

# DARTMOUTH SOUTH ACADEMY



## Newsletter #3-Nov 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/Alison Birdsall

### Items for Students

Items that are being dropped off to the office for students **MUST BE LABELLED**. For example, three violins were dropped off for students yesterday with no names on them. The students even had a hard time deciding who owned which one.

The same thing is happening with student lunches. When they come in without names and the office is busy, mistakes happen and we want to avoid this.

Your co-operation is appreciated.

### Breakfast Program

Each morning breakfast is served to our students in the school cafeteria.

Students are welcome to come in from 8:40 – 9:00.

Breakfast items include: cereal, fruit, cheese, yogurt and crackers.

If anybody would like to volunteer in the form of time or donations, please contact the office at 902-464-2081.

### Safe Arrival

As of this school year we have a new Safe Arrival Program in place. Please call 1-833-582-6940 to report your child's absences. Calls home will be made by a computer-generated program. There are instructions attached to this email.

Doors open at 8:40 am and attendance is taken by 9:00 am sharp. Calls begin going home for all students who aren't in the classroom at this time. Students have 20 mins to arrive in class on time. To avoid the computer generated calls, please ensure your children are at school for 9:00 am attendance. **Computer generated calls go home each day when your child comes in late.**



### Dates to Remember

**Nov 13<sup>th</sup>** – Remembrance Day (no classes)

Nov 17<sup>th</sup> – Assessment & Evaluation Day (no classes)

Nov 28<sup>th</sup> – Records Cards go home

Nov 23<sup>rd</sup> – AM – PD Day/ PM – Parent Teacher Meetings 1-3 and 5-7 pm

**REMINDER – Students must bring their own water bottles and eating utensils.**

# DARTMOUTH SOUTH ACADEMY

## NO STOPPING/PARKING SIGNS

You are encouraged to pay attention to the no stopping zones when entering and exiting the school. We need to keep the safety of the students in mind when we are coming onto the school grounds.

## Lunch Monitor

We are in need of substitute 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.

## Cell Phones @ DSA Reminder

Dartmouth South Academy is personal device tech free. This includes any device (phone, gaming device, etc.) that can connect to the internet and/or access social media. Over the past number of years, we have noticed an increase in student distraction from personal devices in classrooms. Many of the conflicts that occur with students are communicated and exacerbated throughout the day by means of personal devices. This may lead to situations that negatively impact the safety and security of our students. The expectation is that cell phones/devices will be kept in lockers when students arrive at school and that they will not be seen or heard during class time or in the hallways. During class time, you will always be able to get a message to your child through the office. Exceptions will be made for students who rely on their personal device for health reasons (i.e., monitoring blood glucose), after consultation with parents. Students will be able to use their devices at lunch.

## School Office Info

The deadline for updating student demographics forms has been extended. If you haven't done so already, please log into your parent portal and select HRCE demographics in order to ensure that we have the most accurate contact information.

**Instructions for accessing the parent portal are attached.**

## It's Winter in Nova Scotia!!

We had our first blast of winter yesterday!!! Please keep in mind that we like to try to get the students outside for fresh air each day and encourage them to have fun in the snow, but ... the children need to be dressed for the colder weather. We went through one entire bag of mittens yesterday and unfortunately, we do not have an endless supply. Please keep this in mind when preparing your children for school.

## SCHOOLCASH - ONLINE

If you're not already registered for schoolcash online, please take the time to do so. It is important when it comes time to purchase items related to school such as field trips, water bottles, sports fees, etc. **Instructions are attached.**

The URL to the site is:

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

# DARTMOUTH SOUTH ACADEMY

## School Surveillance System

Our school uses a video surveillance system as part of our continued efforts to support a safe, positive and effective learning environment. We recognize that the images recorded by this video surveillance system are personal information and, as with all other personal information, we take steps to balance privacy rights with safety and security concerns. The school has the legal authority to collect this personal information under Section 24 of Nova Scotia's Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Only designated staff has access to our video surveillance equipment and such access is restricted as required by law. The system is used to enhance school safety and to deter or take action in response to unlawful behaviours.

If you have any questions about video surveillance at our school, please contact Adrienne Blumenthal, Principal, at 902-464-2081.

## Message from PTO

DSA community, we are looking for parents and family members to join our PTO (Parent Teacher Organization). This group will meet throughout the school year to plan and host fun, community minded events/activities to help support the already vibrant community spirit of our amazing school. If you are interested in joining this group, please reach out to Ally MacQueen (Primary Teacher at DSA) to learn more about this fun volunteer opportunity [allyson.macqueen@hrce.ca](mailto:allyson.macqueen@hrce.ca)

*We would appreciate your support.*

## 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**

## YMCA – News

### (brochures attached)

Hello everyone!

My name is Helen. I'm a new School Settlement Worker from YMCA at this school. I'm from Ukraine and speak English, Ukrainian and Russian languages. I'm here to help international students/newcomers to settle in Canada, in this province. I'm here to help you to work with newcomers

### What do I do?

1. Meet new families and students at school (international families)
2. Help with registration to school
3. Arrange international club with students where they have a chance to meet each other, to do different activities together, celebrate international holidays etc.
4. Individual academic support with the schoolwork
5. Interpretation if needed into Ukrainian/Russian/English or other languages (I can find another School Settlement Worker to help with interpretation)
6. I can help to arrange various holidays, presentations, information sessions for parents/students/teachers
7. One-on-one support with students during the classes if needed
8. Connect families to resources within the school, community and YMCA programs
9. Help parent to communicate with school staff, support them, provide them information about school and YMCA programs etc.
10. I will attend Curriculum Nights and parent-teacher interviews. If you need my help with interpretation or stuff just let me know
11. Help to solve problems and conflicts between students, especially based on cultural and religious differences

I have attached to this email information about YMCA and our work with newcomers. Hope it will be helpful. Feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

If you need my help – let me know, please. The easiest way is just texting a message or giving a call

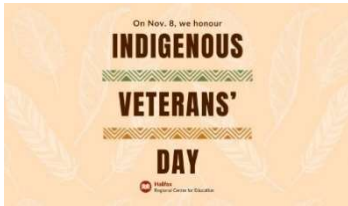
My phone number: **902-830-2807**

My email address: [helen.andrusenko@halifax.ymca.ca](mailto:helen.andrusenko@halifax.ymca.ca)

**I'm here in Dartmouth South Academy on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays**

# DARTMOUTH SOUTH ACADEMY

## News from HRCE



Visit [hrce.ca/weather](http://hrce.ca/weather) for everything you need to know about how weather could impact the operation of our school.

Halifax Regional Centre for Education

### Remembrance Day & Indigenous Veterans Day

On November 8, we honour Indigenous Veterans who have served in missions in times of war and peace. While not often enough acknowledged, the military service of First Nations, Inuit and Métis in Canada has deep roots.

On November 11, we pause and reflect on the sacrifice of our veterans, past and present. Lest we forget.



### Transgender Awareness Week

Observed annually from November 13-19, Transgender Awareness Week provides an opportunity to raise awareness and acknowledge the positive contributions made daily by members of the transgender community. The week concludes with Transgender Day of Remembrance on November 20, a day on which we memorialize victims of transphobic violence.

### Be an ally

An ally is someone who actively and consistently supports, stands with and advocates for the 2SLGBTQIA+ communities. The best way to be an ally is to listen with an open mind. It is our responsibility to treat all people with dignity and kindness.

Did you know? HRCE takes great care when making the decision to alter the regular operations of schools and school buses in the event of severe or inclement weather.

It is HRCE's goal to communicate any changes to the regular operations of schools and/or buses as close to 6:00 a.m. as possible. **A 6:00 a.m. announcement could be:**

- All schools are delayed in opening by two hours and bus pickups are delayed by two hours; or
- All schools are open, but some or all buses are not operating for the day; or
- Some schools (either individually or by family) are closed for the day; or
- All schools are closed for the day.

If weather deteriorates, or is forecasted to worsen throughout the morning, **an 11:00 a.m. announcement could be:**

- Bused students will be picked up two hours earlier than their regular dismissal time; and
- Walking students will be dismissed at their regularly scheduled lunch hour.

### How will I find out?

- By email to the addresses in PowerSchool
- By text message, **if you have opted-in**. If you aren't sure if you have opted-in, text Y to the following number: **978338**
- On our website [www.hrce.ca](http://www.hrce.ca)
- On X (formerly Twitter) at [Twitter.com/HRCE\\_NS](https://twitter.com/HRCE_NS)
- On Instagram at [www.instagram.com/hrce\\_ns/](https://www.instagram.com/hrce_ns/)

It's important to always have a plan in place for childcare in the event of any cancellation.

# DARTMOUTH SOUTH ACADEMY

Dear Parent/Guardian,

During the summer, your PowerSchool Parent Portal account was recreated as part of an update. Your previous username and password no longer exist. Student access to the Portal is unchanged. Students who know their username and password will continue to use the information they have always used.

Your new username is *your full email address that is receiving this message*. For example, if your email address is myemailaddress@gmail.com your **Parent Username** is now myemailaddress@gmail.com.

When the PowerSchool Parent Portal reopens on **Thursday, September 2**, please follow these steps to activate your new parent account:

1. Open a web browser and navigate to the Portal Sign In page at:  
**<https://sishrsb.ednet.ns.ca>**
2. Click on the link: **Forgot Username or Password?**
3. Click on the **Parents** tab.
4. Under the **Forgot Password?** section, enter your **Parent Username**. Your **Parent Username** is the full email address that received this message.
5. Enter your **Parent Email Address** (use same email address entered in Step 4).
6. Click the **Reset Password** button.
7. A Password Reset Request email will be sent to you. Click the link in the email to reset your password.
8. Navigate back to the Portal Sign In page at: **<https://sishrsb.ednet.ns.ca>**
9. Enter your **Parent Username**. Your **Parent Username** is the full email address that received this message.
10. Enter the password you set via the Password Reset Request.
11. Once logged in, review your account details.

PowerSchool SIS

## Recover Account Sign In Information

Students Parents

### Parents

**Forgot Password?**  
To reset your password, enter your username and email address below, and click the 'Reset Password' button.

Parent Username: myemailaddress@gmail.com

Parent Email Address:

Reset Password

Only the school where the student is currently enrolled can troubleshoot and make changes. Contact the school if you encounter any difficulty, such as a student no longer linked to your account.

Thank you for your cooperation and support through this parent account update.

# DARTMOUTH SOUTH ACADEMY

## School Messenger SafeArrival: A 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. 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.



## YMCA IMMIGRANT SERVICES

As a multi-service organization committed to building healthy communities, the YMCA of Greater Halifax/Dartmouth offers a variety of programming that supports newcomer settlement and integration with a focus on families, being place based, being active and being engaged in the community.



### ACTIVE LIVING

Active Living is an integral part of a healthy lifestyle, an important part of successful settlement and a useful tool for integration. Being physically active, and being active in your community reduces and prevents stress, and isolation, and at the same time builds capacity to participate in, and contribute to, building healthy communities.

Through our Active Living programs clients can be involved with sessions like:

- Active Living Fitness Sessions
- Bridging to community events and programming (ie. Swim to Survive)
- Sewing social with the Atlantic Sewing Guild
- Seniors Group
- Family Fun Days
- Weekly Talking Circles for all levels
- Health & Wellness Information Sessions



YMCA of  
Greater Halifax/Dartmouth

NOVA SCOTIA  
NOUVELLE-ÉCOSSE



Funded by:  
Immigration, Refugees  
and Citizenship Canada

Financed by:  
Immigration, Réfugiés  
et Citoyenneté Canada



## CHILD AND YOUTH SETTLEMENT PROGRAMMING

Newcomer children and youth have different settlement needs than adults. By providing empowering programs and services we are working together with young people to remove obstacles and to support them as the role models and leaders our communities need.

Our child and youth settlement programming includes:

**NEWBORN SETTLEMENT PROGRAM** on-site in 34 schools in IIRIM and 20 schools across the province with the objective of supporting newcomer parents and children to be actively engaged in new school communities.

- On-site School Settlement Workers
- Orientation Sessions
- Home & School Engagement
- Awareness Raising Presentations
- Linking and referral to school and community resources

**Youth Outreach** programming for young people aged 13-18 that develops leadership skills, independence and a social network that are essential to sense of belonging.

- Homework Clubs
- Gender specific programming
- Leadership Development
- Community Involvement & Service Leadership
- Recreational & Social activities

**Saturday Study Skills** for ages primary to grade six offers an interactive & age appropriate curriculum designed to clarify and reinforce school routines and practices.

Currently offered each Saturday morning at two locations:

- YMCA Centre for Immigrant Programs in Fairview
- Community YMCA on Goffington Street

## CANADA CONNECTS & VOLUNTEER COORDINATION

YMCA Canada Connects is a volunteer based mentoring program that is needs driven and supports newcomers to become fully engaged in Canadian life by increasing awareness and understanding of the social, political, cultural and economic context of the new community.

- One-on-one Matching
- Family Matching
- Two hours per week

## 2SLGBTQIA+

The 2SLGBTQIA+ Newcomer's Program offers one-on-one services for 2SLGBTQIA+ newcomer youth and adults who are looking for supports, connections, and finding community. In addition, group programs, workshops, and events are offered.





### EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION NAVIGATION

The primary focus of the Employment and Education Service area is to support the settlement needs of young adults, and adults, with a specific focus on helping to navigate post-secondary opportunities and to provide targeted, practical employment interventions.

- One-on-one support
- Group sessions
- Information and referral

### CRISIS INTERVENTION, PREVENTION AND INTEGRATION

YMCA Immigrant Services collaborates with settlement organizations, mainstream service providers and community partners to identify challenges and opportunities, and to look for creative and effective solutions that support successful settlement, community engagement and the contribution of new Nova Scotians.

- Mobile Crisis
- One-on-one Navigation
- Service Connection Sessions
- Integration & Engagement

### CLIENT INTAKE & ATLANTIC IMMIGRATION PROJECT (AIP)

A crucial factor in ensuring newcomers access the programs and services they need to settle in their community is the important first point of contact that involves an initial understanding of self-identified needs and communication about available resources. This service area focuses on conducting needs assessments and providing referrals through a centralized, coordinated and integrated approach to ensure uptake of appropriate relevant services.

### GENDER BASED VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROJECT (GBVP)

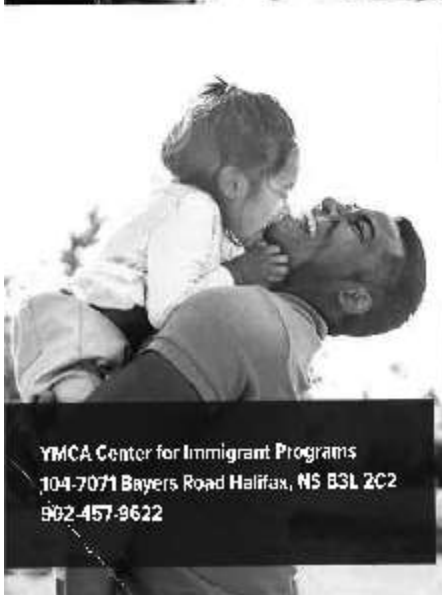
The Gender Based Violence Prevention project provides information to people who are supporting newcomers who are experiencing GBV or want to engage newcomers in better understanding the issue.

- Capacity Building
- Workshops & Presentations
- Resource Guide and Tools National GBV Project

The YMCA is collaborating with organizations from the anti-violence and settlement sectors to develop a national strategy to address gender based violence for newcomers and refugees. Key activities of this project include the delivery of a series of national webinars, the development of an online course and a Champion Network.

### SPELL (SECTOR PARTNERSHIPS FOR ENHANCED LANGUAGE LEARNING)

The SPELL Project is a unique partnership for providing collaborative, integrative support and enhancement of employment skills to newcomer employees in the health care sector through targeted language services. As immigration, settlement, integration and retention continue to play an increasingly important role in the social and economic vitality of Nova Scotia there is a corresponding growth in the volume and diversity of stakeholders active on the continuum of attracting, employing, supporting and engaging with newcomers. We believe this model will generate innovative promising practices about collaboration across sectors as well as provide an enhanced wrap-around approach to supporting the success of some of Nova Scotia's newest members of the workforce.



**YMCA Center for Immigrant Programs**  
104-7071 Bayers Road Halifax, NS B3L 2C2  
902-457-9622

## YREACH SETTLEMENT AND LANGUAGE SERVICES

With a focus on community and multi-sectoral partnerships YREACH Settlement & Language Services delivers a province-wide, coordinated approach to language, settlement and integration services ensuring that eligible participants can access local resources, build networks and thrive in communities across Nova Scotia.

The objective of this program is to provide in-person settlement and language services that are:

- Local to community of residence (place based);
- Work collaboratively with partners/organizations to build welcoming communities;
- Support retention in smaller centres.

## PARTNERSHIPS

Key partnerships with the Pictou County Regional Enterprise Network (PCREN) on supporting an Economic Mobility Pathways Project (EMPP) for refugees and a partnership with the Valley Community Learning Association (VCLA) around local employment and language services courses, and leverages collaborative, mutual, non-duplicative supports for newcomers in those communities.

## LINC

Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada is offered in two locations outside of HRM. The LINC program is for adult immigrants and refugees who need to develop necessary language and life skills to actively participate in Canadian society. The program offers the active approach of listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills based on Canadian Language Benchmarks using real-world tasks and learners are assessed through PBA (Portfolio Based Language Assessment).

## LIP (LOCAL IMMIGRATION PARTNERSHIP PROJECT)

The North Shore LIP is an Immigrant Partnership project serving Pictou, Antigonish and Colchester counties. LIPs have the objective of enhancing collaboration, coordination and strategic planning at the community level in order to foster more welcoming and inclusive communities that improve settlement and integration outcomes.

## HIPPY (HOME INSTRUCTION FOR PARENTS OF PRESCHOOL YOUNGSTERS)

The HIPPY Program is an evidence-based program that promotes settlement and integration of mothers, their children and families. The provision of a parent-led pre-school curriculum with the support of peer Home Visitors has the objectives of helping parents prepare their children for success in the Canadian school system as well increasing social inclusion through group meetings.

## INTERCULTURAL COMPETENCY TRAINING

As part of the Atlantic Immigration Program, designated organizations are required to complete intercultural competency training.

**The YMCA provides this training to employers outside of HRM and covers topics that include:**

- Creating welcoming and culturally inclusive workplaces;
- Newcomer experiences;
- Cultural awareness.



# SCHOOL SETTLEMENT



**YMCA of Greater Halifax/ Dartmouth**

104-7071 Bayers Road, Halifax NS  
B3L 2C2

(902) 457-9622



[www.yishfx.ca](http://www.yishfx.ca)



Immigration, Réfugiés  
et Citoyenneté Canada

Immigration, Refugees  
and Citizenship Canada



## SCHOOL SETTLEMENT

Since 1992 the YMCA has been working in partnership with schools in our communities to support the settlement of families new to Canada. YMCA staff work on-site at elementary, junior, and senior high schools to provide practical assistance to newcomer children, youth, and their families. We work in 40+ schools in HRM.

The School Settlement Program includes:



Encouraging students and families to get involved in school activities and events



Connecting families to resources within the school and community



Facilitating communication between home and school



Assisting with school registration



Helping with schoolwork through academic support, homework clubs, and peer tutoring



Creating opportunities for meeting new friends through YMCA and school clubs, teams, and groups