



Sunnyside Elementary School

December 2022 Newsletter

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Upcoming Dates

Dec. 3--Jingle Bell Breakfast
Dec. 5-15 Food Drive
Dec. 12 & 13 Holiday concerts (1:30 & 7)
Dec. 14--Band/Strings/Choir concert (1:30)
Dec. 15--PJ Day
Dec. 16--5/6 S Market
Dec. 20--Last day before holiday break
Jan. 3--First day after holiday break

Principal's Message

December is always a busy time in schools and we have many things that we will be sharing together and with our school community. The sounds of the coming holidays are echoing in the school. Students are working very hard with Mr. Cochrane and their teachers to prepare a very special presentation for our families. We can't wait for our December musical showcase. Dates and time for the concerts are found on page 2 of this newsletter.

We welcomed our parents and guardians to the schools this week for parent/teacher conferences to discuss student progress. Parent/teacher conferences are one of the many ways we communicate student learning and build relationships in our community. We are always appreciative of the collaboration between the school and home to ensure our students' success.

On Saturday, we will be holding our Jingle Bell Breakfast. Thanks to our HSA for organizing this event that will include bagels, fruit and beverages, many craft vendors and activities for the children. It's a great way to begin the holiday season.

After our concerts, which may be late evenings for some of our students, we're going to celebrate with a Pyjama/Comfy Clothes day. On December 15, we invite students to wear their pyjamas or coziest, comfortable clothes.

When you are in the buildings over the next few weeks, please check out the lost and found. Remaining items will be donated after Dec. 20.

Broad Street Schools Consultation

As you know, the HRCE is consulting families, staff and community members about boundary reviews due to the new schools on Broad Street. The HRCE continues to solicit feedback from all potentially impacted school communities. There are a variety of ways that you can provide feedback during this process:

- Comment and rate comments on the virtual town hall <https://www.hrce.ca/consult>
- Email consult@hrce.ca
- Call 902-464-2000 ext 2019

We encourage all of you to look at the reports and FAQs that have been compiled so far, and to use the ways above to have your voice heard in the process.

Reminders

- Do not send nut or peanut products to school
- When students are being picked up early from school, please give Mrs. Tricia a call (902)832-8983 when you are about 5 minutes away from the school. This will allow us to call your child to the front door to be waiting for you.
- If your child arrives late at Eaglewood, remind them to check in at the office. When you drop your child off late at Fort Sackville, please call the main office so we can adjust the attendance. If students are going to be later than 9:40, please report them via SchoolMessenger and indicate they are absent all day. We will adjust when they arrive.

December Concerts

We are excited to be showcasing our students' musical learning so far this year with concerts on December 12 & 13 at 1:30 pm and 7:00 pm. **Families will receive 2 tickets for the evening performance that their child (children) are in.** If you have multiple children in one concert, you will receive 2 tickets/family. Extended family members are invited to attend the afternoon concerts. All concerts will be at the Eaglewood location.

Monday Dec. 12: Pri Boudreau, Pri. Verrall, 1 Murray, 2 Tracy, 2 Laura, 2/3 Isenor/Gardner, 3/4 Bramwell, 4 Hanley, 4/5 Woodbury, 6 Boudreau

Tuesday Dec. 13: Pri Julie, Pri/1 Ewing/Fulton, 1 Fraser, 1/2 Dominica, 3 Richardson, 3/4 Oswald, 4 Caldwell, 5 Graham, 5/6 Rohland, 5/6 Sutherland

We will also be offering an afternoon Band, Choir, & Strings concert on Dec. 14th at 1:30 pm. There will not be an evening performance.

In addition to the December concerts, our music department is planning a spring musical. Stay tuned for details.

Tickets will be sent home next week (Tuesday or Wednesday) with the youngest student if more than one is in the same performance. Please put them somewhere safe, as you will need to bring them with you to the evening performance. If you will not be using your tickets to your child's evening performance, please let the school know and we will redistribute them to those who need extra tickets. If you are in need of extra tickets, please email Ms. Thompson (cthompson@hrce.ca) or Ms. Tricia (twissent@hrce.ca). We cannot guarantee them, but will do our best.

Concerts begin each evening at 7 pm. Student supervision in classrooms will begin at 6:30. Doors to the gym will open at 6:30 after students are dropped off in their classrooms.

Win Front Row Seats at the Concert

We will be selling tickets to win front row seats for each evening concert. Tickets will be \$1 each and a sheet of tickets will be sent home with each child for their concert night. If you would like to purchase tickets to win front row seats, please fill out the number of tickets you would like and send in the money. All tickets must be returned by Thursday, Dec. 5 and winners will be notified Friday Dec. 6. Please note that these would replace your 2 general seating tickets.

Winter is Coming: Guidelines for Inclement Weather

Making a decision to alter the regular operations of school and/or school buses due to inclement weather is never an easy task. To learn more about how the Halifax Regional Centre for Education (HRCE) makes this call, visit www.hrce.ca/weather.

When is the decision made?

HRCE's goal is to make the decision as close to 6 am. As possible.

A 6 am announcement could be:

- All schools are delayed in opening by two hours (Sunnyside would begin at 11:10 am) and all bus pickups are delayed by two hours; or
- All schools are open, but some or all buses are not operating for the day; or
- Some schools (either individually or by family) are closed for the day; or
- All schools are closed for the day.

If the weather deteriorates through the school day, the HRCE can decide to dismiss early. In the event of an early dismissal, the decision will be communicated as close to 11 am as possible.

An early dismissal means:

- Bused students will be picked up two hours earlier than their regular dismissal time; and
- Walking students will be dismissed at their regularly-scheduled lunch hour.

Please Note: Students in grades Pre-primary to 6 will not be released from school until parents/guardians or designates have been notified by the school.

How will families be notified?

- Families will receive an email and text message (opt-in is required: text Y to 978338)*
- Check out our website at www.hrce.ca
- Follow us on Twitter at @HRCE_NS
- Call the HRCE information line at 902-464-INFO (4636)
- All local radio stations are informed.

**If you know someone who is NOT a parent/guardian who would like to receive an email and/or text message, let them know they can sign up here: www.hrce.ca/notifications*

Snow Safety On the subject of snow, it is well known that, while many of us love snow, the throwing of snowballs at school is not permitted. Please review the need for this with your child. We want the children to have fun playing in the snow in a safe manner. Please remind your child that, if we are lucky enough to have snow, they must be adequately dressed in order to play in the snow. This means snow pants, boots, jacket and so on. We want the students to have fun, but we also want them warm and dry.

Pizza Lunch

Our next HSA Pizza Lunch will be on Friday, December 16th. You can order your child a slice of pizza online via SchoolCash Online. You have until midnight December 13th to place your order. We are unable to take cash or late orders.

Bus Planner Text Messaging

Does your child ride the bus? We are excited to introduce text messaging through BusPlanner.

To ensure compliance with Canadian Anti-Spam laws, you must opt-in to receive information by text message. You can opt-in by logging into

<https://hrcetransportation.mybusplanner.ca/>

By opting in, you will receive texts from BusPlanner, including late notifications, general notices, and bus cancellations due to inclement weather.

Click [here](#) for directions how to opt-in.

Don't have a BusPlanner Parent Portal account? Need help logging in? Please contact the HRCE Student Transportation Team at transportation@hrce.ca or call 902-431-4723.

Did you know? HRCE is growing!

More than 57 000 students are currently enrolled in the Halifax Regional Centre for Education (HRCE). In the last five years, enrollment has increased by 7 733 and that number continues to grow!

As our region's population expands (Nova Scotia population reached one million last year), new families are registering all year round. This is an exciting time for our province, our city, and for HRCE!

You can learn more here: www.hrce.ca/growth

Sunnyside Gives

Traditionally the grade 6 students of Sunnyside try to give back to the community as part of their social studies program. And this year is no different. This month we have 2 service projects that our students are planning.

Our first is a food drive for Feed Nova Scotia. Starting next week, we ask that you send in donation items. We will be accepting donations from Dec. 5th to the 15th. You can also bring items in when you come to our holiday concerts on the 12th and 13ths of December. The students of 6 Boudreau will be leading this event, organizing the items and advertising it in the school. They have reached out to Feed Nova Scotia and the following is a list of suggested items:

- Soups and stews
- Cereal
- Canned vegetables and fruits
- Canned meat, fish, and beans
- Rice
- Pasta and pasta sauce
- Baby food and formula
- Meal replacement drinks
- Canned and powdered milk
- New, unopened personal hygiene and household items

Ms. Sutherland's class is planning a market on December 16th with various items curated and created by the students for sale. They would like to donate funds raised to Unicef Afghanistan, inspired by the reading of Deborah Ellis's *The Breadwinner* and concern for the rights of children around the world.. All items for sale will be \$1. Further information to follow.