



# Musquodoboit Valley Education Centre

12046 Highway 224

Middle Musquodoboit, NS B0N 1X0

[mvec@hrce.ca](mailto:mvec@hrce.ca)

Phone: 902-384-2555

Fax: 902-384-2419

Principal: Mr. Troy Smith

VP: Mrs. Andrea MacAulay

Admin Assist: Ms. Denise Logan

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## **February News and Notes:**

### **February is Registration Month**

Do you have a child who will be starting pre-primary or primary this fall? It's time to register!

Registration for the 2024-25 school year begins on February 1. 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 (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 or a mortgage contract); and
- Nova Scotia Health Card or Canadian Province Health Card or, for non-citizens while in Canada, proof of Medical Insurance Information.

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.

# February is Registration Month!

If your child was born between January 1 and December 31, 2020, they are eligible to begin school in September 2024!

**Visit [HRCE.ca](https://hrce.ca) to register!**



**LINK: Register for school [here](https://hrce.ca).**

## **Celebrate African Heritage Month 2024**

The theme for African Heritage Month 2024 is "Our Smiles, Our Joy, Our Resilience as African Nova Scotians." This month-long celebration is dedicated to recognizing and honoring the history and culture of people of African descent. The theme coincides with the final year of the United Nations' International Decade for People of African Descent (DPAD) 2015-2024, which aims to promote global cooperation in support of people of African descent, raise awareness, and acknowledge their full and equal participation in all aspects of society.

Nova Scotia is home to more than 50 historic African Nova Scotian communities with a rich, deep, and complex history that spans more than 400 years. African Heritage Month is an excellent opportunity to celebrate and showcase the culture, accomplishments, and contributions of African Nova Scotians, both past and present.

**OUR SMILES, OUR JOY, OUR RESILIENCE AS AFRICAN NOVA SCOTIANS**

**AFRICAN HERITAGE MONTH 2024**

Halifax Regional Centre for Education

**LINK: Learn more about African Heritage Month in Nova Scotia [here](#).**

**Reminder: February 19 is Heritage Day**

Observing Nova Scotia Heritage Day on the third Monday of February is an annual occasion to reflect on our province's rich history. It's a chance to recognize the remarkable people, places, and events that have shaped our unique heritage.

Please take time to learn about William Hall, the 2024 honoree, [here](#).

# REMINDER

There will be no classes on Monday, February 19 for Heritage Day honouring William Hall.



Halifax Regional Centre for Education



**LINK: Learn more about William Hall here: <https://heritageday.novascotia.ca/content/2024-honouree-william-hall>**






## Raise a Reader

Family Literacy Week provided us with an ideal opportunity to communicate with you, our students' families, about the importance of at-home reading and engaging with children in literacy-related activities.

To support you in your at-home reading journey, we are sharing a simple infographic with tips for families, as well as links to useful resources for caregivers.



## At-home reading tips for caregivers

-  **Look at your child's books** with them. Discuss the pictures and build vocabulary by talking about new words.
-  **Talk with your child about their books.** Ask questions about the story and encourage your child to ask their own questions.
-  **Make reading aloud a regular part of your routine** – just 15 minutes each day can make a big difference in raising a reader.
-  **Discuss examples that help them relate** to what they're reading. Connect the story to your child's world.
-  **Connect with your child's teacher** for more suggestions on how to support reading at home.



## Red Means Stop! School Bus Safety Reminder

HRCE has recorded 691 school bus stop-arm violations in Halifax Regional Municipality since the beginning of the school year. This means that motorists have failed to stop for a bus when its red lights were flashing and the stop sign was extended. This poses a serious risk to children and families who may be crossing the road to enter or exit the bus. Drivers may also face a fine and demerit points if caught by police.

Help us spread the word to remind drivers (including cyclists) that it is illegal to drive past a school bus when they see its red lights flashing and stop-arm extended.

Drivers must slow down and prepare to stop in all directions when they see flashing lights – either amber or red in colour – on a school bus. This means the bus is planning to stop or may have already.

Here are some safety tips from Safety Services Nova Scotia to keep in mind when waiting for or exiting the bus:

- Stand back from the edge of the road.
- Line up in single file when you see the bus coming.
- Wait for the bus to come to a complete stop.
- Walk, never run.
- Make sure the bus driver sees you if you are crossing the road. Take 10 giant steps in front of the bus before crossing.
- Wait for the bus driver to signal that it is okay to cross.
- Always look both ways before crossing the road and listen for traffic.
- Never cross the road from behind the bus.



### **SAFETY REMINDER!**

When a school bus is stopped, with its lights flashing, drivers must stop and not proceed past the bus.



#### **School websites: We want your feedback!**

Now that HRCE's main [website](#) has been upgraded, we're ready to update our school websites to meet accessibility standards and to improve navigation.

As we begin this work, we're looking for your input.

Please take a few minutes to share your thoughts. We appreciate your time and effort!

To get started, [click here](#).

#### **Quick Notes / Reminders:**

- We are pleased to have secured a school counsellor for the three elementary schools in the Musquodoboit Valley. Nathan Schnerch has been hired and will be in the role for the remainder of the school year. Mr. S. is currently at MVEC on Mondays and Tuesdays. If you or your child is interested in his support, please reach out to him via email at [nschnerch@hrce.ca](mailto:nschnerch@hrce.ca).
- As we move into the second half of winter, please ensure that students are dressed for our changing weather. Appropriate outer wear, sweaters, coats, hats and mittens or gloves are at the ready and in the backpacks to wear if needed.
- Parents and guardians are reminded that staff are not on duty until 8:40 in the morning, so please do not drop off students prior to that time as there is no supervision.
- If there is a change to the end of the day routine for your child, we are asking that these changes be made no later than 2:00 PM. We do realize that life happens and while we do plan, plans sometimes have to change.

## **School Calendar:**

A few dates to keep in mind are:

- February 1 – 29 Registration Month
- February 14 – Valentine’s Day / Heart Disease Awareness Day - wear red.
- February 14 – SAC Meeting – 3:15 pm
- February 16 – Magic Show Performance – all students – 1:15pm
- February 19 – Heritage Day - No classes
- February 22 – Grade 6 Band Trip.
- February 23 – Hot Lunch – Pepperoni Pizza

## **Head Lice Prevention**

Not only can colds and flu bugs be spread at school, so can head lice. Head lice are tiny insects that live on the head. They lay eggs (called nits) close to the scalp. Head lice spread through direct contact among children (head-to-head), or indirectly on items such as hats, combs, hairbrushes, headbands, helmets, or toques. Head lice do not jump, fly, or hop but they crawl very quickly. We encourage you to remind your children not to share anything that could cause a transfer of head lice. Check your child’s head regularly for either live lice or nits (eggs), once a week as part of your routine and after every sleepover. Keep long hair tied back or braided. Head lice spread easily, so if one person in the household has lice, others may have it too. Check everyone in the household on the same day. Once your child has been treated, he/she may return to school if there are no live lice. It is important to carefully follow the directions on the treatment package so that re-infestation does not occur. All family members should be checked and treated as required. For more information, please click the link below to read the pamphlet “How to Prevent, Find & Treat Head Lice”, written and reviewed by Public Health Services, Nova Scotia Health Authority

<http://www.novascotia.ca/dhw/publications/public-health-education/07135-head-lice-pamphlet-en.pdf>

As always, if you have any questions, please reach out to the school.

Thank you.

Troy Smith – Principal

Andrea MacAulay – Vice Principal