Specific details on the registration process and fees for 2023-24 will be posted on the HRCE website at https://www.hrce.ca/excel_registration in early April.

Welcome to our new Regional Executive Director

We are pleased to share the appointment of our new Regional Executive Director for HRCE, Steve Gallagher. Steve has been in the role on an acting basis since September and has officially accepted the role permanently. To learn more, [click here](#).

Do you know how to raise a concern?

Did you know that there's a protocol in place to help families contact schools or the HRCE office when you have concerns about your student's education or well-being?

- All concerns should first be shared with your child's teacher.
- If your concern is not resolved, you should then contact the principal.
- If your concern remains unresolved, you can reach out to [HRCE's Parent Navigators](#) who can provide information about a wide range of supports and resources or connect you with the school supervisor.
- If your matter continues to be unresolved, you can then initiate a formal review process in which the matter will be investigated by the appropriate HRCE Directors.
- The final step is for your concern to be passed on to the Regional Executive Director.

Click here to view the [Parent/Guardian Concern Policy](#).

Happy Passover: The Passover holiday will be celebrated beginning April 5th by many in the Bedford South family who are Jewish. Passover, or *Pesach*, as it is called in Hebrew, is a seven or eight day festival that celebrates the freedom of the Jewish people from slavery in Egypt about 3500 years ago. It is one of the most important festivals/holidays in the Jewish year. In preparation for Passover some families clean their houses thoroughly to remove all crumbs of chametz (leaven). This recalls the Jews leaving Egypt who did not have time to let their bread rise. In many Jewish homes children enjoy taking part in a ritual search for any specks of leaven left behind. On the evening before the Passover begins, a special service called a Seder ('Order') takes place over a meal with family and friends in the home. The Seder plate on the table consists of: a lamb bone; a roasted egg; a green vegetable to dip in salt water; bitter herbs made from horseradish; and charoset (a paste of chopped apples, walnuts and wine). "Happy Passover" to all those Jewish members of our Bedford South family who will be celebrating.

Baisakhi in India:

(wear yellow)
The Baisakhi harvest celebration in countries such as in India is an occasion of dancing, singing, music, wearing of festive garments and religious praise. The festival marks the start of the New Year in the Nanakshahi solar calendar. Baisakhi, also known as Baisakhi, is a harvest celebration observed in countries such as India. **What Do People do During Baisakhi?** Many people in India celebrate Baisakhi by dancing, singing, dressing in holiday finery, observing wrestling bouts and enjoying parades.



Every April Autism Speaks celebrates [World Autism Month](#), beginning with the United Nations-sanctioned World Autism Awareness Day on April 2. This year marks the 16th annual World Autism Awareness Day.

Throughout the month, there is a focus on sharing stories and providing opportunities to increase understanding and acceptance of people with autism, fostering worldwide support. This year, we are committed to standing together to make a world of difference for people on the spectrum.

Supporters can participate in [World Autism Month](#) in a variety of ways:

One way is [Light It Up Blue](#) on April 2 in celebration of people with autism and those who love and support them.

Join the thousands of landmarks, buildings, homes and communities around the world and come together on April 2, World Autism Awareness Day to shine a light on the autism community.

We will do this on April 3rd as April 2nd is a Sunday.



Happy Easter

Easter is the most important festival of Christianity. It celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ on the third day after he was crucified (which took place on what we now call Good Friday) –the foundation on which Christianity is based. Easter is celebrated on the first Sunday after the full moon following Spring Equinox.

Christians usually celebrate Easter by attending church on Easter Sunday. Many families and friends gather together for a special Easter dinner, often including roast turkey or baked ham. Easter is celebrated in many parts of the world by both Christians and non-Christians. Some names for "Easter" in other countries are: Paques (France); Pascua (Spain); Pasqua (Italy); Pashke (Albania); Pascha (Greece); Paaske (Norway); Pasen (Holland); and Pask (Sweden). Some symbols associated with Easter include: eggs, bunnies, lambs, lilies, crosses, palm branches, and hot cross buns. For many, Easter egg hunts and a visit from the Easter Bunny (who leaves treats hidden in the house) are part of the Easter celebration. "Happy Easter" to all those in our Bedford South family who will be celebrating soon.

Ramadan:

Ramadan is in the ninth month of the Islamic Calendar which follows the lunar cycle. So it falls on a different date every year. Whenever, in the ninth month, the first appearance and sighting of the crescent moon (new moon), marks the beginning of the Ramadan.

Celebrated by one billion Muslims all over the world.

Ramadan in 2023 began March 22nd in the evening and will end in the evening of April 20th when Eid will be celebrated. Eid or Eid al Fitr (The festival of the breaking of the fast) is a major annual Muslim festival.

The most important observances during the Ramadan is fasting. From the first light of dawn (suhour) until sunset (iftar) Muslims do not eat or drink anything. So a meal can be had before the start of fasting and then after sunset when one stops fasting.

Fasting is intended to teach Muslims about self-discipline, self-restrain, abstinence and about charity (zakat). It is also a time for spiritual reflection.