

# DARTMOUTH SOUTH ACADEMY

## Newsletter #6-February 2025



### 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>

### 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.**

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



Do you have a child who will be starting pre-primary or primary this fall? It's time to register!

Registration for the 2025-26 school year begins on February 3. 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

Visit the [HRCE website](http://www.hrce.ca) for more information and to enrol 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.

# DARTMOUTH SOUTH ACADEMY

## 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](http://www.hrce.ca/notifications) . This includes staff, students and members of the community.**

***Students must remember to bring their own water bottles!***

## 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/>

## Celebrate African Heritage Month 2025



African Heritage Month in Nova Scotia, celebrated each February, honours the contributions of African Nova Scotians.

This year’s theme, Legacy in Action: Celebrating Black Brilliance, highlights the achievements and resilience of African Nova Scotians, who have shaped the province's history for more than 400 years.

In schools, recognizing African Heritage Month is crucial for promoting cultural awareness and inclusion. It fosters understanding of the diverse cultural landscape of Nova Scotia, empowering African Nova Scotian students by reflecting their history and heritage in their classrooms. Highlighting their achievements serves as a source of inspiration.

African Heritage Month 2025 is an opportunity to educate, inspire, and celebrate the richness of African heritage in Nova Scotia every day.

# DARTMOUTH SOUTH ACADEMY

## February 17 – Heritage Day

Heritage Day 2025 honours the late Nora Madeline Bernard. From Millbrook First Nation, she was a Mi'kmaq activist who fought for her community and First Nations people across Canada.

Ms. Bernard played a key role in getting justice, recognition, and compensation for survivors of the Canadian Indian Residential School system. As a survivor of the system herself, she founded and became president of the Shubenacadie Indian Residential School Association in 1987. She then started a class-action lawsuit for the survivors, which inspired others across the country to do the same, leading to the largest class-action lawsuit in Canadian history.



## Lockdown Drills

On February 10, 2025, we will hold our second Lockdown drill of the year. As a reminder, a Lockdown is used when there is an immediate threat to a school. During a Lockdown, no one enters or exits the building, and everyone stays in a secure location away from doors and windows. Our staff will explain the drill to students beforehand and remind them afterwards that it was just practice. Our police partners will be invited to be with us for this drill.

You can learn more about our safety procedures in HRCE schools by clicking the link below. Please reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

<https://www.hrce.ca/hold-and-secure-lockdown-procedures-hrce-schools>

## 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.

# DARTMOUTH SOUTH ACADEMY

## Cold Weather Reminder

### Dates to Remember

**February** – Registration Month (see newsletter insert) parents are required to register online

**February** – African Heritage Month

**February 3rd – 7th** – Tattletales Coins for Books Campaign (see newsletter insert)

**Feb 10<sup>th</sup>** – Lockdown Drill

**Feb 14<sup>th</sup>** – Valentines Day

**Feb 17<sup>th</sup>** – Heritage Day (no classes)

**Feb 20<sup>th</sup>** – Winter Carnival

**Feb 20<sup>th</sup>** – SAC meeting 6:00 pm

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.**

*Our mitten supply is very limited as well. Please ensure your children have mittens.*

# Tattletales

## Coins for Books Campaign

It's time to go hunting for those stray coins because the Tattletales Coin Campaign is back at DSA!

Our goal is to raise money for brand new books for our Library while also supporting our locally owned bookstore, Tattletales. We are running the campaign from

**February 3<sup>rd</sup> – February 7<sup>th</sup>.**

At the Elementary level, we have split into two divisions (P-2/3 and 3-6). The class within each division that brings in the most money will be a winner!

**Good Luck to Everyone!**

## Literacy Development for Your Child (Primary to Gr.6)

Are you curious about your child's literacy development? A new page of information on HRCE.ca helps to break down development for children from grades Primary to 6 as they learn to read and write.

Learn more [here](#).



## Bell Times

Morning Attendance – 8:55-9:00 am

Lunch – 12:00 – 1:00 – gr P-6

Lunch – 1:00 – 2:00 – gr 7-8

Dismissal Pre P-8 – 3:00 pm

# DARTMOUTH SOUTH ACADEMY

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.

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

## Reporting Student Absences

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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.