

# DARTMOUTH SOUTH ACADEMY

## Newsletter# 7-March 2022



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

### 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>

### Pre-Primary and Primary Registration for 2022-2023

It is imperative that parents of pre-primary children who will be 4 on or before December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022 and primary children who will be 5 on or before December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022 register their children now if they are not currently enrolled in pre-primary. Our staffing allocation is based on these numbers.

For more information or to access the online registration forms, please visit [www.hrce.ca](http://www.hrce.ca).

### Orientations

With Covid 19 and Public Health Restrictions being lifted, we will take a further look at our Orientations for pre-primary, primary and Grade 7. More information will follow.

### Lunch Monitors

We are always in need of lunch monitors and sub monitors. Please phone the school office at 902-464-2081 if interested and we will be more than happy to help you. A current Criminal Record Check and Child Abuse Registry is required.

### Lice Season

Just a reminder to our DSA families that 'lice season' is upon us. With 650 students and 60 staff in the school it might be a good idea to get in the habit of frequent head checks at home and perhaps a conversation with your children about the importance of not sharing clothing. Thanks for your co-operation!

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## DSA Items for Sale

Just a reminder that the Learning Center is still selling buttons for \$1.00 to support different organizations. These buttons can be purchased online through schoolcash. You will find more details once you've registered and logged in. Our Learning Centre is very excited to sell their buttons!

We also are selling DSA Water bottles for \$2.00. All items must be purchased through Schoolcash Online.

The URL to the site is:

<https://hrce.schoolcashonline.com/>

## Change of Clothes

To avoid phone calls home and a possible interruption to your work 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!

## Safe Arrival

**THANK YOU** to all who continue to use our safe arrival program! If your child will not be attending classes, please call 902-464-2081. If there is no answer, please leave a message as these are retrieved before the bell rings. It is most helpful and appreciated when parents phone in. **This is for all grade levels PP – 8.**

## Community News



For more info go to Our Website [Dartmouthlittleleague.net/](http://Dartmouthlittleleague.net/)

## Dates to Remember

March 14<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> – March Break (no classes)

March 23<sup>rd</sup> – Assessment and Evaluation Day  
(no classes Elementary/Junior High)

## Bell Times

Morning Attendance – 8:55-9:00 am

Lunch – 11:00 – 12:00 – 6 Lynch, 5/6 Becker, 4 Starr, 5 Wilson, 1 John, 1 Morrissey

Lunch – 12:00 – 1:00 – P MacNeil, P MacQueen, P/1 Blacquiere, 2 Stewart, 2 Durand, 2 McKinnon, 3 Swan, 4 Matheson, 3 Hall, 5 Payne

Lunch – 1:00 – 2:00 – grades 7-8

Dismissal Pre-P-8 – 3:00 pm

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## School Safety and Security

As you are likely aware, our school practices lockdowns as part of our emergency planning/preparedness cycle. Staff and students are familiar with lockdowns, but we wish to increase your knowledge of our procedures.

It is important to understand that school staff will implement a lockdown and call police if and when there is any reason to believe that imminent danger to students and staff may exist. At this stage, everyone in the school will move to a secure location, safe from harm. Police will respond to the school and no one will enter or leave, until the situation is resolved.

The first instinct of parents/guardians is to either phone the school directly or your child, or to attend directly to the school. You are asked not to do any of these, but instead to understand and follow the procedures outlined in this letter.

Experience has shown that roadways need to be kept clear for responding emergency vehicles, and parents and others attempting to drive to the school can slow police and other emergency responders from getting to and securing the area as quickly as possible. Therefore, if you hear that a lockdown is occurring at your child's school, do not attend to the school. Instead, you may attend to your schools' designated Parent location to receive information which will be provided by police and school representatives.

## School Safety and Security...CONT'D

Please be assured that every effort will be made to keep you informed as to what is happening during the event. Experience has shown that incorrect information often circulates during an event when it does not come directly from the police or school board. After the lockdown, you may be asked to go to the school or to wait where you are until your child is brought to your location.

We also ask that you not attempt to phone your child. In a lockdown, everyone must remain quiet, and a ringing cell phone may draw undue attention to the secure location where your child and his/her classmates are.

Aside from lockdown procedures, your child's school may also implement a precautionary "Hold and Secure" if there is an unrelated emergency situation occurring outside the building or in the neighborhood that could potentially present a danger to the school. In this situation all doors to the school are locked and monitored to allow any students from outside entry into the school. Classes will generally continue but no one will be allowed to enter or leave the building until the situation is resolved. We also ask that you do **NOT** attend to the school unless asked to do so by school board staff.

We encourage you to discuss school safety with your child and to address any concerns they may have and we welcome any questions you may have about this or any other issue related to the safety and security of our school.

SCHOOL	PRIMARY PARENT STAGING AREA	SECONDARY PARENT STAGING AREA
Dartmouth South Academy	North Woodside Community Centre 230 Pleasant Street 902-463-9276	Grace Baptist Church 51 Athorpe Drive 902-434-3047

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## Guidelines for school and/or bus cancellations due to inclement weather

Nova Scotia winter weather can change quickly and can be challenging to predict. This document outlines the steps we take when deciding whether to cancel school and/or bussing.

### A 6:00 am announcement could be:

All schools are closed for the day

OR

Some schools (either individually or by family) are closed for the day

OR

All schools are open, but some or all busses are not operating for the day

OR

All schools are delayed in opening by 2 hours

If weather deteriorates, or is forecast to worsen throughout the morning

### An 11:00 am announcement could be:

Bussed students will be picked up 2 hours earlier than their regular dismissal time

AND

Walking students will be dismissed at their regularly scheduled lunch hour

### Remember:

*Parents/guardians always have the right to keep their child home from school if they believe that the travelling conditions are unsuitable.*

How does Halifax Regional Centre for Education (HRCE) decide on school and/or bus cancellations?

By 4:30 am, HRCE staff begin to gather information from:

- A contracted weather service that provides radar and satellite imagery, real-time road conditions and weather warnings;
- A meteorologist to discuss details of forecast, level and type of precipitation and impact on road conditions;
- Stock Transportation consults bus drivers throughout HRM about road conditions in their area;
- Municipal and provincial transportation staff; and
- Other local weather services, including Environment Canada and the Weather Network.

By 5:30 am, staff make recommendations to the Regional Executive Director (or designate), who makes the final decision and communicates it by 6:00 am.

Where can cancellation information be found?

Website: [www.hrce.ca](http://www.hrce.ca) Twitter: @HRCE\_NS Phone: 902-464-INFO (4636) Local media outlets

Subscribe to email/text notifications at [www.hrce.ca](http://www.hrce.ca)



Halifax  
Regional Centre for Education