

Happy New Year to all our Sunnyside Families,

We had a positive return to school and hope that you all had a peaceful and happy holiday season. This week has been time to review expectations and get ourselves back into the routine of school.

We ended our week with an unexpected power outage at both sites. Below in this message are the procedures that the HRCE follows in the event of an outage. Please be assured that our students were safe and warm and we have access to washrooms and water during an outage. We used light from our windows, and our emergency lights were all tested and work well.

Lunch supervision: We are currently looking to add paid lunch monitors at our Eaglewood site. Lunch monitors work in the classrooms and on the playground from 12:15-1:00 pm daily. Opportunities exist for full-time (5 days a week) or part-time monitoring. Our lunch monitors supervise students while they are eating and playing. It is a great opportunity to spend some positive time with our students and help the school community. If you are interested, or know anyone who might be interested, please contact Ms. Michelle at michelle.harley@hrce.ca.

Lunch programming: Our students are very interested and enthusiastic about the lunch clubs that we can offer. At Fort Sackville we have a weekly art group at lunch and at Eaglewood, we have Chess club every second week. There is a group of “Sunny Buddies” who are getting on-the-job training and are helping by organizing games on the playground and working as student lunch monitors in our P-2 classes. We are always looking to add to the variety and frequency of lunch programming and need volunteers to help us expand. If you have time during the week from 12:15-1:00 and would like to help facilitate a lunch group, reach out and we can discuss possibilities.

Power Outage Information for Families

As we move into the winter months, we want to share how decisions are made when a school experiences a power outage.

Our priority is always to keep schools open safely when possible. A power outage does **not** automatically mean classes are cancelled – even if it happens during the school day. The decision depends on when power is expected to be restored.

Here’s what happens:

- When a school loses power, HRCE’s Operations Team contacts Nova Scotia Power to gather available details on the cause and an estimated restoration time.
- Once we have this information, we consider:
- **Before school starts:** Have buses begun their routes? If so, we wait until students arrive before making a decision. If classes are cancelled, elementary families will be contacted before dismissal.
- **During the school day:** How close is dismissal? What is the temperature in the building? Does the school rely on power for water or septic systems? These factors, among others, help us decide whether to stay open or close. Often, power returns faster than we could safely send students home.

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If classes are cancelled:

- HRCE will notify families by email and text.
- Families of elementary students will also receive a phone call before dismissal.

Deciding to close schools during a power outage is never simple, but safety is always our top priority. We understand that cancellations can be inconvenient, and our goal is to keep students learning in class whenever possible.

More information about school cancellations for any reason can be found [here](#).

Learn About the Influenza Vaccine

We have been asked to share the following with families on behalf of the Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness.

Fast Facts about the Flu Vaccine

- Influenza (the flu) is virus that peaks in transmission in the fall and winter months
- Most people are mildly ill when they contract the flu but sometimes the flu can be serious and requires admission to the hospital
- Children under 6 years are at the highest risk of serious complications from the flu
- The flu and RSV can occur at the same time making children more at risk of needing hospitalization
- The flu vaccine is recommended yearly for children 6 months and older to protect against serious complications of the flu

For more information, [click here](#).

Upcoming Dates

Jan. 19th (6:30 pm) --Home and School general meeting Eaglewood Library

Jan. 20th (6:30 pm)—SAC meeting Eaglewood Library

Jan. 27—International Holocaust Remembrance Day

Jan. 27—Family Literacy Day