Dartmouth South Academy

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Dear Dartmouth South Academy Families,

It has been another jam-packed month at DSA! Our students explored Mi'kmaq culture through music, art, and storytelling. This included learning about the *Seven Sacred Teachings*: Love, Respect, Courage, Honesty, Wisdom, Humility, and Truth, and reflecting on how these values guide us in our daily lives.

The Seven Sacred Teachings also connect with our DSA Royals Matrix of Expectations, helping students think about how our words and actions shape the caring school community we are building together. We have identified three core expectations that guide us throughout the day: *Royals are Respectful, Responsible, and Safe.* Our matrix outlines what these expectations look and sound like in different settings, including classrooms, hallways, shared spaces, and outdoors.

For our junior high students, we have added a fourth expectation: *Royals are Ready***.** This reflects the growing independence and accountability we want to foster as students take greater ownership of their learning. Teachers are reinforcing these expectations so that students understand not just what is expected, but why it matters and how they can put it into practice. You will find our Matrices on page 3 of our newsletter.

This month we will be preparing Term 1 Report Cards and in early December you will have an opportunity to connect with teachers about your child's progress. We will be using an online platform for booking appointments, with the option of a phone call or in-person meeting. More information to follow!

Yours in Education,

Mrs. Reid, Ms. Grant, Ms. Petrie & The DSA Team

November

November 4	Take Your Kid to Work Day
November 10	Remembrance Day Service
November 11	Remembrance Day Observed (no school)
November 13-19	Transgender Awareness Week
November 17	SAC Meeting (6:00 PM in the Cafeteria)
November 17-19	Provincial Fluoride Varnish Program (PP-6)
November 19	Grade 7 Immunization Clinic (more info can be found here)
November 20	Assessment & Evaluation Day (no school)
November 25	Documented Adaptations sent home electronically
November 26	Junior High Dance (Grades 7-8)
November 27	Term 1 Report Cards sent home electronically
December 3	Progress Conferences (5:30-7:30 PM)
December 4	No school for students ★ Professional Learning Day for staff (AM) ★ Progress Conferences (12:30-3:00 PM)

Remembrance Day Service

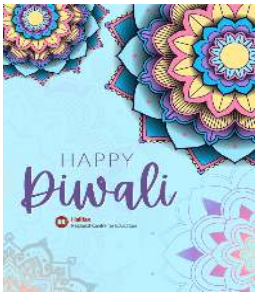
Each year on November 11, we pause at the 11th hour to remember. The poppy we wear, the silence we observe and the stories we share are ways of keeping the memory of those who served, those who never returned home, and the lasting impact of war alive for future generations.



Our Remembrance Day service will take place on Tuesday, November 10th. If you have family members who have served or are currently serving, please consider sending their photo for our Wall of Heroes. You can either email the photo to Mrs. Reid (jacqulyn.reid@hrce.ca) or send in a photograph and we will be happy to scan it and return it to you.

To members of the Canadian Armed Forces in our community, a heartfelt thank you for your service to our country. Please note that schools are closed on Tuesday, November 11th to observe Remembrance Day.

Happy Diwali



Diwali, also known as the Festival of Lights, is celebrated by millions of people around the world, including Hindus, Sikhs, Jains and some Buddhists. The celebration carries different meanings across traditions, but often centres on themes of light overcoming darkness, good overcoming evil, and hope, renewal and new beginnings.

Celebrations may include lighting diyas (small oil lamps), decorating homes, sharing special foods, exchanging gifts and gathering with family and friends. Diwali is an opportunity to learn about the diverse traditions and cultures represented in our school communities and to celebrate the many ways people find meaning, connection and joy. We wish all those celebrating a happy Diwali!

Transgender Awareness Week



Transgender Awareness Week is an opportunity to reflect on how inclusivity and understanding help create welcoming school communities where everyone feels they belong. Taking time to listen with an open mind and treat others with respect can make a meaningful difference in someone's day and sense of belonging.

Halloween Howl

Our Halloween Howl was a tremendous success! A huge thank you to our amazing PTO for putting together such a wonderful evening. From the Witch's Cave, dance, decorations, donations, crafts and canteen, it was a fantastic night filled with fun and community spirit. Thank you to all our families who sent in donations, and to Samantha Shuman who made our fabulous banner.

Our Student Council also deserves a special shout-out! They stepped up as leaders, helping with preparations and activities throughout the evening and playing an important role in making the event such a success. We are also so grateful to our staff and families who volunteered their time, donated items, helped with set-up and clean-up, and pitched in wherever needed. It truly takes a team to pull off an event like this, and we are so fortunate to have such a great one at DSA. Thank you, everyone!

We also had the support of corporate sponsors: Pleasant Street Diner, Mic Mac Bar & Grill, Portland Street Superstore, Kent Russell Lake, St Louis Bar & Grill, Pizza Tonight, and Dominos Tacoma Street.



Our School-Wide Matrices of Expectations

Dartmouth South Academy: Matrix of Expectations (P-6)

	ROYALS ARE RESPECTFUL We help everyone feel welcome, valued, and able to learn.	ROYALS ARE RESPONSIBLE We take ownership of our choices, our learning, and our spaces.	ROYALS ARE SAFE We keep ourselves and others physically and emotionally safe.
Learning Spaces	• Listen when others are speaking • Use kind words and an appropriate voice volume • Respect personal space, belongings, and different perspectives • Allow everyone to learn without disruption	• Come prepared and ready to learn • Follow directions and classroom routines • Work on the task until it's done • Keep your learning space organized • Take ownership for your words, actions, and choices	• Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself • Use materials and equipment safely and as intended • Follow safety expectations and adult directions • Speak up or get help when something is unsafe
Transitions & Hallways	• Give others space and respect privacy • Use a voice level that fits the space • Keep to the right and leave room for others	• Walk to where you need to go • Follow routines and return to class promptly • Keep shared spaces clean and ready for others	• Walk and move safely • Keep hallways and exits clear • Follow adult instructions and safety rules • Keep your body and belongings in your own space
Shared Spaces & Mealtime	• Use kind words • Wait your turn • Ask before you touch or take • Include others	• Clean up your space and use sorting stations • Use what you need and take care of shared supplies • Leave spaces ready for the next person • Tell an adult if something is broken or needs attention	• Keep food, hands, feet, and objects to yourself • Stay seated while eating • Follow adult directions the first time • Tell an adult when there is a spill or safety concern
Outdoor Spaces	• Use kind words and friendly actions • Include others in games and activities • Take turns and let everyone play • Help others who are hurt or upset	• Follow game rules and routines • Use and return equipment properly • Solve small problems with kind words or ask for help • Stay in assigned areas	• Use equipment safely and as intended • Keep hands, feet, and body to yourself • Stop when the bell rings and follow adult directions • Get an adult if someone is hurt or being unsafe
When Things Feel Difficult	• Use respectful words and tone • Use "I" statements such as "I feel..." or "I need..." • Give others space when they need it	• Take a break when you need one • Use strategies that help you calm down • Ask an adult for help when you need it • Take responsibility if you cause harm	• Keep your body safe when you're upset • Move to a safe space when needed • Let a trusted adult help you

DSA ROYALS • *Together we make our school a place to learn, belong and achieve!*

Dartmouth South Academy: Matrix of Expectations (7-8)

	ROYALS ARE RESPECTFUL We help everyone feel welcome, valued, and able to learn.	ROYALS ARE RESPONSIBLE We take ownership of our choices, our learning, and our spaces.	ROYALS ARE SAFE We keep ourselves and others physically and emotionally safe.	ROYALS ARE READY We are prepared, engaged, and ready to make the most of our learning.
Learning Spaces	• Listen when others are speaking • Use kind words and an appropriate voice volume • Respect personal space, belongings, and different perspectives • Allow everyone to learn without disruption	• Come prepared and ready to learn • Follow directions and classroom routines • Work on the task until it's done • Keep your learning space organized • Take ownership for your words, actions, and choices	• Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself • Use materials and equipment safely and as intended • Follow safety expectations and adult directions • Speak up or get help when something is unsafe	• Bring pencil, water bottle to class • Get started promptly and work independently • Participate, ask questions, and contribute to discussions • Use strategies before giving up • Ask for help when you're stuck
Transitions & Hallways	• Give others space and respect privacy • Use a voice level that fits the space • Keep to the right and leave room for others	• Walk to where you need to go • Follow routines and return to class promptly • Keep shared spaces clean and ready for others	• Walk and move safely • Keep hallways and exits clear • Follow adult instructions and safety rules • Keep your body and belongings in your own space	• Use soft start to get ready: water, locker, washroom • Be on time for each class • Have materials ready for the next class • Move without disrupting others
Shared Spaces & Mealtime	• Use kind words • Wait your turn • Ask before you touch or take • Include others	• Clean up your space and use sorting stations • Use what you need and take care of shared supplies • Leave spaces ready for the next person • Tell an adult if something is broken or needs attention	• Keep food, hands, feet, and objects to yourself • Stay seated while eating • Follow adult directions the first time • Tell an adult when there is a spill or safety concern	• Manage your belongings and materials • Use shared spaces independently and appropriately • Return to class when expected • Be ready for your next learning block
Outdoor Spaces	• Use kind words and friendly actions • Include others in games and activities • Take turns and let everyone play • Help others who are hurt or upset	• Follow game rules and routines • Use and return equipment properly • Solve small problems with kind words or ask for help • Stay in assigned areas	• Use equipment safely and as intended • Keep hands, feet, and body to yourself • Stop when the bell rings and follow adult directions • Get an adult if someone is hurt or being unsafe	• Be ready to transition when the signal is given • Take responsibility for equipment and personal belongings • Return to learning spaces on time
When Things Feel Difficult	• Use respectful words and tone • Use "I" statements such as "I feel..." or "I need..." • Give others space when they need it	• Take a break when you need one • Use strategies that help you calm down • Ask an adult for help when you need it • Take responsibility if you cause harm	• Keep your body safe when you're upset • Move to a safe space when needed • Let a trusted adult help you	• Recognize when you need support • Use a calming or problem-solving strategy and return to learning • Ask for help early, before it gets bigger

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Planning for Inclement Weather

Did you know that HRCE carefully considers weather conditions before making decisions about school and bus operations? Whenever possible, announcements are made close to 6:00 AM and may include: a two-hour delay to school openings and bus pickups, schools remaining open while some or all buses are cancelled, individual schools or families of schools being closed, or all schools being closed for the day. DSA is in the Dartmouth High Family of Schools.

If weather conditions worsen throughout the morning, HRCE may issue an additional announcement at 11:00 AM. In this case, bussed students will be picked up two hours earlier than their regular dismissal time, while students who are not bussed will be dismissed at their regularly scheduled lunch hour.

Families will receive updates by email through the addresses listed in PowerSchool and by text message if they have opted in. To check or activate text notifications, simply text **Y to 978338**. Announcements are also shared on the HRCE website, Instagram, and the HRCE cancellations page. Please ensure you have a childcare plan in place for unexpected cancellations. As always, parents and guardians can make the decision about whether or not to send their child to school.

Provincial Fluoride Varnish Program

Public Health is offering a Fluoride Varnish Program to all students in pre-primary to grade six. The program provides up to two free applications of fluoride varnish during the school year to help prevent cavities. A Registered Dental Hygienist from Public Health will come to the school to apply fluoride varnish to students' teeth. Fluoride varnish is quick and easy to apply to teeth and is offered free for all elementary aged students in the school. Fluoride can be applied up to six times per year, so this program is safe to participate in even if your student regularly sees a dentist.

A consent form must be completed to participate in the program. Parent/guardians of students in pre-primary to grade 6 will have received an email from Nova Scotia Health (note: the email address will be from noreply@fluoride.canimmunize.ca as this is the platform Public Health uses for e-consent) inviting them to complete an online consent form. You will need the student's date of birth to log in and complete the form. Paper consent forms are also available at the school if you did not receive the email or would like to complete a paper copy. The email and consent form are available in English, French and Arabic.

Lost & Found

Our Lost and Found is overflowing! If your child is missing a sweater, lunch bag, water bottle, or other belongings, please encourage them to take a look. Families are also welcome to stop by and check for missing items. Anything left unclaimed by the end of this week will be donated.

Provincial Student Attendance & Engagement Policy

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.



Holiday Support

As we head into the winter season, we want to make sure families are aware of some resources available to help during the holidays. Families can contact **211** by phone or visit 211 online to inquire about holiday assistance, winter support, and other programs available in their local area. 211 can help connect families with appropriate services and provide contact information for resources in their community. Holiday support can also be accessed through:

- Christmas Daddies: www.christmasdaddies.org/christmashelp for information about the program and its online application process, including the supporting documents required. Applications open October 23 and close December 8.
- The Salvation Army: The Salvation Army Atlantic – Halifax to learn more about available programs and supports. Registration begins on Oct 26/26.

Free Screening of “Your Attention Please”

Join Unplugged Canada’s Nova Scotia Chapter for a FREE screening of the documentary "Your Attention Please" on December 3, from 6-8 PM in the White Spruce Room at Keshen Goodman Library.

Parents, caregivers and educators are invited to watch this thought-provoking documentary about the impact of technology on our attention, and come together for a discussion on how we navigate this with youth in our own community. Please register in advance as tickets are limited.

Event: FREE screening of Your Attention Please
Date: December 3, 2026
Time: 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Location: White Spruce Room, Keshen Goodman Library
Cost: FREE
Register: https://yourattentionpleaseNS.eventbrite.ca

