

Good afternoon Sunnyside Families,

As we move into June, there are always mixed feelings. We can look back on our school year and see how much our students have grown and learned. We are also looking forward to next year and making plans, as well as looking forward to summer break. As we look to next year, the grade 5 students had a chance to visit Rocky Lake Elementary School and yesterday we welcomed our incoming primary students for orientation.

The month of May was a busy one at Sunnyside. We began a series of well-being workshops at Eaglewood where students are learning and practicing strategies for regulation and getting to know each other. They made fidgets one week and last Friday we were able to get outside to practice some activities that help us take a break in nature. Our last well-being workshop will be this week. Our grade 3 students wrote their provincial assessments (math and literacy for our English students and math for our French Immersion students). Results will be returned in the fall.

June is another busy month, with finishing up curriculum for the year, and lots of year-end activities. Our closing ceremony for our grade 5 students will be Wednesday, June 25th at 1:30 in the gym. The last day of school for students is Monday June 30th. We will send out information about this day when we receive it. Friday June 27th is an assessment and evaluation—no school for students.

We want to take the opportunity to acknowledge all the members of our Sunnyside Elementary School community and their willingness to work together to support the achievement and well-being of our students. All the volunteers at our school, including our Home and School Association, our School Advisory Council and the parents, guardians and community members who contributed to classroom activities and field trips are an essential part of the team and we appreciate you.

June is a significant month for a few reasons:

- National Indigenous History Month
- Italian Heritage Month
- Filipino Heritage Month
- Portuguese Heritage Month
- Pride Month
- June 21 is National Indigenous Peoples Day

Here is some important information to know as we finish this school year and plan for next.

School Supplies: As we have done for the last 2 years, our Home and School Association, supported by our SAC will be providing many of the necessary school supplies for our students. School supplies not provided by the school will be found by grade and program level (ie Primary French Immersion, Grade 1 English, etc.) on our school website at the beginning of the summer. If you are unable to get any of the supplies asked for, please reach out to the school or your child's teacher. No student will have to go without any necessary supplies.

Spring Fair: This year's Home and School Association will be holding our annual Spring Fair on Friday, June 6th from 6-8 pm at our Eaglewood site. There will be games, raffle baskets, bouncy castles and a barbecue for your enjoyment. If you have not yet bought your tickets on SchoolCash online, we will have tickets for sale for cash at the event.

Home and School Association: We say goodbye to three dedicated members of our Home and School Association at the end of this year. Our current co-chair, Heidi, secretary, Jessica and co-chair/treasurer, Tanya be retiring. They have worked tirelessly over the last few years to organize numerous school events and initiatives, and we are grateful for everything they have brought to Sunnyside Elementary. Next year, they will be able to enjoy our events as attendees.

Your new HSA is: Jodi (co-chair), Patti (secretary), Lauren (treasurer), Jacquie, Alix and Kelly (members at large). We will advertise for a second co-chair in the fall.

2025-26 Bus Information: Information about student transportation for the 2025-26 school year will be available to view online through the BusPlanner Parent Portal later in July.

- Families eligible for transportation will receive an email to access the Parent Portal to view their child's bus information once it is available.
- Once you receive the email, you must follow the instructions to activate your new Parent Portal account and create a password. Using previous Parent Portal login information will not work.
- If you can't find the email, please contact transportation@hrce.ca or 902-431-4723 for assistance.

Over the summer, the HRCE Student Transportation team will also reach out to new HRCE families and those families who may require special needs transportation for their children with more information about busing.

Reminder: The Student Transportation team is available to assist you and answer questions about busing all summer at transportation@hrce.ca or 902-431-4723. When contacting the team, please ensure you have your child's name, grade, school name and student ID number ready. Your child's student ID number can be found in PowerSchool or on the top of your child's report card.

Be tick aware

Sharing on behalf of Nova Scotia Public Health

In summer and fall, people spend time at Nova Scotia's many beautiful beaches, parks, and wooded areas. However, we need to be mindful of the presence of ticks and how we can protect ourselves. These small insects are found across Nova Scotia and can cause tick-borne diseases (TBDs), including Lyme disease and anaplasmosis.

Ticks like moist and humid environments and can be found in or near woods, shrubs, leaf litter, long grass, urban parks and gardens. They can be very small, which makes them hard to spot and their bites don't hurt, which makes it difficult to know when you've been bitten.

Visit NovaScotia.ca/TickSafety and learn:

- How to protect yourself - especially in grassy, wooded, or shrub-covered areas
- What to do if you find a tick on yourself/your child
- The signs and symptoms of tick-borne illnesses



Tips to support reading and writing at home

As parents and caregivers, you play one of the most important roles in helping your child become a strong, confident reader and writer. What you do at home can make a big difference in your child's success in school and beyond. When reading and writing become part of family routines — like bedtime stories, writing notes to each other, or making shopping lists together — children see them as enjoyable and meaningful activities.

Here are some ideas and tips:

1. Create a dedicated writing space

Set up a quiet, well-lit area where your child can focus. Stock your writing center with essentials like paper, pencils, crayons, and even fun extras like family photos and old magazines to spark creativity.

2. Read often

Reading is one of the best ways to become a better writer. When children read a variety of books, they naturally absorb vocabulary, grammar, and different writing styles. Encourage daily reading to build their language skills and inspire their own writing.

3. Encourage reflective journaling

A journal is a great outlet for expressing thoughts and feelings. Prompt your child to write about everyday events at home and school. Suggest using sensory details — what they saw, heard, or felt.

This helps develop descriptive writing. Provide real-life experiences that they can later write about. Remember, only read their journal if invited — and always respond with encouragement and thoughtful feedback.

4. Offer real-world writing opportunities

Help your child see writing as a practical skill. Let them write thank-you notes, grocery lists, birthday invitations or letters to family. Consider finding a pen pal to make writing feel more authentic and fun.

5. Be a writing role model

Let your child see you writing too! Whether it's a grocery list, an email or a note to a friend, show how writing fits into everyday life. Talk about the purpose of different types of writing and their audiences. Try having a "family writing night" where everyone writes and shares together.

6. Start a vocabulary notebook

Introduce a few new words each week and encourage your child to use them in writing and conversation. Turn it into a game for using words creatively.

Excel Employment Opportunity: The HRCE Excel program (before and after school care) are currently recruiting. If you might be interested in working in Excel, you can fill out this google form:

[Employment with EXCEL 2025-26](#)