

DARTMOUTH SOUTH ACADEMY

902-464-2081



DSA.HRCE.CA



DSA@HRCE.CA



111 Prince Arthur Avenue
Dartmouth, NS B2Y 0C5

Principal: Adrienne Blumenthal
Vice Principals: Susan Aucoin
Ashley Grant

IMPORTANT DATES

- **Nov. 6- SAC meeting 6pm**
- **Nov. 8- Indigenous Veterans Day**
- **Nov 11-Remembrance Day - no classes all schools**
- **Nov. 13-19: Transgender Awareness Week**
- **Nov. 20- Grade 7 Immunizations**
- **Nov 21: Evaluation day - no classes**
- **Nov. 26- Grade 7&8 Dance**



School Advisory Council

Our first SAC meeting will be
Thursday, November 6 at 6:00 PM at DSA.

We are looking for 1 parent representative and up to 3 community members that are not parents to be on the team. Anyone interested please email Adrienne Blumenthal , ablumenthal@hrce.ca

What is SAC?



Our Soft Start from 8:40 to 9:00am for students come in the building and get breakfast club if they choose and get settled into the first class of the day. Students are expected to go to their first class right away. There is no supervision outside at this time.

Breakfast Club- 8:40- 9:00 Everyday

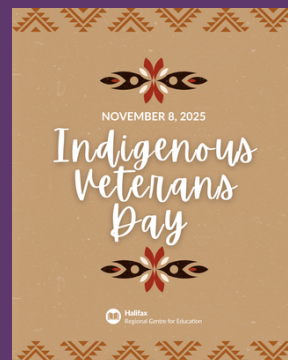
Thank you to our families who attended the Halloween Dance for the cereal donations and The Church of the Holy Spirit for donating breakfast items as well!



Please reach out to Sue Aucoin at saucoin@hrce.ca if you're available to help with donations or volunteer in the mornings.

Indigenous Veteran's Day

Indigenous Veterans Day is an important occasion to honour the sacrifices and contributions of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples who have served in the Canadian Armed Forces. Recognizing this day in schools is especially significant, as it provides students with the opportunity to learn about the often-overlooked histories and experiences of Indigenous veterans. By commemorating Indigenous Veterans Day in our schools, we ensure that younger generations understand the vital role Indigenous peoples have played in defending Canada, while also promoting respect, reconciliation, and a more inclusive understanding of Canadian history. This recognition helps strengthen empathy, respect for diversity and a greater appreciation for the many ways in which Indigenous peoples have shaped our country.



Change of Clothes and Winter Weather

To avoid phone calls home and a possible interruption to your day, 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! With winter weather arriving student need to be dressed no matter what the weather in order to enjoy the outside.

Lost and Found

Our misplaced and forgotten clothes and belongings in the office will be donated on Nov. 14th. Please remind your students to try keep track of their belongings and please label all belongings so they can be returned to the owner easily.

Grade 7 Immunizations

Grade 7 Immunizations will take place on November 20th in the morning.

For details on the School Immunization program please [click here](#).

November 13-19th

Transgender Awareness Week provides an important opportunity to strengthen understanding and respect for the transgender community, to encourage inclusivity in our schools and to promote safe environments where all students feel valued and supported. Learn more [here](#).



Winter/Holiday Support

There are two resources that families can access when seeking holiday/winter support: 1.) families can either call 211, or research 211 online and make an inquiry regarding the resources/programs that exist in the specific community/area where they reside. 211 will then provide them with the contact information for their area; 2.) families can access The Salvation Army "Christmas Help" via the website, www.Christmasdaddies.org/christmashelp/. The website contains all the information that families need, to apply ONLY online and the documents that they need to upload, to support their application. The Salvation Army applications open on October 23 and close on December 8. More resources to come in December newsletter.

School Cash

DSA uses 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.schoolcashonline.com/>



Computation Corner

At DSA, one of our academic goals is to improve computational fluency across all grades. Each day, P-6 students have the opportunity to engage in a 30-minute block of time dedicated to building fluency. We want to ensure our students are accurate, efficient, and flexible thinkers.

Counting skills and number relationships in the early grades lay the foundation for fact strategy development work which begins in grade two and continues to evolve throughout the grades.

To help support computational fluency at home, we invite you to ask questions that encourage your child to explain their thinking, rather than solely focusing on getting the correct answer. Play a game or provide your child with a problem and try asking one or more of the following questions:

- How did you solve that fact?
- Why did you choose that strategy?
- Are there other ways you could solve that fact?
- What other facts might be solved with that strategy?
- When do you like to use that strategy? When is that strategy a good idea?

Sora

We're excited to share Sora, a free online reading app that gives your child access to thousands of eBooks and audiobooks from our school library. Sora is easy to use on any device and offers features like adjustable fonts, audiobook speed controls, and progress tracking to make reading fun and personalized.

Reading at home is a vital part of developing strong literacy skills, building vocabulary, and improving comprehension. With Sora, you can support your child's learning by encouraging daily reading habits anytime, anywhere.

You can help your child explore great books by visiting: <https://soraapp.com/welcome>

Homework Hub

To support your child's numeracy skills, the Nova Scotia Homework HUB offers free online videos, tutorials, and interactive lessons created by experienced educators to help students better understand key math concepts. It also includes practice questions so your child can apply what they've learned and build confidence.

Practicing math at home is essential for developing problem-solving skills and strengthening overall math ability. The Homework HUB makes it easy for your child to review lessons and get extra help whenever they need it.

You can explore the Homework HUB here:
<https://nshh.ednet.ns.ca/info.php>

**SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD'S
MATH LEARNING WITH THEIR MATH
HOMEWORK**

To understand what they are doing (and see what your child understands), choose a problem:

- Tell me everything you know about this problem.
- What does this problem mean?
- When might this math be useful?

To focus on your child's thinking:

- How did you decide to use that strategy?
- Are there other options for solving that problem?

To build your child's confidence in their work:

- How did you decide which strategy to use for this problem?
- How do you know your answer makes sense?
- Convince me that your answer is correct.

Nova Scotia Homework HUB

NEED HELP WITH A
MATH QUESTION?

GNSPES Access
Click the Nova Scotia Homework Hub icon

Available 24/7
textbooks
videos
practice questions
vocabulary review

Bilingual Tutors
Tutors for Grade 4 - 6
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

1-888-444-6607
Nova Scotia Homework HUB
gnspe.ca



The DSA PTO meets monthly and welcomes new members! If you are interested in getting involved, please reach out to dartmouthsouthacademypto@gmail.com!

Remembrance Day



Remembrance Day holds an important place in our schools as it provides a meaningful opportunity for our students to learn about the sacrifices made by veterans and all those who have served in times of conflict. Through ceremonies, discussions and creative projects, we demonstrate respect and gratitude for the freedoms Canadians enjoy. Observing Remembrance Day also helps students connect with Canada's history and reinforces the values of peace, tolerance and community responsibility.

Learning more about the Student Attendance and Engagement Policy

Did you know? The Student Attendance and Engagement Policy guides our approach to attendance and is in place to support all students.

The policy states that regular, punctual attendance supports academic success, responsibility, and preparation for the future.

Ensuring regular attendance is a joint effort between students, families and schools. As a parent/guardian, you play an important role by monitoring attendance, communicating with the school when your child is absent, and supporting your child's regular attendance.

What Should You Know?

- **Communication about absences**
 - Schools will monitor attendance and lateness.
 - All absences must be communicated to the school, following the school's procedure.
 - If absenteeism or lateness reaches 10% of class time, the school will begin to engage more actively with the student and family.
 - If it goes beyond 15%, more targeted supports may be used (counselling, referrals, community supports).

What Can You Do?

- Monitor and encourage punctual, consistent attendance
- Maintain open communication with the school when absences or challenges arise
- Work with school staff to understand supports or accommodations for your child
- Be aware of the thresholds (10%, 15%) and possible consequences (intervention, loss of credit in high school)
- Remember: the policy allows flexibility. If your child has a legitimate reason for missing school (health, family issue, etc.), schools are encouraged to take a supportive approach.



This year's Student Transit Pass Program student & parent/guardian surveys are live on EngageHalifax, and will remain open from Monday, October 20th until November 27th. (Grade 7 & 8)

Inclement Weather

Planning for Inclement Weather

Did you know? HRCE takes great care when making the decision to alter the regular operations of schools and school buses 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:

- Bussed students will be picked up two hours earlier than their regular dismissal time; and
- Walking 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 the HRCE website](#)
- [On Instagram](#)

It's important to always have a plan in place for childcare in the event of any cancellation. Please remember: As a parent or guardian you always have the choice of whether or not to send your child to school.

For more information on how HRCE manages during inclement weather, visit hrce.ca/families/cancellations.

Hungry for something fun?

Check out the Nova Scotia school lunch cookbook!

Hungry for something fun? Get cooking with the new cookbook *What's for Lunch? Nova Scotia Recipes to Cook and Enjoy Together*, a joyful collection of most-loved recipes from school food programs.

Proceeds from the sale of this book go directly to supporting school healthy eating programs in Nova Scotia, such as breakfast and snack, cooking clubs and school gardens. Learn more and order yours [here](#).

Whether you're a new cook, a young chef, or a family learning together in the kitchen, *What's for Lunch?* invites you to bake up a handmade pizza, create a picnic plate, make a big batch of breakfast sandwiches, or stir up some butter chicken! Each easy-to-follow recipe comes with tasty ideas for toppings, sides, and simple swaps to make it just right for you and your family.

Within its pages, you will meet some of the inspiring folks behind Nova Scotia's made-from-scratch school lunches, explore where local food ingredients come from, and discover bite-sized fun facts to spark curiosity. Colourful illustrations by students at Oxford School in Halifax and beloved local illustrator Emma FitzGerald bring it all to life!



AI and your child's learning

HRCE teachers and staff are introducing students to artificial intelligence (AI) in safe and meaningful ways that build awareness, creativity, and critical thinking. Together, we can help our learners understand how to use AI responsibly and confidently in their education and everyday lives. This informational sheet below provides you with starting points for conversations about AI and learning.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) AND YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING



A QUICK GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND
GUARDIANS IN HRCE



WHAT IS AI?

Artificial Intelligence (AI) means computers that can learn from information and find patterns to help make decisions. AI doesn't think or feel like people—it uses data to make connections that led to informed responses.

HOW IS AI USED IN SCHOOLS?

- Teachers choose if and how AI is used in the classroom.
- Some lessons may include AI tools for learning or creativity.
- Students learn how to use technology safely and responsibly.



HOW AI CAN HELP LEARNING?

AI can:

- Give students quick feedback.
- Help with idea generation when a child is stuck.
- Adjust lessons to fit different learning needs.
- Change reading levels of text so it is more easily accessible.



Remember, teachers will always tell students when they can or cannot use AI for school work.

AI PRIVACY AND SAFETY TIPS:

- Never share personal info with AI tools.
- Only use apps approved by your school or regional centre.
- Look closely at the age restrictions of AI tools.
- Talk with your child about what's real, what's private, and what's fair online.



AT HOME YOU CAN HELP BY:

- Setting screen time limits and tech-free times.
- Talking about what your child does online.
- Reminding your child to check if AI answers make sense.
- Asking teachers about the AI usage guidelines.
- Reviewing classroom/school academic integrity guidelines.

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Scan the QR code for a list of approved learning tools and information about technology in education.



Halifax

Regional Centre for Education