

# February 2023 Newsletter



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Please call 1-833-582-6940 to report an absence using an automated system or by the SchoolMessenger App or login to PowerSchool.



## MONTHLY PARENTING TIPS

Help support your child's growing sense of self and desire to do things by themselves by assigning them household chores. Even very young children can do small chores, like throwing away their trash or putting their dirty clothes in the hamper. When teaching these skills, it's important parents are encouraging and patient. Break the routine down into simple steps. Provide gentle reminders. Resist the urge to redo what they have done independently.

*"If teaching is to be effective with young children, it must assist them to advance on the way to independence."*  
MARIA MONTESSORI

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

January has been an extremely busy month here at Mount Edward School. Students have been working hard in their classrooms. As always, parents and guardians are encouraged to communicate often with classroom teachers. It is our partnership between home and school that creates the most positive learning environment for our students and we value your continued support.

We continue to ask that children come to school dressed for the weather conditions. We also ask that you ensure your child has a water bottle with them each day which can be filled up at a cooler at school when needed. Please remember to send utensils in your child's lunch if they need them as we give out a great deal of plastic spoons to students daily.

Lori Bartkiw, Principal

## SCHOOL ZONE SAFETY

To ensure our students' safety, here are a few reminders for drivers navigating school zones.

- Follow school zone speed limits whenever children are present. This always applies, not just during school hours.
- Be prepared to stop for a school bus at any time.
- Remember to stop whenever you approach a stopped school bus with its red lights flashing, regardless of the direction of travel or which lane the bus is in.
- Give yourself extra time during your morning commute
- Always watch for pedestrians. There are more kids walking, riding, and getting dropped off in school zones.
- Always obey crossing guards and no parking zones.
- We ask that parents/guardians never drive on school property



## FEBRUARY IS REGISTRATION MONTH

Effective February 1, 2023, we will be accepting registrations for the 2023-2024 school year through our new online portal, PowerSchool Enrollment! **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!

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.

## AFRICAN HERITAGE MONTH

February is African Heritage Month! This year's theme, *Seas of Struggle – African Peoples from Shore to Shore*, recognizes the resiliency, strength, and determination of people of African descent from the shores of Africa to the shores of Nova Scotia – with the Atlantic Ocean being the everlasting connection. Learn more [here](#).

Looking for ways to recognize and celebrate African Heritage Month?

- Attend events happening throughout the month at your local [Halifax Public Library](#).
- While you're at the library, [borrow books](#) that will inspire the whole family to learn more about African heritage.
- Visit local heritage sites, such as the [Black Cultural Centre](#), the [Africville Museum](#), and the [Black Loyalist Heritage Centre](#).



LATE FRENCH IMMERSION PROGRAM

Late French Immersion Programs are offered in designated areas of eligibility of the Halifax Regional Centre for Education and take place at specific French Immersion school sites. The entry point to the Late French Immersion program is at Grade 7. As students attending Mount Edward Elementary do not qualify for guaranteed placement in French Immersion, parents/guardians would need to seek placement for their child in a Late French Immersion program through the Out-of-Area Request process: To apply for Out of Area Online, please go to: <https://www.hrce.ca/about-hrce/school-administration/student-registration/out-area-requests>

LOCKDOWN DRILLS

The safety and security of our students and staff are a top priority at our school and the Halifax Regional Centre for Education. We have been implementing a number of measures as part of a comprehensive plan aimed at ensuring our school remains a safe place for our students to learn. All classrooms will participate in our a lockdown drill in the coming weeks. During a lockdown drill, classroom doors are secured and the students remain inside the room until instructed by the teacher to resume their activities. All exterior doors are locked and no one is permitted to enter or leave the building. Students are isolated within the school whenever circumstances make it safer to stay in the classroom rather than evacuate. Just as we prepare our students to properly respond to a fire drill, they also need to be aware of the proper response during a lockdown drill. Please be assured that staff at our school will spend time discussing the importance of this procedure with students prior to running a drill. We will also take time to debrief after the drill to remind them that it was only a practice and there was no danger.

SEVERE WEATHER CLOSURES

The Halifax Regional Centre for Education takes great care when making the decision to alter the normal operations of schools in the event of severe or inclement weather. Any decisions on school closures, delayed openings or bus cancellations are posted on HRCE's website at [www.hrce.ca](http://www.hrce.ca), on twitter @HRCE\_NS recorded on 464-4636 and communicated to all local radio stations. You can also receive notice of school and bus cancellations by e-mail or text message by following the link on the front page (left side) of the HRCE website.



DELAYED OPENING



If weather conditions warrant, the Halifax Regional Centre for Education could implement a delayed opening. Delayed openings would be considered when a severe weather event has concluded but snow clearing or other operations require additional time. Delayed opening may also be considered when the school is experiencing an issue such as a power outage or loss of water and additional time is required to prepare the school to open. If this was to occur, school would be delayed by two hours. For Mount Edward Elementary, school would start at 10:50 a.m. with outdoor supervision starting 10 minutes prior to that time (10:40 a.m.). Classes would resume at 11:00 a.m. after our regular routine of morning announcements and O'Canada. With a delayed opening, the Excel program would be cancelled for the morning only. Our lunch, afternoon schedule and dismissal times would remain at their regularly scheduled times. Excel would be open for their regularly scheduled afternoon hours.

VALENTINE'S CELEBRATIONS

Tuesday, February 14th will be pink/red theme day for students and staff. Students are encouraged to wear pink and/or red that day. Classroom teachers will reach out to families giving details on what will be happening in their class to celebrate Valentine's Day.



UPCOMING DATES

Wednesday, February 1	Pre-Primary and Primary Registration Begins—Online
Tuesday, February 14	Pink/Red Theme Day
Monday, February 20	Heritage Day Honoring Elder Rita (Bernard) Joe - No School
Friday, February 24	Hat Theme Day Ice Cream Sandwich Sales (\$1.00 each)
Tuesday, February 28	Last day for Pre-Primary and Primary Registration
March 13 - March 17	March Break
March 20	Assessment and Evaluation Day—No School for Students

