

Dear Sunnyside Families,

Welcome to April! It feels that March has flown by and we are hopeful that the spring weather will start to take hold. With three months left in the school year, there is still lots of learning to be had.

Report Cards and Progress Conferences for grades Primary-5: We want to start by reminding everyone that Progress Conferences (Parent/Guardian-Teacher Interviews) will be happening at Sunnyside Elementary this week. Report cards will be emailed home on Tuesday, April 1st and our progress conferences will be Wednesday, April 2nd from 5-7 and Thursday, April 3rd from 1-3. If you haven't yet made an appointment with your child's teacher, please do. These are great moments to discuss your child's learning and in the case of student-led conferences, participate in your child's sharing of their learning and progress.

SAC (School Advisory Council): Thanks to everyone who filled out our SAC survey at the end of February. Our goal with this survey is to build strong community/school ties and develop a list of community members who would like to share parts of their interests and cultures with our students. Indicating a willingness to do this does not require a long-term commitment. It may be as simple as doing a short talk in your child's class about a holiday your family celebrates, or a skill, talent or hobby that may interest our students. We also welcome parents/guardians who are interested in hosting lunchtime clubs and programs for short periods or longer stretches of time (ie craft club, knitting club, chess club, etc.). Our SAC meets next Tuesday evening at 6 pm at Eaglewood (April 8th) and we will be looking at our results. If you have not yet filled out the survey and wish to, the link is [here](#).

Tick Safety: It feels like this reminder comes earlier each year. Ticks have been spotted in the neighbourhood and around the school. Please remind your children to stay out of long grass and to cover up when outside. For more information about ticks and protecting yourself and your family, please visit the Nova Scotia Health Authority website at <http://www.cdha.nshealth.ca/public-health/get-tickd> and the Nova Scotia government site at <http://novascotia.ca/ticksafety/>.

Please talk with your children about checking themselves for ticks after playing outside in the grass and woods and take time to help them do a check each evening for the spaces they can't check themselves (i.e. in their hair, behind their ears and on their back).

Home and School Association BINGO: Our rescheduled Home and School Association BINGO is coming up on May 1st. This is always a very popular and exciting event. Our Home and School Association is a group of parents/guardians and staff who work together to plan fun events for our school community, who support the staff at the school and who fundraise for extras at the school. Next year, we will be looking to fill our executive roles. However, the executive cannot do everything on their own. It takes a team of positive and enthusiastic people to make our HSA the effective team they are. We would love for new parents and guardians to come join us and see what we are about. Our next meeting will be Thursday April 10th in the library at Eaglewood at 6:30 pm. Please come out and see what we are about.

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 vaxrecords.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.

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.

Supporting literacy at home

Did you know? Teachers use the [Six Pillars of Effective Reading Instruction \(Français\)](#) 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.

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](#)

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*.

Upcoming Dates

- April 1—Report Cards emailed home
- April 2—Parent/Teacher Conferences 5-7 & World Autism Awareness Day
- April 3—Professional Practice am & Parent/Teacher Conferences 1-3—No school for students
- April 8—School Advisory Council Meeting 6 pm Eaglewood
- April 18—Good Friday—no school
- April 21—Easter Monday—no school
- April 22—Earth Day
- April 23—Administrative Professional's Day
- April 30—Professional Development Day—no school for students
- May 1--BINGO