

# DARTMOUTH SOUTH ACADEMY



## Newsletter# 9-May 2023

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

### Registration for 2023-2024

There is still time to register your child for the 2023-2024 school year. Children for pre-primary must be 4 on or before December 31<sup>st</sup> and children for primary must be 5 on or before December 31<sup>st</sup>. Please do not wait to register as our staffing depends on student enrollment.

The link below will give you more information regarding the online registration process

<https://www.hrce.ca/news/2022/06/30/welcome-summer>

### National Red Dress/Shirt Day

**May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023, is National Red Dress/Shirt Day to Honour Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls (MMIWG)**

**Indigenous women and girls** in Canada—both on reserve or in urban areas, regardless of age or socio-economic status—are at least three times more likely to experience violence and at least six times more likely to be murdered than non-Indigenous women and girls in Canada. Statistics on the rates of violence against two-spirit people are not available, but 2SLGBTQI+ people in Canada are more likely to experience violence than heterosexual, cisgender people. This violence is a **human rights crisis**, and it must stop. “**Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW)**” is a movement that advocates for the end of violence against Indigenous women. It also seeks to draw attention to the high rates of disappearances and murders of Indigenous people, particularly women and girls.

### Grade 8 Photos

Grade 8 grad photos will be taken May 18<sup>th</sup> (retakes – May 25<sup>th</sup>). Boys are asked to wear a white shirt and tie. If they do not have a white shirt and tie, a white t-shirt will do. Girls are asked to wear a V-neck shirt and a necklace if they have one. Please do not wear hoodies.

### Grade 8 Ceremony

The Grade 8 closing ceremony will take place the afternoon of June 22 from 2:00pm - 3:00 pm in our school gym. Doors will open for guests at 1:30 pm.

The celebration dance will be that same evening from 6-7:30. There will be food in the cafeteria and the dance will take place in the gym. This will be a grade 8 dance only. Grade 8 students will be allowed to bring a guest. The dance will be free of charge for the eighth grade DSA student, and their guest will need to purchase a ticket for \$5.00 one week in advance. The guest will need to sign a form and will need to be in good standing at their current Jr. High school. Guests will need student Identification (school photo ID) and DSA administration will be contacting the guest's administration.

### Lunch Monitors

We are in need of lunch monitors at Dartmouth South Academy. The times would be from 12:00 – 1:00 pm and/ or 1:00 - 2:00 pm. A criminal record check and child abuse registry form are required to work as a lunch monitor. Please phone the school office at 902-464-2081 if interested and we will be more than happy to help you.

# DARTMOUTH SOUTH ACADEMY

## Musical 2023

Dartmouth South Academy  
(111 Prince Arthur Ave)  
Presents



# Annie

Dartmouth South Academy 2023

Book by Thomas Meehan    Music by Charles Strauss    Lyrics by Martin Charnin


Original Broadway Production Directed by Martin Charnin.

Based on "Little Orphan Annie"® By Permission of Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

**May 9<sup>th</sup> – 10:30 am and 6:30 pm**  
**May 10<sup>th</sup> – 10:30 am and 6:30 pm**

Adult Admission 5\$ on DSA School Cash, 6\$ at the |  
door. Students and kids are free.  
All proceeds go back to the DSA theatre program.

Annie JR. is presented through special arrangement with  
all authorized materials are supplied by  
Music Theatre International, New York, NY (212) 541-4684 mtishows.com



- Advance tickets can be purchased online through our school cash system
- Doors open 30 minutes before the show

## Gr 6/7 Dance & Social

On June 7th, DSA will be having an orientation for parents of our current grade 6 feeder schools commencing at 5:30pm.

We would like to have a welcome social dance from 6:15-7:30 for the future grade 7 incoming students and our current grade 6 and 7 students. We ask that parents leave the building and come back to pick their child up at 7:30pm. This social/dance will be free of cost. Our current grade 6 and 7 students at DSA must be in good standing to receive an invite.

## BELL TIMES

**Morning Attendance – 8:55-9:00 am**

**Lunch – 12:00 – 1:00 – grades P-6**

**Lunch – 1:00 – 2:00 – grades 7-8**

**Dismissal Pre-P-8 – 3:00 pm**

## Lunch News

A reminder to parents that we are not equipped to be able to heat up student's lunches. Students must bring a lunch that doesn't require a microwave or a kettle. Also, eating utensils are necessary ... the cafeteria is unable to provide cutlery.

## DATES TO REMEMBER



**May 9<sup>th</sup> – Annie Musical 10:30 am and 6:30 pm**

**May 10<sup>th</sup> – Annie Musical 10:30 am and 6:30 pm**

**May 18<sup>th</sup> – Grade 8 Grad Photos**

**May 25<sup>th</sup> – Grade 7 Immunization Clinic**

**May 25<sup>th</sup> – Grade 8 Photo Retakes**

**May 22<sup>nd</sup> – Victoria Day (no classes)**

**May 31<sup>st</sup> – 6:00 pm Primary Orientation Meeting – any parents who have children starting primary in 2023 – 2024 are welcome to attend**

**June 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> – New primary students will be visiting our current primary classes. More information to follow.**

**June 7<sup>th</sup> – 5:30 pm – Grade 7 Orientation – all new grade 7 students for 2023-2024 are welcome to attend with their parents**

**June 7<sup>th</sup> – 6:15 pm – 7:30 pm – Grade 6/7 Dance and Social**

**June 22<sup>nd</sup> – 1:30 pm – Grade 8 Closing Celebration**

**June 22<sup>nd</sup> – 6:00 pm – Grade 8 Dance**

**June 29<sup>th</sup> – Assessment & Evaluation Day (no classes)**

**June 30<sup>th</sup> – Last Day of School**

# DARTMOUTH SOUTH ACADEMY



## EXCEL registration

The EXCEL program is a recreation-based, fee-for-service before and after school program run by the Halifax Regional Centre for Education, offering before and after school care for elementary-aged children.

At each school site, the dedicated and qualified staffing teams plan weekly games and activities that suit the needs and interests of the registered students. These individual plans are framed around EXCEL's overall philosophy which is focused on physical activity and positive social interaction in a safe and fun environment.

Highlights of our program include:

1. EXCEL offers both structured and unstructured activities each afternoon.
2. EXCEL provides a minimum of 45 minutes of structured physical activity every day.
3. EXCEL offers outdoor physically active play opportunities each day, weather permitting.
4. EXCEL provides an opportunity for individual choice in programming each day.
5. EXCEL brings in our own special guest presenters and external programmers.
6. EXCEL offers P.A.L.S. Playground Activity Leaders in Schools for participants in Grades 4-6.
7. EXCEL offers HRQ/Gym (Homework/Reading/Quiet Time/Gym) time each afternoon from 5:30 to 6:00 pm enabling those who wish to complete homework the opportunity to do so.
8. EXCEL is a "High Five" registered organization.
- 9.

Registration for returning children began April 24 and registration for new EXCEL participants will begin on May 8. [Click here](#) for more information.

# DARTMOUTH SOUTH ACADEMY



**WE ARE GROWING!  
CHANGE IS HAPPENING.**



**HRCE is growing!**

Almost 58,000 students are currently enrolled in the Halifax Regional Centre for Education (HRCE)! In the last five years, enrolment has increased by 7,733. In fact, since September 30, 2022, we've welcomed more than 1,000 additional students! As our region's population expands (Nova Scotia's population reached one million last year), new families register within our system on an ongoing basis. This is an exciting time for our province, our city and for HRCE!

With this growth comes a lot of important changes for our region. Please visit the [HRCE website](#) for the latest updates!

**Finish the year off strong with Homework Hub!**

- **GNSPES Access**  
Easy access to online resources and tutoring through your GNSPES account (gnspes.ca) by clicking on the Nova Scotia Homework Hub icon.
- **24/7 Access**  
Anytime access to video tutorials, practice questions and vocabulary review.
- **Bilingual Tutors**  
Tutors available for students in:
  - Grade 7-12 on school nights 5:30 to 9:30 p.m.
  - Grade 4-6 Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Find the Homework Hub at [gnspes.ca](#) or call 1-888-444-6607

Did you know your student has access to Homework Hub? Finish the year off strong with the help of experienced tutors!

1. **GNSPES Access:** Easy access to online resources and tutoring through your GNSPES account (gnspes.ca) by clicking on the Nova Scotia Homework Hub icon.
2. **24/7 Access:** Anytime access to video tutorials, practice questions and vocabulary review.
3. **Bilingual tutors available for students in:**
  1. Grade 7-12 on school nights 5:30 to 9:30 p.m.
  2. Grade 4-5 Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

[Watch this video](#) to learn more about Homework Hub!



**DID YOU KNOW?**

The Technology Integration Leadership Team (TILT) supports technology integration & has visited more than 400 classrooms this year!

Learn more at [tilt.hrce.ca](#) and follow along on Twitter @TILTHRCE



**TILT**

Did you know that **our Technology Integration Leadership Team (TILT)** works with teachers and students in Grades P-12 to support technology integration within the curriculum?

Did you know that all schools have access to different technologies used to increase student engagement and achievement, such as coding robots, 3D printers, podcasting equipment, and more?

Whether it be helping students write their own digital books, film a stop motion video, code their own virtual reality environment, or build a circuit-based interactive poster, the TILT team provides support for teachers to help students find alternative ways to demonstrating their knowledge and skills. So far this year, the TILT team has visited more than 400 classrooms!

Curious to see more of what the TILT team has been up to? Check them out on Twitter at [@TILTHRCE](#) (no account needed to view).

# DARTMOUTH SOUTH ACADEMY

## New Way to Report Student Absences

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Dear Parents/Guardians

One of our greatest priorities is ensuring that all our students arrive safely at school each and every day. Our school will be implementing a new way to report absences through SchoolMessenger. As of **Thursday, September 1**, you will be able to report future absences using an app, website, or toll-free phone number. Starting on **Wednesday, September 7**, if your student is absent and the absence has not been reported in advance, you will receive notifications via email, text, and phone calls from SchoolMessenger.

To report your student absent, you can use any of the following methods:

- **PowerSchool Parent/Student Portal**  
Parents/guardians can log into <https://sishrsb.ednet.ns.ca/public/> to access the link to the SchoolMessenger website to report future absences.
- **SchoolMessenger App**  
Parents/guardians can download the SchoolMessenger app for Android and iOS devices, create an account and use their email that the school has on record for them as their username.
- **Toll-Free Number**  
Parents/guardians can call 1-833-582-6940 to report future absences using an automated system.

All three methods are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Absences can be reported at any time before the start of school on the day the student will be absent. Up to five consecutive absences can be recorded at once. If you have students attending other schools, please continue to report absences using the existing procedures for those schools.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation as we implement this new tool. Please visit <https://www.hrce.ca/SafeArrival> for more information.

# DARTMOUTH SOUTH ACADEMY

## 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<br>230 Pleasant Street<br>902-463-9276 | Grace Baptist Church<br>51 Athorpe Drive<br>902-434-3047 |
|                         |  |  |