

# DARTMOUTH SOUTH ACADEMY



## Newsletter #2-October 2024

Dartmouth South Academy

111 Prince Arthur Avenue

Dartmouth, NS B2Y 0C5

<http://dsa.hrce.ca>

Phone: (902) 464-2081/Fax: (902) 461-0199

Principal: Adrienne Blumenthal

Vice Principal: Susan Aucoin/Ashley Grant

### School Closure for Inclement Weather

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. Decisions on school closures and/or bus cancellations are posted on the board's website at [www.hrce.ns.ca](http://www.hrce.ns.ca), on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/HRCE\\_Official](https://twitter.com/HRCE_Official), recorded on 464-INFO (4636) and communicated to all local radio stations. You can also receive notice of school bus cancellations by e-mail or text message by following the link on the front page (left side) of the HRCE website. If you are interested in learning more on how decisions regarding closures and cancellations are made, visit

<http://www.hrce.ns.ca/content/id/1137.html>

**REMINDER – Students  
must bring their own  
water bottles and  
eating utensils.**

**We are unable to  
supply cups and eating  
utensils.**

### Office News

**Student demographic forms will be updated by parents online through the parent portal.** It is very important that we have accurate information and working emails as that is how report cards, messages and communication is relayed. More information to follow. ***Parents must log into the parent portal of Powerschool to access their child's information.*** Instructions are attached to this newsletter.

Should items need to be dropped off at the office for students, please ensure the child's name is on them. We get several a day and without names, we can't ensure children get the proper item.

Thank you for your co-operation.

### Medication in the Office

Administering medications will only happen if the medication is in a prescription bottle with a label clearly stating the child's name, medication and dosage. The prescription must accompany a signed form from the parents/caregiver. We will not administer medication without this form. When medicine is to be given that doesn't require a prescription, the parents will have to administer it. We will not be able to accept pills in a baggie or container that does not have a prescription label.

# DARTMOUTH SOUTH ACADEMY

## Photomasters – Orders due Oct 9th

To Order your school photos, please  
visit [photomasterstudios.ca](http://photomasterstudios.ca)

Click on school photo orders

Find your school in the list and enter your  
power school # (Student #)

All prices will show up when you click on a  
photo. 39 different backgrounds!

## Safe Arrival

Please call 1-833-582-6940 to report your child's absences. Calls home will be made by a computer-generated program. There are instructions attached to this email.

Doors open at 8:40 am and attendance is taken by 9:00 am sharp. Calls begin going home for all students who aren't in the classroom at this time. Students have 20 mins to arrive in class on time. To avoid the computer generated calls, please ensure your children are at school for 9:00 am attendance.

**School Photos by Photomaster Studios**  
902-465-2404  
**Dartmouth South** **Orders Due on Oct 9th**  
39 different backgrounds to pick from! To order, go Online at [photomasterstudios.ca](http://photomasterstudios.ca)  
Please do NOT Pass in orders to the school! You can scan the QR Code on your phone or by going to our web site. All orders will be sent to the school within 10 days of the Due date. This background is (B-0) and will be used for the class photos. 1 will be sent free per student.



## Cell Phones @ DSA

Dartmouth South Academy is personal device tech free. This includes any device (phone, gaming device, etc.) that can connect to the internet and/or access social media. Over the past number of years, we have noticed an increase in student distraction from personal devices in classrooms. Many of the conflicts that occur with students are communicated and exacerbated throughout the day by means of personal devices. This may lead to situations that negatively impact the safety and security of our students. The expectation is that cell phones/devices will be kept in lockers when students arrive at school and that they will not be seen or heard during class time or in the hallways. During class time, you will always be able to get a message to your child through the office. Exceptions will be made for students who rely on their personal device for health reasons (i.e., monitoring blood glucose), after consultation with parents. Students will be able to use their devices at lunch.

# DARTMOUTH SOUTH ACADEMY

## HALIFAX PUBLIC LIBRARIES & DAL LEGAL AID HOUSING DROP-IN CLINICS

Join us every Wednesday at a different public library for a drop-in clinic to answer residential tenancies questions and access legal aid, referrals, and information.

Please Note: there will be no clinics Dec 25 or Jan 1. Drop-in slots are subject to availability

**1ST**  
Wednesday

**CAPTAIN WILLIAM SPRY LIBRARY**  
10:00 AM - 12:30 PM

**2ND**  
Wednesday

**HALIFAX CENTRAL LIBRARY**  
10:00 AM - 12:30 PM

**3RD**  
Wednesday

**SACKVILLE LIBRARY**  
01:00 PM - 03:00 PM

**4TH**  
Wednesday

**ALDERNEY GATE LANDING**  
10:00 AM - 01:00 PM

Please bring all necessary documents during drop-in:

i.e. copy of lease contracts; application(s) filed by you or your landlord; notice(s) or order(s) issued; any form of communication between you and the landlord; any relevant evidence pertaining to the matter.

## Early Student Pick Up

Although students leaving early is discouraged due to missed instructional time, we realize that occasionally a student may have to. Should this happen, please inform the classroom teacher so that they can plan accordingly. With 690 students, it becomes a little chaotic when several children are picked up unannounced before the 3 o'clock bell. *Thanks for your co-operation.*

## Breakfast Program

### We need your help!

We are seeking volunteers to help us with the breakfast program. There are two options for helping:

Option 1 - join us at 8:15am to help prepare the food and serve. You will be finished by 8:55am.

Option 2 - join us at 8:40am to help us serve food to students. You will be finished by 8:55am.

Please reach out to Sue Aucoin at [saucoin@hrce.ca](mailto:saucoin@hrce.ca) if you're available to help!

## Bell Times

Morning Attendance – 8:55-9:00 am

Lunch – 12:00 – 1:00 – grades P-6

Lunch – 1:00 – 2:00 – grades 7-8

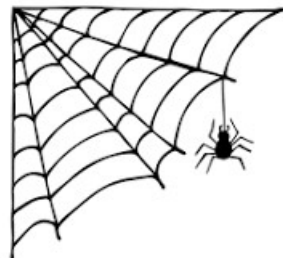
Dismissal Pre-P-8 – 3:00 pm

**DARTMOUTH SOUTH ACADEMY  
PRIMARY TO GRADE 6  
HALLOWEEN DANCE  
Thursday, October 24  
6:00 – 7:00 PM**

**Admission by Donation  
Each Child Receives a Bag of Chips  
and a Bottle of Water**

**COSTUMES ENCOURAGED!  
NO MASKS OR WEAPONS  
PERMITTED**

**ALL CHILDREN MUST BE  
ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT**



# DARTMOUTH SOUTH ACADEMY

## School Bus Safety

October 21-25, 2024 is School Bus Safety Week in Nova Scotia!

Did you know that more than 30,000 HRCE students ride the school bus every day?

School Bus Safety Week is a great time to remind students, families and schools of a few daily safety tips that everyone can follow to ensure all students get to school safely.

### *Bus Stop Safety*

- Be on time for the bus and please don't run to/from the bus.
- Stand back off the road and don't push or shove when waiting at a stop.
- Always cross in front of the bus. Walk three metres (10 feet) in front of the bus to a point where you can see the driver and wait for the driver's signal to cross. Proceed to the centre of the road, STOP, LOOK & LISTEN and cross the road when it is safe.
- Never crawl under a school bus or cross the road behind the bus.
- Know the danger zones around the bus.

### *School Bus Safety*

- Please respect and listen to the driver and avoid distracting them.
- Please keep noise levels to a minimum.
- Do not stand or move seats while the bus is in motion.
- Never put your hands, arms, feet or head out of the bus window.
- Ask the driver for permission before you open the bus windows.
- Do not throw anything inside the bus or out of the windows.
- Keep the aisle clear at all times when the bus is in motion.

You can find out more information about School Bus Safety Week, including more safety tips, [here](#).



## What is SchoolsPlus?

SchoolsPlus is a confidential, free service available in every school in Nova Scotia. Our goal is to build positive relationships between families, schools, and communities. We can help families navigate complicated situations when they are involved with many different services. This helps ensure everyone is communicating clearly and working on shared goals. SchoolsPlus can also help connect families to community resources and offers mental health support in schools. Contact the SchoolsPlus Facilitator for your school to make a referral. You can find additional information [here](#).



**Schools Plus**  
Écoles Plus  
NOVA SCOTIA / NOUVELLE-ÉCOSSE

SchoolsPlus is a confidential, free service available in every school in Nova Scotia. Our goal is to build positive relationships between families, schools, and communities. We can help families navigate complicated situations when they are involved with many different services.

Phone: 902-464-2041  
Email: [schoolsplus@hrce.ca](mailto:schoolsplus@hrce.ca)  
Twitter: [@HRCESchoolsPlus](https://twitter.com/HRCESchoolsPlus)

# DARTMOUTH SOUTH ACADEMY

## School Surveillance System

Our school uses a video surveillance system as part of our continued efforts to support a safe, positive and effective learning environment. We recognize that the images recorded by this video surveillance system are personal information and, as with all other personal information, we take steps to balance privacy rights with safety and security concerns. The school has the legal authority to collect this personal information under Section 24 of Nova Scotia's Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Only designated staff has access to our video surveillance equipment and such access is restricted as required by law. The system is used to enhance school safety and to deter or take action in response to unlawful behaviours.

If you have any questions about video surveillance at our school, please contact Adrienne Blumenthal, Principal, at 902-464-2081.



## Dates to Remember

[October is Mi'kmaq History Month](#)

**October 1** – Treaty Day

**October 4** – National Day of Action for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

**October 9** – Photomaster orders are due

**October 11** – Professional Learning Day (no classes for PP-12)

**October 14** – Thanksgiving (no classes for PP-12)

**October 18** – NS Lunch Program starts for ordering

**October 24** – Halloween Dance 6-7 pm (P to Grade 6)

**October 25** – NSTU Conference Day (no classes for PP-12)

**October 28** – NS Lunch begins

**October 31** - Diwali

## Lunch Program Support

On Monday Oct 21st (2-3:30pm) an info and support session will be held for parents who may need some help getting their students signed up for the new school lunch program. It will be held in the Active Healthy Living room (next to the gym).

This will be held by Schools Plus and our ANS support worker. If you are interested or have any questions please reach out to our Schools Plus Community Outreach Worker Anna DeWolfe at [amdewolfe@hrce.ca](mailto:amdewolfe@hrce.ca)

## SCHOOLCASH - ONLINE

Big News! DSA has moved to an online cash system. Parents will no longer be required to have cash on hand in order to purchase items from the school.

When items get posted, parents that are registered will be sent an email notification from the system advising that there is now an item available for purchase.

The URL to the site is:

<https://hrce.schoolcashionline.com/>



## Reminder: No Classes

Please note that there will be no classes for grades PP-12 on Friday, October 11 for professional development, Monday, October 14 for Thanksgiving and Friday, October 25 for NSTU Conference Day. These and all important dates can be found in the [HRCE calendar](#).

# DARTMOUTH SOUTH ACADEMY

## School Safety and Security

As you are likely aware, our school practices lockdowns as part of our emergency planning/preparedness cycle. Staff and students are familiar with lockdowns, but we wish to increase your knowledge of our procedures.

It is important to understand that school staff will implement a lockdown and call police if and when there is any reason to believe that imminent danger to students and staff may exist. At this stage, everyone in the school will move to a secure location, safe from harm. Police will respond to the school and no one will enter or leave, until the situation is resolved.

The first instinct of parents/guardians is to either phone the school directly or your child, or to attend directly to the school. You are asked not to do any of these, but instead to understand and follow the procedures outlined in this letter.

Experience has shown that roadways need to be kept clear for responding emergency vehicles, and parents and others attempting to drive to the school can slow police and other emergency responders from getting to and securing the area as quickly as possible. Therefore, if you hear that a lockdown is occurring at your child's school, do not attend to the school. Instead, you may attend to your schools' designated Parent location to receive information which will be provided by police and school representatives.

## School Safety and Security – cont'd

Please be assured that every effort will be made to keep you informed as to what is happening during the event. Experience has shown that incorrect information often circulates during an event when it does not come directly from the police or school board. After the lockdown, you may be asked to go to the school or to wait where you are until your child is brought to your location.

We also ask that you not attempt to phone your child. In a lockdown, everyone must remain quiet, and a ringing cell phone may draw undue attention to the secure location where your child and his/her classmates are.

Aside from lockdown procedures, your child's school may also implement a precautionary "Hold and Secure" if there is an unrelated emergency situation occurring outside the building or in the neighborhood that could potentially present a danger to the school. In this situation all doors to the school are locked and monitored to allow any students from outside entry into the school. Classes will generally continue but no one will be allowed to enter or leave the building until the situation is resolved. We also ask that you do **NOT** attend to the school unless asked to do so by school board staff.

We encourage you to discuss school safety with your child and to address any concerns they may have and we welcome any questions you may have about this or any other issue related to the safety and security of our school.

SCHOOL	PRIMARY PARENT STAGING AREA	SECONDARY PARENT STAGING AREA
Dartmouth South Academy	North Woodside Community Centre 230 Pleasant Street 902-463-9276	Grace Baptist Church 51 Athorpe Drive 902-434-3047

# DARTMOUTH SOUTH ACADEMY



## Two Youth Programs



**North Woodside Community Centre**

**230 Pleasant St Dartmouth NS**

The North Woodside Community Centre is providing a **Floor Hockey** program for children ages 7-12 years. We provide the goalie gear, hockey sticks and nets. If you wish your child to wear a helmet you must provide it. Your child will enjoy playing hockey in a safe and fun environment with friends.

Friday Oct 4 – Nov 29/24

Time: 5:30-6:30pm Ages: 7-12 years Cost: \$20.00

---

Every Friday we have two rooms open just for you! This free **Youth Night Drop-In** program is for youth ages 7-12. Come out and play your favourite video games, air hockey, board games, our Arcade game, Basketball shoot and more.

There will be a gym night and movie night once a month.

All this will take place in a safe and enjoyable atmosphere.

Friday Oct 4 – Nov 29/24

Time: 7:00-8:30pm Ages: 7-12 years Cost: Free

Call 902-463-1034 for more information



# DARTMOUTH SOUTH ACADEMY

## Powerschool Parent Portal

Dear Parent/Guardian,

1. Open a web browser and navigate to the Portal Sign In page at:  
<https://sishrsb.ednet.ns.ca>
2. Click on the link: **Forgot Username or Password?**
3. Click on the **Parents** tab.
4. Under the **Forgot Password?** section, enter your **Parent Username**. Your **Parent Username** is the full email address that received this message.
5. Enter your **Parent Email Address** (use same email address entered in Step 4).
6. Click the **Reset Password** button.
7. A Password Reset Request email will be sent to you. Click the link in the email to reset your password.
8. Navigate back to the Portal Sign In page at: <https://sishrsb.ednet.ns.ca>
9. Enter your **Parent Username**. Your **Parent Username** is the full email address that received this message.
10. Enter the password you set via the Password Reset Request.
11. Once logged in, review your account details.

PowerSchool SIS

### Recover Account Sign In Information

Students Parents

#### Parents

**Forgot Password?**  
To reset your password, enter your username and email address below, and click the 'Reset Password' button.

Parent Username myemailaddress@gmail.com

Parent Email Address

Reset Password

Only the school where the student is currently enrolled can troubleshoot and make changes. Contact the school if you encounter any difficulty, such as a student no longer linked to your account.

Thank you for your cooperation and support through this parent account update.



# DARTMOUTH SOUTH ACADEMY

## School Messenger SafeArrival: Reporting Student Absences

---

Dear Parents/Guardians

One of our greatest priorities is ensuring that all our students arrive safely at school each and every day. Our school will be implementing a new way to report absences through SchoolMessenger. If your student is absent and the absence has not been reported in advance, you will receive notifications via email, text, and phone calls from SchoolMessenger.

To report your student absent, you can use any of the following methods:

- **PowerSchool Parent/Student Portal**  
Parents/guardians can log into <https://sishrsb.ednet.ns.ca/public/> to access the link to the SchoolMessenger website to report future absences.
- **SchoolMessenger App**  
Parents/guardians can download the SchoolMessenger app for Android and iOS devices, create an account and use their email that the school has on record for them as their username.
- **Toll-Free Number**  
Parents/guardians can call **1-833-582-6940** to report future absences using an automated system.

All three methods are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Absences can be reported at any time before the start of school on the day the student will be absent. Up to five consecutive absences can be recorded at once. If you have students attending other schools, please continue to report absences using the existing procedures for those schools.