

Good afternoon Sunnyside Families,

Here we are in May. With two months left in the school year, we continue to work together to ensure high-quality learning with our students. In the past couple of weeks, there have been some exciting and innovative things happening in our classes.

On a larger community scale, there are many days and weeks of recognition in May.

- May is Asian Heritage Month
- May is Canadian Jewish Heritage Month
- May is Polish Heritage Month
- May is Speech and Hearing Month
- May 5 is Red Dress Day
- May 11-17 is Education Week
- May 17 is International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia
- May 25 to 31 is Nova Scotia Access Awareness Week

**Earth Day:** was a great occasion for our students to demonstrate their understanding of caring for the planet. Mme Fraser's grade 1 class held a clothing, book, and toy swap in their class. This was an opportunity for students to experience a way to reduce waste and get new-to-them items. Everything was re-homed; the students were happy with their new possessions, and nothing ended up in a landfill. Repurposing and reusing are great lessons for our students to learn. Many students and some classes also took advantage of learning to be stewards of the Earth to pick up garbage around the school yard and take pride in our community. Many gloves and garbage bags later have left our yard looking clean.

**Student Vote:** This week, with the federal election, Ms. Bembridge's grade 2 class ran a student election in their class through Student Vote Canada. Students took on roles such as poll clerk, scrutineer and voters and invited all classes at Eaglewood to cast their votes for the local candidates. The results were counted and the results mirrored our community results with Braedan Clark taking the win.

**Funny Pages Festival:** A few of our classes were chosen to attend the Funny Pages Festival at the Central Library in Halifax. There they got to meet and listen to authors and illustrators and browse a wide variety of books. Students returned to school enthusiastic about reading and writing. This is the second year that some of our students were able to attend and they have had positive experiences each time. Many other classes are currently planning field trips between now and the end of the year. We appreciate and thank all the teachers, program assistants, and volunteers who accompany our students and make these experiences possible.

**Strings Concert:** Our students in grades 4 & 5 strings have been working hard all year improving their skills on their instrument. On Monday May 26<sup>th</sup> they will be presenting to

invited family members and students in a concert at 1:30. We are very excited to see what they are capable of.

**Black Excellence Day:** May 15<sup>th</sup> is Black Excellence Day in the HRCE. In essence Black Excellence Day is about acknowledging, celebrating, and uplifting Black contributions while fostering a more inclusive and equitable environment. We will be celebrating Black Excellence at Sunnyside Elementary with a full school assembly at our Eaglewood site.

**Home & School Association:** Our Home and School Association (HSA) is a dynamic group of parents, guardians and school staff who work together to provide enhancements and positive experiences for our school community. The HSA has executive positions open for the 2025-2026 school year. We recognize that having representation from all communities and both sites is an asset to this committee. If elections are necessary, we will be holding them at our next general meeting on Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm at the Eaglewood site. If you are interested in any executive position, please email Mme Thompson at [cthompson@hrce.ca](mailto:cthompson@hrce.ca). If you have already filled out the google form, send me a quick message to let me know. Current open positions are Co-Chair (2), Secretary, Treasurer, Members at Large (3). All parents and guardians are welcome at all meetings.

Terms of service will be one to two years, with flexibility to ensure continuity of the committee while respecting membership's ability to serve consecutively.

Please reach out to Mme Thompson if you have any questions as you are considering taking on these important roles.

**Class Placements:** We will soon begin the process of configuring classrooms for the next school year. Please know there may be changes due to the fluctuation of enrolment numbers. The process of creating the classes is a well-thought-out process involving many staff members who work with that grade level. This includes but is not limited to classroom teachers, specialist teachers (Phys. Ed., Music and French) and support staff (Learning Center, Resource and Early Literacy).

Our goal is to create balanced classes with consideration to academic achievement, gender, friendships and supports required. We ask that you please trust our professional judgment. We will make the best possible decisions for your child's placement based on their needs, learning profile and friendships. If there is anything that you feel we need to know regarding your child's placement, please inform your child's teacher. We cannot accept requests for specific teachers. Thank you for your support and understanding.

**Registration for 2025-2026:** School staffing is now in full swing in the HRCE. If you are moving during the summer, please let us know so our numbers for staffing accurately reflect our student population.

### **Upcoming Dates:**

May 8—HSA meeting 6:30 Eaglewood

May 15—Black Excellence Day

May 19—Victoria Day (No school)

May 27—SAC meeting 6 pm Eaglewood