



# BELL PARK BULLETIN



## IMPORTANT DATES

February 10	Chinese New Year
February 14	Valentine's Day
February 15	Home & School Meeting – 5:30
February 19	Heritage Day – No School
February 22	World Drumming Presentation
February 23 – 29	Book Fair
February 27	SAC Meeting – 6:00 – 8:00 pm (in person)
February 28	Evening Book Fair – 6:00 to 8:00 pm
February 29	ANS Museum Library
March 11 – 15	March Break

### 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.



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

## **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 enroll 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](#) to register!**

 Halifax  
Regional Centre for Education

**LINK:** Register for school [here](#).

## **February 19 – World 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](#).

## **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](#).

## **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.

## **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.



## **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.



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 caregiver.

## **School Closures/Bus Cancellations**

Decisions on school closures are posted on the Halifax Regional Center of Education website at [www.hrce.ca](http://www.hrce.ca), on Twitter at hrce\_ns, recorded on 464-INFO (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.

In case of a school closure during the day, you can help us to ensure that your child is dismissed safely by making sure that we have up-to-date contact information.