



MOUNT EDWARD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

JANUARY 2022 NEWSLETTER



MOUNT EDWARD ELEMENTARY
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A reminder to all parents/
guardians to please call if your
child will not be at school on
that day.

RASPBERRY ICECREAM IN A BAG

Ingredients

- 1 cup half-and-half cream
- 1/2 cup fresh raspberries
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 2 tbsp evaporated milk
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 4 cups coarsely crushed ice
- 3/4 cup salt

1. Using two large resealable plastic bags, place 1 bag inside the other. Place the first 5 ingredients inside the inner bag. Seal both bags, pressing out as much air as possible.
2. Place the 2 bags in a gallon-size resealable plastic freezer bag. Add ice and salt. Seal bag, again pressing out as much air as possible.
3. Shake and knead cream mixture until thickened, about 5 minutes. (If desired, wear mittens or wrap bags in a kitchen towel while shaking to protect hands from the cold ice.)

Principal's Message

Welcome back and Happy New Year to all parents, guardians, students and staff members. I hope that everyone had a relaxing and enjoyable extended holiday break, despite the Covid-19 restrictions enforced by Public Health. We appreciate the fact that on-line learning is not ideal for students, but the feedback from staff regarding participation was very positive. It was certainly great to see our students returning to in-person classes this week. Now that we are back to in-person learning, I wanted to share some extra measures that have been taken to help protect our students and staff.

HEPA filtration systems have been placed in each classroom to help with air circulation in the rooms. Students were also given one 3-ply mask on Monday as it is now the recommendation from Public Health that everyone wear a 3-ply mask vs the 2-ply mask. Students will only be permitted to remove their mask when they are outdoors for recess or for mask breaks indoors when they can be socially distanced from their peers. At lunchtime, students can remove their mask when they are seated at their desks, which will also be spread out in the classroom to maximize distance between students. Students will be asked to bring home any uneaten items and garbage to minimize movement around the classroom during lunchtime.

Just a reminder to families of the changes to our morning entry routine. Once students arrive at the school (between 8:35 and 8:45), they are to enter the school by their regular entry door, hand sanitize and go directly to their classroom. The goal is to lessen the congestion in the hallways as students require more time and space with the hanging up of winter clothing. No students are to arrive to school before 8:35 am. If your child arrives to school prior to the 8:45 bell, they are expected to enter the school by their regular entry door and not the main entrance. We also ask that you try to ensure your child has a water bottle with them each day, which they are able to fill up at a cooler at school when needed.

In an effort to prevent cohorts of students from mixing, we have gone to a staggered recess approach. Students will be limited to different zones for playing and interacting with their class only. Students in grades primary to two will continue to have their recess from 10:25-10:40 and students in grades three to six will have their recess from 10:40-10:55. Class schedules and lunchtimes will remain the same. All students will remain in their classes to eat their lunch.

Just a reminder that students are asked not to bring invitations to school to distribute to other students (example: birthday invitations, Valentine cards, etc.). Due to Covid-19 restrictions, at no time is it permitted for students to bring these items to school to deliver to their peers. With regards to Valentine's celebrations, your child's classroom teacher will provide you with information as Valentine's Day approaches with how things will be handled in the classroom this year while following Public Health guidelines.

Families are reminded to monitor their child/children for symptoms on a daily basis. Please refer to the Covid-19 Daily Check-in from Nova Scotia Health, which is attached. Students with any symptoms should remain home. If your child should develop symptoms during the school day, they will be isolated from their peers and you will be contacted. We will provide you with a rapid test that you can administer to your child at home.

As always, I encourage you to communicate regularly with your child's classroom teacher to address any questions or concerns.

PRE-PRIMARY AND PRIMARY REGISTRATION

As always, February is pre-primary and primary registration month. It is anticipated that during 2022-2023 school year, registrations will be done electronically once again this year. More information will be posted on our school website and the HRCE website when available.

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Currently, we are still looking for new members to join our School Advisory Council at Mount Edward School. If you are interested in serving on our SAC, please contact the school at 902-435-8459.

LUNCH MONITOR NEEDED

We are currently looking for one regular lunch monitor. The regular lunch monitor position would be a commitment of 1 hour per day, 5 days per week at a rate of pay of \$13.68 per hour (plus 4% vacation pay). The lunch for Mount Edward runs from 11:50 am to 12:50 pm. If you are interested, please contact the office to discuss further at 902-435-8459.

UPCOMING DATES

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Tuesday, February 1st | - Pre-Primary and Primary Registration Begins |
| Friday, February 18th | - PD day for staff - No Classes for students |
| Monday, February 21st | - Heritage Day - No Classes |
| Monday, February 28th | - Pre-Primary and Primary Registration Ends |



COVID-19 Daily Checklist

It is important to closely monitor your health and the health of those you care for to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other illnesses like the flu.

Vaccination is your best defense against COVID-19 and some other illnesses like the flu.

NOTE: If you are in a school or child care setting, you need to follow this checklist AND instructions for the [Test to Protect Program](#).

1

Do you feel sick?

If yes, stay home or put a mask on right away and go home. Keep doing healthy habits like washing your hands and coughing or sneezing into your elbow. Avoid school, work, child care settings and public spaces. Do not return until you feel better (without fever medications) for at least 24 hours. It's ok if you still have a mild cough or runny nose, unless you are in one of the situations below.

2

In the past 48 hours, have you had, or are you currently experiencing:



Cough (new or worsening)

OR two or more of the following symptoms (new or worsening):



Fever
(i.e. chills/sweats)



Sore
throat



Runny nose/
nasal congestion



Headache



Shortness of breath

If yes, go home or stay home as noted above. Follow [Public Health instructions](#) for testing and isolation.

3

Have you visited a COVID-19 exposure site?

Check the list of [COVID-19 exposure sites](#) and follow Public Health instructions. You may need to be tested. You may also need to self-isolate.

4

Have you been outside Nova Scotia in the past 14 days?

If yes, check if you are required to [isolate due to travel](#).

5

Has someone who tested positive for COVID-19 told you that you are one of their close contacts?

If yes, follow [Public Health instructions](#).

Guidelines for school and/or bus cancellations due to inclement weather

Nova Scotia winter weather can change quickly and can be challenging to predict. This document outlines the steps we take when deciding whether to cancel school and/or bussing.

A 6:00 am announcement could be:

All schools are closed for the day

OR

Some schools (either individually or by family) are closed for the day

OR

All schools are open, but some or all busses are not operating for the day

OR

All schools are delayed in opening by 2 hours

If weather deteriorates, or is forecast to worsen throughout the morning

An 11:00 am announcement could be:

Bussed students will be picked up 2 hours earlier than their regular dismissal time

AND

Walking students will be dismissed at their regularly scheduled lunch hour

Remember:

Parents/guardians always have the right to keep their child home from school if they believe that the travelling conditions are unsuitable.

How does Halifax Regional Centre for Education (HRCE) decide on school and/or bus cancellations?

By 4:30 am, HRCE staff begin to gather information from:

- A contracted weather service that provides radar and satellite imagery, real-time road conditions and weather warnings;
 - A meteorologist who provides forecast details, level and type of precipitation and impact on road conditions;
 - HRCE's three transportation service providers, who provide updates on road conditions in their area;
 - Municipal and provincial transportation staff; and
 - Other local weather services, including Environment Canada and the Weather Network.
- By 5:30 am, HRCE staff make recommendations to the Regional Executive Director (or designate), who then makes the final decision.

This decision is communicated by 6:00 am.