

Good afternoon Sunnyside Families,

It's hard to believe that it's the end of January. It feels like the theme of this month has been SNOW and the students have been having a great time playing in it! Thank you for ensuring that they are appropriately dressed to play outside each day!

This message will include information about African Heritage Month, changes to the school lunch program menu, school support staff, registration for the 2026-2027 school year, hosting an international student, and Home and School Association news.

February is African Heritage Month

African Heritage Month in Nova Scotia is a time to recognize and celebrate the rich history, vibrant culture, and lasting contributions of people of African descent in our province. This year's theme, "Strength in Unity – Moving Forward with Purpose, Prosperity, Power and Progress," reminds us of the importance of coming together as a community, learning from one another, and moving forward with shared purpose.

In our schools, African Heritage Month provides meaningful opportunities for students to explore African Nova Scotian histories and experiences, deepen their understanding of our shared past, and reflect on the values of respect, inclusion, and belonging. Through classroom learning, discussions, and activities connected to this year's theme, students are encouraged to appreciate diversity, build empathy, and recognize the strength that comes from unity. These experiences help foster welcoming school communities and inspire students to contribute positively to a more inclusive and equitable future for all.

We will be having a virtual visit with Inspiration Republic on Monday February 2nd to kick off African Heritage Month at Sunnyside. They will be helping us learn about Black History in Canada. At the end of the month, we will be having an assembly to allow students to showcase their learning about African Canadian Heritage throughout the month.

New Updated School Lunches Are Coming!

Starting on **January 26**, the school lunch menu is getting a tasty refresh! Expect more fresh fruit, better side pairings, and some exciting new favourites like chicken fingers, quesadillas, egg roll bowls, and meatloaf! New items vary slightly by menu.

Give the new menu a try! The next ordering window opened today and closes Feb. 4th at noon 🍎 🥘

Support staff in the school: There are several staff at Sunnyside who work with students in addition to classroom and subject teachers. Over the next few weeks, we will be introducing you to these essential staff members. This week we introduce our Early Literacy Support Teachers. Mme Richardson and Mrs. Ewing work with students and teachers to improve student achievement in reading and writing. They work with different groups of students throughout the year to help achieve literacy goals and they also work with teachers to support literacy instruction in the classrooms.

Sunnyside Home and School Association wants to stay connected!

For those of you who haven't yet signed up to receive HSA email updates, please email sunnysidehsa@gnspe.ca to be added to the list!

The Sunnyside Home & School Association (HSA) is a group of dedicated parents, guardians, and staff working together to support our school community. By joining the email list, you will receive information throughout the school year on upcoming events, HSA meetings, fundraisers and special projects. These activities connect our community and enhance the student experience at Sunnyside.

Everyone is welcome—join us! Our next in-person meeting at Eaglewood will be on February 23rd at 6:30pm.

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.

Open your home to an international student!

Have you considered opening your home to an international student?

HRCE's International Services welcomes students from all over the world who would like to attend schools in our region. Hosting a student in your home can be an enriching and rewarding experience. We're looking for warm and caring families like yours to provide them with a home away from home.

Hosting an international student is a once-in-a-lifetime experience that gives your family the opportunity to bring the world home. For students, it's a way to learn about the Canadian way of life.

As a host, your family would be matched with a student who will attend your neighbourhood school and participate in your daily routines.

What you can expect:

- Host families receive a tax-free monthly stipend to help cover hosting expenses (\$825 current, \$875 effective September)
- Students stay for periods of three to 10 months
- Ongoing support is provided by an experienced Homestay Coordinator
- You will learn about and communicate with your student before their arrival

Learn more [here](#) or contact:

HRCE International Services

(902) 464-2000 ext. 2548

hostastudent@hrce.ca

Please share this message with anyone who may be interested.

Thank you! Gracias. Merci. Xie-Xie. Danke. Arigato. Grazie. Obrigado. Kamsa-Hamnida. Kawp-Kun-Ka. Shukran. Teşekkür Ederim.

HRCE International Services

Upcoming dates:

Feb. 1—Registration begins

Feb. 2—Inspiration Republic Presentation for African Heritage Month

Feb. 11—Author visit at both sites

Feb. 16—Heritage Day (no school)

Feb. 17—Lunar New Year

Feb. 23—HSA meeting 6:30 Eaglewood