

DARTMOUTH SOUTH ACADEMY



Newsletter# 10-June 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 31st and children for primary must be 5 on or before December 31st. 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>

Breakfast Program

The Breakfast Program will run until June 27th. We would like to extend a special thank you to all those who helped with our program in regard to donations, as well as their time. Your kindness is much appreciated.

Grade 8 Orientation

The grade 8's will be heading to Dartmouth High for their orientation on June 16th at 9:30 am. More information as well as permission forms will follow. We are looking for parent volunteers to go to Dartmouth High with us ... if you are available, please contact Ashley Grant at granta@hrce.ca

Library

We are asking that all parents return their child's library books by June 9th, 2023. Thank you for your co-operation.

Grade 8 Ceremony

The Grade 8 closing ceremony will take place the afternoon of June 22nd 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 students, 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.

Grade 8 Clothing

The grade 8 grad clothing should be here the week of June 20th, 2022. We will confirm with parents closer to the date.

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Ice Cream Social



DATES TO REMEMBER

The Parent-Teacher Organization is excited to host an **Ice Cream Social**, Tuesday June 27 from 6pm-7pm. Open to students and their immediate families, come and enjoy a free ice cream sandwich or popsicle, while supplies last! ****Popsicles will be gluten and lactose free**** Please note this will be an outdoor event, located at the back of the school. There will be no access to washrooms inside the school.

Rain date, Wednesday, June 28th from 6pm-7pm

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

June 1st and 2nd – New primary students will be visiting our current primary classes.

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

June 7th – 6:15 pm – 7:30 pm – Grade 6/7 Dance and Social

June 9th – due date for library books

June 16th – 9:30 am Dartmouth High Orientation

June 20th – Field Day Activities (rain date June 28th)

June 22nd – 1:30 pm – Grade 8 Closing Celebration

June 22nd – 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm Grade 8 Closing Dance

June 28th – Last Day for All Cafeteria Purchases

June 27th – Ice Cream Social from 6 pm – 7 pm (rain date June 28th)

June 29th – Assessment & Evaluation Day (no classes)

June 30th – Last Day of School

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Nut/Scent Aware School

We are a nut-aware school. It is the goal of the HRCE to maximize the safety of each student within the school system who may be subject to life-threatening allergic reactions, including anaphylaxis. We have several students in our building who have such an allergy. Because we are a nut aware school, and not a nut free zone, we cannot guarantee that children who have nut allergies are totally protected. Please use caution when packing your child's snacks and lunches.

Our school is also scent-aware. We have individuals in the building who are sensitive to scents contained in items such as personal care products and laundry products. Please choose scent-free products when you come to our school whenever possible.

Special Note for Parents and Students of DSA

Hello, I wanted to take a moment to thank everyone in the Dartmouth South community for all of your support over the past 19 years serving at Southdale North Woodside Elementary, Prince Arthur Junior High and Dartmouth South Academy. June 30, 2023, will be my last day of work, as I am retiring after more than 27 years with HRCE.

It's been a privilege to work with your children. We have had many adventures over the years. I have enjoyed hosting book fairs, authors, and guest speakers to connect with our students. We had the opportunity to bake traditional foods from around the world, we learned to adapt and change library during the pandemic, but most importantly, I hope I have helped your children find a love for reading. We learned to pivot during covid.

Our school breakfast program has been a passion of mine over the years. Ensuring that our students have a nutritious hot breakfast at DSA has been very important and rewarding to me.

Retirement doesn't come without mixed emotions. I'm excited for this new chapter in my life. I am looking forward to spending more time traveling, reading for pleasure, and spending time with my spouse and my grandchildren.

I leave this community with many amazing memories. I wish you and your children all the best. I know, come September I'll be missing all the excitement that comes with the first day of school and I will be wishing you all the best.

Have a fabulous summer & keep reading!

All the best,
Debby MacDonald

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SchoolsPlus Supports

STUDENT SUPPORT

Kids Help Phone understands how fear and uncertainty can fuel anxiety and other feelings. They are available to support the young people in our community through this challenging time – and beyond. Please know Kids Help Phone is available 24/7, will never judge and always be confidential.

Kids Help Phone is here 24/7 for young people and adults across the province who are experiencing the impacts of wildfires. For e-mental health support, text 686868 (young people), text 741741 (all ages), call 1-800-668-6868 or visit kidshelpphone.ca. There is no issue too big or feeling too small.

For a guide for caregivers on how to talk to children and youth about an emergency or traumatic event from the IWK, [click here](#).

Did you know? SchoolsPlus operates 12 months of the year! SchoolsPlus is a confidential, free service available to every school in Nova Scotia. Families and students (12+) can self-refer to SchoolsPlus by contacting the SchoolsPlus facilitator for your school **[Juliana Pontes]**. Learn more [here](#).

SchoolsPlus offers HRCE families & students:

- Help finding the right services & programs
- Confidential support in difficult situations
- Collaboration to ensure student success

Parents & students can self-refer. Just text, phone, or email us, 12 months a year!

SchoolsPlus
Écoles Plus
NOVA SCOTIA / NOUVELLE ÉCOSSE

Subaru Drive Family of schools:
Martha Stephens, 902-478-9271 or martha.stephens@hrce.ca

Bay View Family of schools:
Juliana Pontes, 902-249-9523 or juliana.pontes@hrce.ca

Central Family of schools:
Dianne Evans, 902-225-0537 or diane@hrce.ca

Claremont Family of schools:
Sharon Stevens, 902-219-3568 or sharon@hrce.ca

Cole Harbour Family of schools:
Kimon Jids, 902-233-3426 or kimon.jids@hrce.ca

C.P. Allen Family of schools:
Sherry Barlow, 902-478-2482 or sherry.barlow@hrce.ca

Dartmouth High Family of schools:
Juliana Pontes, 902-249-9523 or juliana.pontes@hrce.ca

Stacey Oliver, 902-225-2632 or stacey.oliver@hrce.ca

Eastern Shore Family of schools:
Katherine, 902-223-7403 or katherine@hrce.ca

Halifax West Family of schools:
Bonnie Pines, 902-225-2200 or bonnie@hrce.ca

Marina Dennis, 902-497-7102 or marina.dennis@hrce.ca

Kim Gansley, 902-221-9554 or kimberly.gansley@hrce.ca

Island View Family of schools:
Sarah Morris, 902-399-8321 or sarah.morris@hrce.ca

J.J. Wiley Family of schools:
Katherine, 902-399-8447 or katherine@hrce.ca

Rosalind Curran, 902-225-2245 or rosaland.curran@hrce.ca

Lockview Family of schools:
Tina Collins, 902-229-2907 or tina.collins@hrce.ca

Marine Drive Academy & Minasitashook Rural Family of schools:
Catherine Johnson, 902-478-0224 or cjohnson@hrce.ca

Millfield Family of schools:
Jennifer Fougere, 902-483-8387 or jfougere@hrce.ca

Sackville High Family of schools:
Jennifer Fougere, 902-483-8387 or jfougere@hrce.ca

Lidia Tobin, 902-225-7892 or lidia@hrce.ca

Woodlawn High (Former P&R) Family of schools:
Christine Rindan, 902-221-1917 or christine.rindan@hrce.ca

Megan Tobin, 902-240-1148 or megan.tobin@hrce.ca

Nicole MacFarlane, 902-480-4932 or nicole@hrce.ca

Explore more supports at kidshelpphone.ca

Halifax Regional Centre for Education

**NEED SOMEONE TO TALK TO?
KIDS HELP PHONE CAN BE REACHED AT 1-800-668-6868 (TOLL-FREE) OR TEXT CONNECT TO 686868.**

What is SchoolsPlus?
Parents, guardians and students (12+) can self-refer to SchoolsPlus – 12 months a year!

Connect with us!
Parents, guardians and students (12+) can self-refer to SchoolsPlus – 12 months a year!

Resources & support

- Recreation**
Help finding and applying for rec programs or funding.
- Tutoring**
Help understanding and accessing tutoring supports.
- Food supports**
Help accessing food banks and other local food supports.
- Health & wellness**
Help navigating healthcare systems.
- General support**
Help completing paperwork and applications, as well as transportation and accompaniment to appointments.

Halifax Regional Centre for Education

SchoolsPlus
Écoles Plus
NOVA SCOTIA / NOUVELLE ÉCOSSE

First Ride Program

Our service providers will host one-hour workshops for new bus families this summer to educate children about school bus safety on and around the vehicle. HRCE Student Transportation will be reaching out to new bus families over the summer with more information.

In the meantime, [click here](#) to learn more about riding the bus safely. Please contact us at transportation@hrce.ca or by calling 902-431-4723 if you have any questions.



2023-24 Bus Information

Student transportation information for the 2023-24 school year will be available to view online through the BusPlanner Parent Portal later in July.

- Families eligible for transportation will receive an email to access the Parent Portal to view their child's bus information once it is available.
- Once you receive the email, you must follow the instructions to activate your **new** Parent Portal account and create a password. Using previous Parent Portal login information will not work.
- If you can't find the email, please contact 902-431-4723 or transportation@hrce.ca for assistance.

Over the summer, the HRCE Student Transportation Team will also reach out to new HRCE families and those families who may require special needs transportation for their children with more information about busing.

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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.

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New Way to Report Student Absences

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.