

Good afternoon Sunnyside families;

It has been a fantastic week to begin February at Sunnyside Elementary. Despite the delayed start to school on Monday, our grades 3-5 students were able to attend a virtual assembly in the gym to kick off African Heritage Month. Because of the delayed start, the assembly for grades pre-primary - 2 has been rescheduled to February 19th. We've been learning about different aspects of African Nova Scotian culture in classroom activities as well as during our daily announcements. This week, we took a close look at the African Nova Scotian flag that was designed by a local teacher and artist Wendie Wilson.

The students are having the time of their lives playing in the snow around the playground. Thank you for sending them dressed for the weather.

This will be a short message with information about our next Lockdown drill, a Home and School Association project and a reminder about registration.

Lockdown Drills: On Thursday, February 12th we'll hold our second Lockdown drill of the year. As a reminder, a Lockdown is used when there is an immediate threat to a school. During a Lockdown, no one enters or exits the building, and everyone stays in a secure location away from doors and windows. Our staff will explain the drill to students beforehand and remind them afterwards that it was just practice. When possible, our police partners join us for Lockdown drills. Please reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

Home and School Constitution Project: The Home and School Association is beginning work on drafting a new constitution. We are looking for parent/guardian volunteers from all parts of our school community to join the committee to work on this project. If you are interested or have feedback you would like to add, please email the school at sunnyside@hrce.ca. The time commitment required to be part of the committee will be 2-3 meetings and some email communication. The committee will begin meeting in March. For those who are interested in the project but are unable to join the committee there will be opportunities for input through surveys or similar.

Support staff in the school: There are several staff at Sunnyside who work with students in addition to classroom and subject teachers. This week we introduce our Learning Support Teachers. This includes Learning Centre and Resource teachers who support the academic and well-being achievement of our students. Learning Support Teachers work with individual students, small groups and as in-class support depending on what is needed. They may support in reading, writing, math and social-emotional learning. They often work with different students throughout the year. This year, our Learning Support Teachers are Mme Cameron, Ms. Ingram, Mme Haslett and Mme Laura.

February is Registration Month

Do you have or know a child who will be starting Pre Primary or Primary this fall? It's time to register!

Registration for the 2026-27 school year begins on Monday, February 2. To ensure we have the right staff and supports in place for September, it's important that we gather enrolment numbers now.

Tip: Before you begin, make sure you have the following documents in electronic form (image, PDF or Word document):

- Proof of identity/age with one of the following: birth certificate, passport, immigration papers, or legal adoption papers if you are new to the HRCE
- Proof of home address with one of the following: a recently dated official government or utility document with your current address that includes your name and date, such as water bill, power bill, internet bill, home fuel bill, a tax receipt, property assessment, a mortgage contract or a residential lease agreement

Visit the [HRCE website](#) for more information and to enrol your child today through PowerSchool Enrollment!

Don't have a child to register? Maybe you know someone who does! Please help us spread the word and pass this information on to friends, neighbours or relatives who will be looking to register for the fall.

Thriving Offline: How Delaying Smartphones Can Help Kids Flourish

Thriving Offline: How Delaying Smartphones Can Help Kids Flourish, a free community event hosted by Unplugged Canada at St. Margaret's Bay Elementary, is available both in person and virtually.

Designed for caregivers and educators, this session will explore how early smartphone and social media use impacts children's development and the latest research, practical strategies, safer alternatives, and age-appropriate boundaries to support healthy childhoods.

Join us! Thriving Offline: How Delaying Smartphones Can Help Kids Flourish

- Tuesday, February 24, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.
- St. Margaret's Bay Elementary - 24 Ridgewood Dr, Head of St Margaret's Bay, NS
- Please register for in-person or virtual [here](#).

Two Truths & AI

Two Truths & AI is a free, interactive activity from Common Sense Education that helps students learn how to tell the difference between real and AI-generated content. Through guided examples, students practice asking good questions and thinking critically about what they see online. This resource can also be a helpful way for parents and caregivers to build their own understanding of AI and media literacy alongside their children. Learn more [here](#).

Upcoming dates:

Feb. 1-28—Registration Month

Feb. 11—Author visit at both sites (postponed)

Feb. 16—Heritage Day (no school)

Feb. 17—Lunar New Year

Feb. 19—Inspiration Republic Presentation for African Heritage Month for grades PP-2

Feb. 23—HSA meeting 6:30 Eaglewood