

DARTMOUTH SOUTH ACADEMY



Newsletter #7 – March 2019

Dartmouth South Academy
111 Prince Arthur Avenue
Dartmouth, NS B2Y 0C5
<http://dsa.hrsb.ca>

Phone: (902) 464-2081/Fax: (902) 461-0199
Principal: Adrienne Blumenthal
Vice Principal: Donna Gillespie

Breakfast Program

The Breakfast Program is looking for volunteers. If you have 30 min to spare and have a Criminal Record Check and Child Abuse Registry done please let us know. We're looking for volunteers to help from 8:30-8:50.

Primary Registration

As of March 1st, we have 23 primary students registered for the school year 2019-2020. It is imperative that parents of children who will be 5 on or before December 31st, 2019 register their children now. Our staffing allocation is based on these numbers!

Tattletales Coin Campaign

We are asking students to bring in a loonie or any loose change on Thursday March 6th, as part of the coin campaign. The class who brings in the most change can choose between decorating cupcakes or having ice cream sandwiches. The class who brings in the most change, can help choose new books for the library.

Thank you, in advance, for supporting this campaign. All monies raised for the coin campaign go to Tattletales Books. The school usually receives \$1.25 for every \$1.00 we send in, for new books for the library.

Lice

Keep in mind that winter is lice season and it's important that we try not to let this get ahead of us. Please check your child's head on a regular basis. Thank you for your co-operation.

IMPORTANT

THE ROADWAY LEADING UP TO THE SCHOOL AND THE LOOP IS A FIRE LANE. No one is allowed to park or wait in this area. This would include anyone dropping their children off and picking them up for Excel. Please use the designated parking area. As well, please respect our disabled parking spots.

End of the Day Pickups

While we understand that it is necessary to pick children up early from school occasionally, please keep in mind that it is a disruption in the class and interrupts student learning. Your co-operation on this matter would be appreciated.

Lunch Monitors

We are in need of lunch monitors! If you have an hour to spare each day (12:00-1:00) and have a child abuse registry form and criminal record check filled out, please let us know!

Intimate Images and Cyber Protection

The rapid growth of smart phones, social media and the anonymity of the online world has created increasing opportunity for cyberbullying and the unwanted sharing of intimate images. The impacts of these behaviours can be devastating for victims. Supports are available. For more information, please visit www.novascotia.ca/cyberscan. If you believe your child is a victim of cyberbullying or that an intimate image of them was shared without their consent, call Cyberscan at 902-424-6990 or 855-702-8324.

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Public WIFI

Student Engagement = Student Success

*The greatest distractor to learning in schools today
... cell phones*

At DSA we are fortunate to have one-to-one matching with technology access via chromebooks. As such, we have asked that student's cell phones be kept in their backpacks and that backpacks be kept in their lockers or a corner of the classroom. However, cellphones continue to be a distraction to student learning. Pockets vibrate hundreds of times a day in our classrooms, telling students they have received a text, Instagram/snapchat message. For many, that vibration prevents virtually all deep learning from happening in that moment and for whatever length of time it takes for them to shake off whatever the message conveyed. We care deeply for our students and want to provide the best learning environment possible, free of external distractions. Study after study tells us that even if cell phones are turned off, turned face down or put away, their mere presence reduces people's cognitive capacity ([University of Chicago, 2017](#))

As Educators, it is our responsibility to provide an environment conducive to learning. As of Monday, March 4, the public access wifi will be turned off between 9:00 and 3:00 pm. If a student's cell phone is seen by a staff member during instructional time, it will be handed in to the teacher/administration. They will return it to the student at the end of the school day. A parent/guardian will be notified.

Thanks so much for your help in maximizing students' engagement during learning time. If you are interested in learning more about the impact of cell phone use in schools, check out this [CBC article](#) and its embedded links.



Dates to Remember

March 8th – Assessment & Evaluation Day – Elem/Jr High (no classes)

March 18th – 22nd – March Break (no classes)

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, 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>

When we are at school and have to make decisions, please know that we consider all of the following factors before deciding whether it is safe for children to be outdoors in the cold.

- Are the students dressed in warm clothing, with good protection for their heads, hands and feet?
- How long will the students be outside?
- Will they be standing still or active and generating heat?
- Is the area exposed to the wind? Is it sunny or shaded? (The sun may lessen the effects of the wind chill a little.)

Please make sure to send your child to school with appropriate clothing for the weather.

Delayed Opening due to Inclement Weather

If weather conditions warrant, the Halifax Regional Centre for Education could implement a delayed opening. Delayed openings would be considered when a severe weather event has concluded but snow clearing or other operations require additional time. Delayed opening may also be considered when the physical plant is experiencing an issue such as a power outage or loss of water and additional time is required to prepare the school to open. If this was to occur, school would be delayed by two hours. In our school, this means our first bell would ring at 10:50 and classes would begin at 11:00. Grade 7 and 8 students would proceed directly to their third period class. If Stock Transportation is operating, the expectation will be that students are picked up two hours later than their regularly assigned time pending any weather-related delays. Our lunch, afternoon schedule and dismissal times will remain at their regularly scheduled times. The Excel program will be cancelled for the morning only.

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Community News

IWK Community Health Teams

The Community Health Teams are a joint partnership between the IWK and the Nova Scotia Health Authority. We are once again offering the following FREE programs for parents in your community:

- Incredible Years Parenting Program – 12 week program for parents of 6-12 year olds (school aged) and 14 week programs of 3-6 year olds (pre-school)
- My Child is Anxious. Should I worry? 2 week program
- Parenting your Teenager: Walking the Middle Path- 1 day workshop
- Handle with Care – 6 week program for parents of 0-6 year olds
- NEW! Parent Wellness Series – 4 week program which covers My Child is Anxious as well as sessions on parent stress and parent sleep.
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Please contact us at 902-460-4560 for registration or if you have any questions.

Come Join Crusaders! Try a Free Practice!

Do you love to Swim?

- Swim Programs for 5 years and older after a swim skill assessment.
- Swimmers need to be able to fully submerge, swim away from the wall in deep water and be keen to try new skills and activities.
- Six week trial programs for swimmers who can swim 50 meters or more begin as of February 25th at the Zatsman Sportsplex in Dartmouth
- New swimmers may start six week trials up to mid May
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To Register for a Free Practice, Please email:

dartcrusaders@eastlink.ca

Bell Times

Morning Attendance – 8:55-9:00 am

Recess – 10:30 – 10:45 am

Lunch – 12:00 – 12:55 pm

Afternoon Attendance – 12:55 – 1:00 pm

Dismissal P-8 – 3:00 pm

What's Happening at DSA?

- Mrs. Stewart's class participated in National Play Day as well as celebrated 100 Days of School.



- Check out the cool Maude Lewis art done by Ms. Payne's grade 5 class



Congratulations to our Royal Winners!!



“Grade 3 Slobodnick had a wonderful experience exploring and learning about Microbits!”

