

# DARTMOUTH SOUTH ACADEMY

902-464-2081



DSA.HRCE.CA



DSA@HRCE.CA



111 Prince Arthur Avenue  
Dartmouth, NS B2Y 0C5

Principal: Adrienne Blumenthal  
100% Vice Principal: Sue Aucoin  
50% Vice Principal: Ashley Grant

## IMPORTANT DATES

- February is African Heritage Month
- February is Registration Month
- Feb 16 : Heritage Day (no classes - all schools)
- Feb 17 : Lunar New Year
- Feb 27 : Winter Carnival Day



## Lost and Found

Lost and found will be donated on FEBRUARY 27th

There is a rack by the front door.

We also have a collection of eye glasses found.



## Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club is 8:40- 9:00 Everyday

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!



## Lice Reminder

Families are encouraged to check your child’s hair regularly as it is the time of year we encounter lice. There have been cases of lice in our school recently.

## Lates Policy

Consequences for Repeated Lateness: If a Grade 7 or 8 student accumulates 3 lates in one week, they will be assigned lunchtime detention the next week, and parents will be notified.

### DSA Lates Policy Details



## Spectator Expectations

Please review our spectator expectation for Home Games at DSA. [Link to doc](#)

[What does good standing mean?](#)

[Basketball- Female Schedule](#)

[Basketball-Male Schedule](#)

**THRIVING FAMILIES NS**

Are you a new family to NS?  
Are you a first time parent?

TFNS is a **FREE** 2 session **parent education program** developed by Nova Village NS

Topics include:

- laws around caring for children/youth
- the role of Child and Family Wellbeing Services
- supports related to children/youth health and wellbeing
- safety requirements for children/youth in NS

Next session date:  
**Feb 17 & Feb 19, 2026**  
**10:00am - 12:00pm**

Presented at:  
The North Grove

Scan here for topics and upcoming sessions

Provided:

- Meals
- Child Care Reimbursement
- Transportation Assistance
- Translators

**\$25 Grocery GIFT CARD**

**MADI GEBREYESUS**  
TFNS FACILITATOR

**NOVA VILLAGE NS**

Call front desk to register  
**902-464-8234 Or contact Madi: 902-443-9569 ext.106**  
Address: 6 Primrose St  
Unite 1115, Dartmouth

For more information visit  
[www.novavillagens.com](http://www.novavillagens.com)

# February is Registration Month

Do you have or know a child who will be starting Pre Primary or Primary this fall? It's time to register!

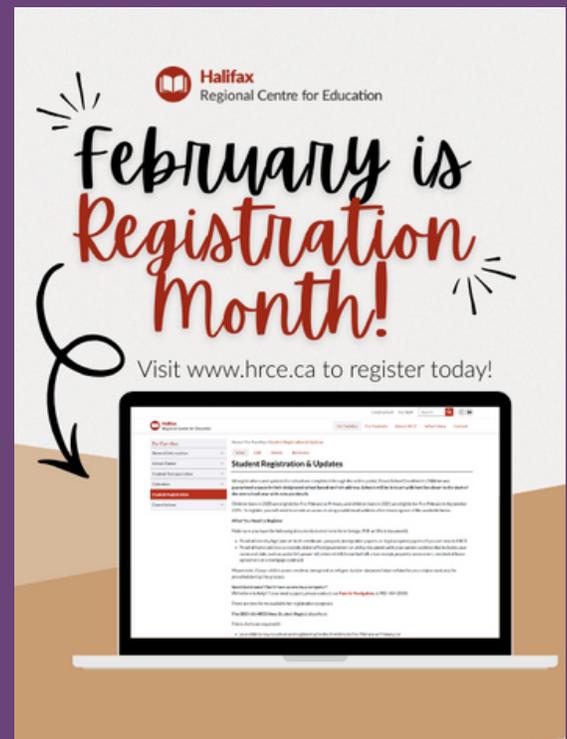
Registration for the 2026-27 school year begins on Monday, February 2. To ensure we have the right staff and supports in place for September, it's important that we gather enrolment numbers now.

**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 with one of the following:  
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, a mortgage contract or a residential lease agreement

Visit the [HRCE website](https://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.



# **FRENCH IMMERSION**

**INFORMATION SESSION**

**ÉCOLE SHANNON PARK SCHOOL**  
**75 IROQUOIS DRIVE**  
**DARTMOUTH, NS**

**February 12, 2026 at 6pm**

**THIS SESSION IS FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS  
OF INCOMING PRIMARY STUDENTS (2026-  
2027 SCHOOL YEAR) WHO WOULD LIKE TO  
LEARN MORE ABOUT THE EARLY FRENCH  
IMMERSION PROGRAM BEFORE MAKING A  
REGISTRATION DECISION.**

**CLICK HERE TO  
LEARN MORE**

## Power School Reset for Parents

### 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.

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.

## SCHOOLCASH – REMINDER

We have school fees due for sports events and class trips. 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/>

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## February is African Heritage Month

African Heritage Month in Nova Scotia is a time to recognize and celebrate the rich history, vibrant culture, and lasting contributions of people of African descent in our province. This year's theme, "Strength in Unity – Moving Forward with Purpose, Prosperity, Power and Progress," reminds us of the importance of coming together as a community, learning from one another, and moving forward with shared purpose.

In our schools, African Heritage Month provides meaningful opportunities for students to explore African Nova Scotian histories and experiences, deepen their understanding of our shared past, and reflect on the values of respect, inclusion, and belonging.



Through classroom learning, discussions, and activities connected to this year's theme, students are encouraged to appreciate diversity, build empathy, and recognize the strength that comes from unity. These experiences help foster welcoming school communities and inspire students to contribute positively to a more inclusive and equitable future for all.

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# Open your home to an international student

Have you considered opening your home to an international student?

HRCE's International Services welcomes students from all over the world who would like to attend schools in our region. Hosting a student in your home can be an enriching and rewarding experience. We're looking for warm and caring families like yours to provide them with a home away from home.

Hosting an international student is a once-in-a-lifetime experience that gives your family the opportunity to bring the world home. For students, it's a way to learn about the Canadian way of life.

As a host, your family would be matched with a student who will attend your neighbourhood school and participate in your daily routines.

## What you can expect:

- Host families receive a tax-free monthly stipend to help cover hosting expenses (\$825 current, \$875 effective September)
- Students stay for periods of three to 10 months
- Ongoing support is provided by an experienced Homestay Coordinator
- You will learn about and communicate with your student before their arrival

Learn more [here](#) or contact:

**HRCE International Services**  
(902) 464-2000 ext. 2548  
[hostastudent@hrce.ca](mailto:hostastudent@hrce.ca)



**NSISP** **BECOME A HOST FAMILY**  
OPEN YOUR HOME AND HEART TO AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT

<b>\$875</b> /month	PER STUDENT (Tax Free)	<b>\$975</b> /month	If you can accommodate a vegetarian or lactose free diet	<b>\$1075</b> /month	If you can accommodate a vegan or celiac diet
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\* Effective in September 2025.

**RECEIVE \$100 FOR EVERY SUCCESSFUL REFERRAL OF NEW HOST FAMILY**  
Share the name and contact details of an interested host. Once they are approved and actively hosting, you'll receive \$100.

 **Halifax**  
Regional Centre for Education

Learn More: [nsisp.ca/host](https://nsisp.ca/host)    Email [hostastudent@hrce.ca](mailto:hostastudent@hrce.ca) or call 902-464-2000 ext. 2548



Please share this message with anyone who may be interested.

Thank you! Gracias. Merci. Xie-Xie. Danke. Arigato. Grazie. Obrigado. Kamsa-Hamnida. Kawp-Kun-Ka. Shukran. Teşekkür Ederim.

HRCE International Services

## February 16 is Heritage Day

Nova Scotia Heritage Day is celebrated on Monday, February 16, and provides an opportunity for students and families to learn more about the people, stories, and events that have shaped our province. Each year, Heritage Day honours a notable Nova Scotian, and in 2026 we recognize Joseph William Comeau, an important Acadian poet, writer, and cultural leader.

Joseph William Comeau is remembered for his contributions to Acadian literature and for helping to preserve and promote Acadian language, identity, and culture in Nova Scotia. His work reflected the everyday lives, resilience, and traditions of Acadian communities, and his legacy continues to influence Acadian culture today.

Heritage Day provides us with an opportunity to explore Nova Scotia's diverse history and to better understand how individuals from different backgrounds have contributed to our shared story. Learning about Joseph William Comeau helps students appreciate the richness of Acadian heritage and the importance of preserving culture, language, and community.

## Two Truths & AI

Two Truths & AI is a free, interactive activity from Common Sense Education that helps students learn how to tell the difference between real and AI-generated content. Through guided examples, students practice asking good questions and thinking critically about what they see online. This resource can also be a helpful way for parents and caregivers to build their own understanding of AI and media literacy alongside their children. Learn more [here](#).

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## Thriving Offline: How Delaying Smartphones Can Help Kids Flourish

Thriving Offline: How Delaying Smartphones Can Help Kids Flourish, a free community event hosted by Unplugged Canada at St. Margaret's Bay Elementary, is available both in person and virtually.

Designed for caregivers and educators, this session will explore how early smartphone and social media use impacts children's development and the latest research, practical strategies, safer alternatives, and age-appropriate boundaries to support healthy childhoods.

Join us! Thriving Offline: How Delaying Smartphones Can Help Kids Flourish

- Tuesday, February 24, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.
- St. Margaret's Bay Elementary - 24 Ridgewood Dr, Head of St Margaret's Bay, NS
- Please register for in-person or virtual [here](#).



**UPCOMING FREE EVENT!**

**Thriving Offline:**  
How Delaying Smartphones Can Help Kids Flourish

**un**  
**plugged**  
Nova Scotia

**When:** Tuesday, February 24<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30pm ADT  
**Where:** St. Margaret's Bay Elementary, NS  
(Virtual Zoom option available)

**Register:** [UnpluggedNSThrivingOffline.eventbrite.ca](https://unpluggedNSThrivingOffline.eventbrite.ca)  
*Connect with other parents in our supportive community!*

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## 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?

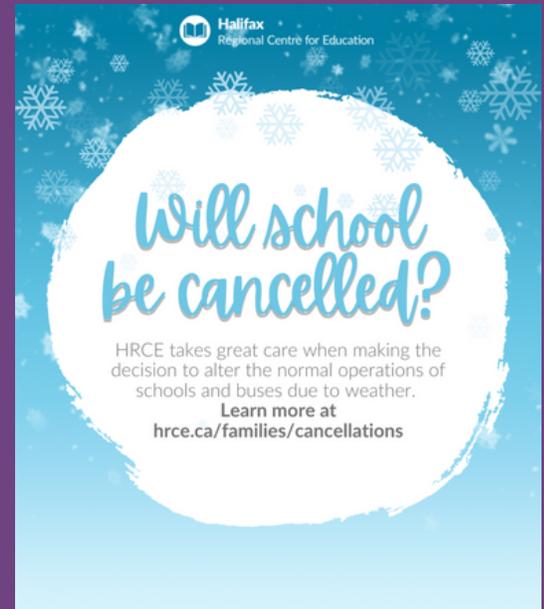
- By email to the addresses in PowerSchool
- By text message, if you have opted-in. If you aren't sure if you have opted-in, text Y to the following number: 978338
- On the HRCE website
- On Instagram

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

For more information on how HRCE manages during inclement weather, visit [hrce.ca/families/cancellations](https://hrce.ca/families/cancellations).

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## Power Outage Information for Families:

As we move into the winter months, we want to share how decisions are made when a school experiences a power outage.

Our priority is always to keep schools open safely when possible. A power outage does not automatically mean classes are cancelled – even if it happens during the school day. The decision depends on when power is expected to be restored.



### Here's what happens:

- When a school loses power, HRCE's Operations Team contacts Nova Scotia Power to gather available details on the cause and an estimated restoration time.
- Once we have this information, we consider:
- **Before school starts:** Have buses begun their routes? If so, we wait until students arrive before making a decision. If classes are cancelled, elementary families will be contacted before dismissal.
- **During the school day:** How close is dismissal? What is the temperature in the building? Does the school rely on power for water or septic systems? These factors, among others, help us decide whether to stay open or close. Often, power returns faster than we could safely send students home.

### If classes are cancelled:

- HRCE will notify families by email and text.
- Families of elementary students will also receive a phone call before dismissal.

Deciding to close schools during a power outage is never simple, but safety is always our top priority. We understand that cancellations can be inconvenient, and our goal is to keep students learning in class whenever possible.

More information about school cancellations for any reason can be found [here](#).

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## Community News:

- A neighbourhood group on Esson Road is aiming to improve the small lot of land between the top of Esson Road and the DSA sports field. This area is used by many DSA students, parents and staff every day to get to and from school.
- To improve the land, the group has been granted some funds from the city's Neighbourhood Placemaking Program. That money can go towards some landscaping, maybe a place to sit and other small improvements. There are also larger improvements that could be asked of the city, such as proper path building, better drainage, and snow removal.
- There is a **community meeting with Councillor Becky Kent on February 18, 6-8pm in the DSA cafeteria**, where the neighbourhood group and Councillor Kent are hoping to hear from the community just what improvements to the area neighbours are looking for. A large community interest will make our push for improvements easier. We invite all interested neighbours to attend.
- The group is hoping to start the smaller, beautifying improvements this May. If you are interested in helping out with planting, digging, or building, please get in touch with the neighbourhood group through the email [EssonRoadSchoolFieldConnection@gmail.com](mailto:EssonRoadSchoolFieldConnection@gmail.com)





# DARTMOUTH FOOD CALENDAR: February 2026

## Food Banks

**St. James United Food Bank**  
Tuesday, Feb. 3 & 17 / 8:30 -11 am  
181 Portland St. (902) 464-8852

**Cole Harbour Woodside United Church Food Bank**  
Tuesday Feb 3 & 17/ 1 -3 pm  
15 Bissett Rd (902) 434-7714

**Encounter Church Food Bank**  
(once per month per household)  
Tuesdays / 1-3 pm  
345 Pleasant St (St.Alban's)  
(902) 466-6176

**Demetreous Lane Food Bank**  
12 Canso Lane (902) 407-5557  
Please contact for details

**Christ Church Food Bank**  
Wednesdays / 5:30 - 6:30 pm  
Thursdays / 8 -9 am  
61 Dundas St (902) 466-4354

**North Dartmouth Outreach Resource Centre (NDORC)**  
Wednesdays / 8:30 – 10 am  
44 Hester St. (902) 469-2188

**East Dartmouth Christian Food Bank**  
Thursdays / 8 – 11 am  
51 Woodlawn Rd. (902) 434-5819

**Dartmouth North Christian Food Bank**  
Thursdays / 9:30 am -12 pm  
27 Farrell St. (902) 466-2475

**Victoria Road Food Bank**  
Thursdays / 11 am-12 pm  
36 Victoria Rd (902) 469-8576

**St Clement's SVDP Food Bank**  
Monday -Friday/ 9:30 am - 12 pm  
16 Gaston Rd (902) 469-1203  
By appointment

**St. John XXIII's SVDP Food Bank**  
35 Colby Drive (902) 440-7399  
By appointment

**St. Vincent De Paul Parish Emergency Food**  
320 Flying Cloud Dr. (902)435-2500 x4  
(Leave a message)

**St. Thomas More Emergency Food**  
(902) 434-4190 x228 (leave a message)

## Meals & Snacks

**Margaret's House /Feeding Others of Dartmouth** (Take-away meals)  
Monday – Friday / 11:30 am -12:30 pm  
42 Wentworth St. (902) 464-2919  
Closed Mon. Feb 16

**Souls Harbour Dartmouth Drop In**  
(hot meals)  
Mondays, Tuesdays & Fridays / 12-2 pm  
27 Farrell Street (902) 405-4663 x 608  
Closed Mon. Feb 16

**The North Grove Family Supper**  
(families with children ages 18 & under)  
Mondays / 5:30 - 6:30 pm  
6 Primrose St. (902) 464-8234  
Closed Mon. Feb 16

**Diamonds Bringing Excellence Community Hub Tea & Chat**  
Tuesdays 11:30 – 1 pm  
17 Alderney Drive

**The North Grove Community Lunch**  
Tuesdays / 11:30 am 12:30 pm  
6 Primrose St. (902) 464-8234

**Diamonds Bringing Excellence Community Hub Tea & Chat**  
Wednesdays & Thursdays/ 11:30-1 pm  
17 Alderney Drive

**Dartmouth Seventh Day Adventist Church Supper and Dessert**  
(while supplies last)  
Wednesdays / 5:30 - 6:30 pm  
35 Lakecrest Dr (902) 434-1562

**The North Grove Drop-in Breakfast**  
Wednesdays / 9 – 10:30 am  
6 Primrose St (902) 464-8234

**Veterans Coffee Social**  
open to veterans & family  
(Army, Navy, Airforce)  
Wednesdays / 9:30-11 am  
134 Main St (parking at back)

**Salvation Army Food Truck**  
(for people who are unhoused/at risk of homelessness)  
Wednesdays /arrives approx. 6:15 pm  
Green Rd Park Tent Encampment

**The North Grove Café Drop-in**  
Thursdays / 11:30 am -12:30pm  
6 Primrose St. (902) 464-8234

**The Open Door, St Alban's Church**  
Tea/coffee/ juice and snacks  
Thursday, Feb 5 & 19/ 2– 3:30 pm  
345 Pleasant St. (902) 463-2493

**Community Café**  
Alderney Gate Public Library  
Fridays / 10:30 – 11:30 am  
60 Alderney Dr. (902) 490-5745

**Christ Church Sunday Suppers**  
Sundays: 3 pm tea & coffee  
4 -5 pm Supper  
61 Dundas St (902) 466-4270

## Food Programs & Events

**Dartmouth Square Roots**  
East Dartmouth Community Centre ,  
50 Caledonia Rd  
For registration and pick up dates please see Councillor Tony Mancini's political Facebook page.  
Registration required

**Mobile Food Market Affordable Produce** (free coffee/tea, etc.)  
Tuesdays /3:30-6:30 pm  
27 Courtney Rd

**Food Demo at The North Grove**  
Wednesdays / 11- 12 pm  
6 Primrose St. (902) 464-8234  
Registration required

**Primrose Preserves at The North Grove**  
Friday, February 27/ 1:30-3 pm  
6 Primrose St. (902) 464-8234  
Registration required

**1-2-3 Cook with Me at The North Grove**  
(Caregivers and children 2 & up)  
Thursday, February 27/ 10-11:30 am  
6 Primrose St. (902) 464-8234  
Registration required

## Community Shelves & Pantries

**Preston Area Food Network:(Open to residents of Preston Area)**  
**North Preston Residents** 35 Simmonds Road, North Preston  
(Church basement)  
**Cherry Brook & Lake Loon residents** 292 Cherry Brook Road, Cherry Brook  
**East Preston Residents** 292 Cherry Brook Road, Cherry Brook  
Please contact 902-434-7155 or visit prestonfoodnetwork.com for details

**Our Lady's Pantry: St. Peter Catholic Church (OLG)**  
10 Maple St (pantry to left of main church door)  
Mondays / 10-noon

## Community Fridges

**Cole Harbour Community Fridge**  
915 Cole Harbour Road  
(parking lot of the Forest Hills Fellowship Baptist Church)

**Dartmouth Community Fridge**  
61 Dundas St (Christ Church outdoors by food bank hall)

**Eastern Passage Community Fridge**  
1807 Caldwell Road (Fire Station 16)