

DARTMOUTH SOUTH ACADEMY



Newsletter #5-January 2025

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, 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>

COLD WEATHER

Just a reminder that the cold weather is upon us. **Our school is not open for students until 8:40 am. Please ensure that your children do not arrive at the school too early as there is no supervision. We have some students who are arriving at 8:00 am ... this is far too early as our mornings are cold. Students should be dressed for the weather.**

Safe Arrival

Thank you to all who use the safe arrival program. As a reminder, 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. **Computer generated calls go home each day when your child comes in late.**

Hats and Mitts

Our supply of hats and mitts is very limited. Please ensure your children have their belongings in the morning when they leave the house. Thank you.

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

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HRCE - Texts

Do you want to receive information from our school and HRCE by text message?

We now have the ability to send information to you by text message. **To ensure compliance with Canadian Anti-Spam laws, you must opt-in to receive information by text message.**

If you have already opted in – that’s great! You don’t have to read further.

If you haven’t (and would like to), here’s what you need to do:

- If you did not receive the opt-in text message on **November 16**, please call your child’s school to update your contact information in PowerSchool. Any changes are uploaded nightly and reflected the following business day. When your number is added or changed in PowerSchool, you will automatically receive the opt-In message.
- If you decide you no longer wish to receive HRCE and school information via text, you can reply to the message with “STOP” or by clicking [here](#).
- Parents/guardians can opt-in at any time by texting “Y” or “YES” to 978338. The mobile number MUST also be in PowerSchool.
- This text message function WILL include school cancellation notifications.
- This text message function will NOT share bus delay information.

Anyone who is NOT a parent/guardian in our system who wishes to receive school cancellations due to inclement weather must opt in via the HRCE website: www.hrce.ca/notifications . This includes staff, students and members of the community.

SCHOOLCASH – REMINDER

**We have school fees due for sports events.
Please be sure to register for updates.**

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/>

SchoolsPlus

SchoolsPlus is partnering with Legal Aid NS to offer free legal consults for families. The next session will be held **January 21st 12:30pm-3pm at Dartmouth High School**. These sessions are registered at least one week in advance. Transportation can be arranged if required. Please reach out to Juliana Pontes via email at jpontes@hrce.ca or by phone at (902)240-0832 for more information. **The deadline to register for the next session is January 14th.**

PLEASE SEE ATTACHED POSTER

Change of Clothes

To avoid phone calls home and a possible interruption to your workday, you may want to put a change of clothes in your child’s backpack. It’s very difficult to predict what the weather is going to bring!

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HRCE Opportunities

Did you know that HRCE has roughly 10,000 employees serving nearly 60,000 students?

Our job postings are updated every Wednesday at noon and feature a wide variety of career opportunities!

As HRCE grows, so does our staff. Check out new opportunities weekly at www.myhrce.ca/jobs



Dates to Remember

Jan 2nd – Teacher Directed Day – First day of 2025 for staff

Jan 3rd – First day of 2025 for students

Jan 4th – National Ribbon Skirt Day

Jan 23rd – 6 pm – SAC Meeting

Jan 27th – International Holocaust Remembrance Day

Jan 27th – Family Literacy Day

Jan 29th – Lunar New Year



Inclement Weather

Did you know? HRCE takes great care when making the decision to alter the regular operations of schools and school busses in the event of severe or inclement weather.

It is HRCE's goal to communicate any changes to the regular operations of schools and/or buses as close to 6:00 a.m. as possible. **A 6:00 a.m. announcement could be:**

- All schools are delayed in opening by two hours and bus pickups are delayed by two hours; or
- All schools are open, but some or all busses are not operating for the day; or
- Some schools (either individually or by family) are closed for the day; or
- All schools are closed for the day.

If weather deteriorates, or is forecasted to worsen throughout the morning, **an 11:00 a.m. announcement could be:**

- Bused students will be picked up two hours earlier than their regular dismissal time; and
- Non-bused students will be dismissed at their regularly scheduled lunch hour.

How will I find out?

- By email to the addresses in PowerSchool
- By text message, **if you have opted-in**. If you aren't sure if you have opted-in, text Y to the following number: **978338**
- On [our website](#)
- On [X \(formerly Twitter\)](#)
- On [Instagram](#)

It's important to always have a plan in place for childcare in the event of any cancellation.

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International Holocaust Remembrance Day

International Holocaust Remembrance Day, observed on January 27, serves as a crucial reminder of the Holocaust.

Through survivor stories, students learn empathy, compassion, and the importance of standing against antisemitism and prejudice. By observing this day, we ensure future generations uphold human rights and dignity, fostering a culture of respect and inclusion.



Family Literacy Day

Did you know? January 27 is Family Literacy Day! This special day is meant to raise awareness about the importance of reading and engaging in other literacy-related activities as a family.

This year's theme is "Learn to be Green, Together!" Make a pledge as a family to learn ways to be greener. Use less electricity, commute together, and reuse items. Being green together is a fun way to learn as a family while being kind to the environment.

Happy Lunar New Year

Lunar New Year, also known as Chinese New Year or Spring Festival, will be celebrated on January 29.

It marks the beginning of the Year of the Snake, an animal sign that symbolizes wisdom, intuition, and renewal. It's a time for families to come together, honour their ancestors, and welcome the new year with hopes of prosperity and happiness.



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Dear Parent/Guardian,

During the summer, your PowerSchool Parent Portal account was recreated as part of an update. Your previous username and password no longer exist. Student access to the Portal is unchanged. Students who know their username and password will continue to use the information they have always used.

Your new username is *your full email address that is receiving this message*. For example, if your email address is myemailaddress@gmail.com your **Parent Username** is now myemailaddress@gmail.com.

When the PowerSchool Parent Portal reopens on **Thursday, September 2**, please follow these steps to activate your new parent account:

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.

The screenshot shows the PowerSchool SIS interface. At the top, there is a blue header with the PowerSchool SIS logo. Below the header, the page title is 'Recover Account Sign In Information'. There are two tabs: 'Students' and 'Parents', with 'Parents' selected. Under the 'Parents' tab, there is a section titled 'Parents'. Within this section, there is a yellow highlighted box containing the text 'Forgot Password?'. Below this, there is a sub-section with the text: 'To reset your password, enter your username and email address below, and click the 'Reset Password' button.' There are two input fields: 'Parent Username' and 'Parent Email Address'. The 'Parent Username' field is pre-filled with 'myemailaddress@gmail.com'. The 'Parent Email Address' field is empty. At the bottom right of the form, there is a blue button labeled '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.

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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.



LEGAL AID

NOVA SCOTIA

Family Legal Consults

January 21st, 2025
12:30-3:00pm
Dartmouth High

March March 18th, 2025
12:30-3:00pm
Dartmouth High

May 20th, 2025
12:30-3:00pm
Dartmouth High

**Contact SchoolsPlus to
make an appointment!**

