

# DARTMOUTH SOUTH ACADEMY



## Newsletter #7 - March 2024

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

### 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 2024-2025

It is imperative that parents of pre-primary children who will be 4 on or before December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024 and primary children who will be 5 on or before December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024 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).

### LOST AND FOUND

We are not equipped to hang onto the lost and found here at DSA; we simply do not have the space to keep it and it's very unhealthy as the clothes are often wet and dirty. We will bag the items up for the week but each Monday they will be donated. Thank you for your understanding.

### Dates to Remember



**March 11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>** – March Break (no classes)

**March 18<sup>th</sup>** – Assessment & Evaluation Day (no classes)

**March 29<sup>th</sup>** – Good Friday – no classes



### *Please Note*

In cases of inclement weather when HRCE announces a 2-hour delayed opening, that means the following for DSA:

- Buses will pick up students 2 hours later than usual
- There will be no AM EXCEL
- Classes will begin at **11:00 AM**
- Students will be allowed into the building and supervision will begin at **10:40 AM**
- The cafeteria will not be available for lunch orders

Dismissal will occur at the usual time of 3:00 PM

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## HRCE - Texts

***Do you want to receive information from our school and HRCE by text message?***

We now have the ability to send information to you by text message. **To ensure compliance with Canadian Anti-Spam laws, you must opt-in to receive information by text message.**

**If you have already opted in – that’s great! You don’t have to read further.**

***If you haven’t (and would like to), here’s what you need to do:***

- If you did not receive the opt-in text message on **November 16**, please call your child’s school to update your contact information in PowerSchool. Any changes are uploaded nightly and reflected the following business day. When your number is added or changed in PowerSchool, you will automatically receive the opt-In message.
- If you decide you no longer wish to receive HRCE and school information via text, you can reply to the message with “STOP” or by clicking [here](#).
- Parents/guardians can opt-in at any time by texting “Y” or “YES” to 978338. The mobile number MUST also be in PowerSchool.
- This text message function WILL include school cancellation notifications.
- This text message function will NOT share bus delay information.

**Anyone who is NOT a parent/guardian in our system who wishes to receive school cancellations due to inclement weather must opt in via the HRCE website: [www.hrce.ca/notifications](http://www.hrce.ca/notifications) . This includes staff, students and members of the community.**

## 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**

## Junior High Lunches

***Please Note*** – Junior High students are outside each day (weather permitting) until 1:25. The cafeteria does not close for orders until 1:40. It’s most beneficial for parents/students to pre-order their child’s/children’s lunches online.

## Lunch News

While we know that it is sometimes necessary to drop lunches off in the office, we’ve run into problems several times with students receiving the wrong lunches. If dropping a lunch off is something that must be done, there will be a cart in the entry way of the building and you will be able to leave them on the cart, labelled. With a school of almost 700 students, monitoring lunches very often leaves us with unnecessary confusion and chaos in the main office.

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 or cups – ***water bottles are a must.***

## COLD WEATHER

Just a reminder that the cold weather is still upon us. Our school is not open for students until 8:40 am. **Please ensure that your children do not arrive at the school too early as there is no supervision. Students are unable to come inside unless they are in the Excel Program.** The students need to be dressed appropriately for the weather conditions. Our supply of hats and mitts are very limited.

# DARTMOUTH SOUTH ACADEMY



It's time to go hunting for those stray coins because DSA is having not one, not two, but THREE coin competitions!

Our goal is to raise money for brand new books for our Library while also supporting our locally owned bookstore, Tattletales. We are running the competition from **February 22<sup>nd</sup> – March 7<sup>th</sup>**.

At the Elementary level, we have split into two separate competitions (P-2/3 and 3-6). The class within each competition block that brings in the most money will be a winner!

At the Jr, High level we are having a Coin War. Adding coins to homeroom bins will add points to their score while adding any bills will result in that class losing points. The class (or classes) that have the most points at the end will win!

**Good Luck to Everyone!**

## Cell Phone Policy - Reminder

Due to ongoing issues around social media and cell phones we are asking you remind your child that the expectation is that cell phones/Air Pods are not seen during the instructional day. It is our recommendation that students leave their cell phones/Air Pods in their lockers. Students are allowed to use their cell phones/Air Pods during their lunch hour. If students are seen with their cell phone/Air Pods, they will be taken and kept in the office until the next break.

## March is Nutrition Month

Did you know? March is Nutrition Month! This is a great time to explore and learn about food. An important part of this is food literacy, which includes having the knowledge and skills to grow, choose, prepare, and talk about food.

Some ways to engage your family during Nutrition Month:

- Get kids involved in meal planning. Ask them to help choose recipes, write out grocery lists and explore grocery store flyers.
- Make cooking a family event! Kids can participate in age-appropriate tasks, such as measuring ingredients or setting the table.
- Enjoy meals together when you are able. Mealtimes can be a great time to connect in conversation.
- Start planning for an indoor or outdoor garden. This is a great way to explore where our food comes from.

### Did you know? March is Nutrition Month

- A Healthy School Community:
- Recognizes that healthy students learn better and achieve more;
  - Understands that schools can directly influence students' health and behaviours;
  - Encourages healthy lifestyle choices, and promotes students' health and well-being;
  - Incorporates health into all aspects of school and learning;
  - Links health and education issues and systems; and
  - Needs the participation and support of families and the greater community!



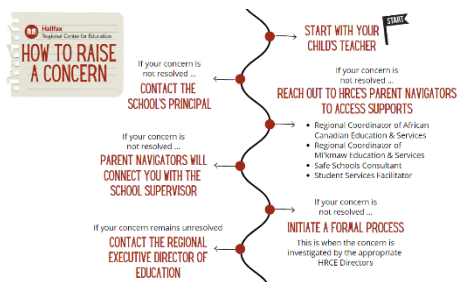
# DARTMOUTH SOUTH ACADEMY

## How Do You Raise a Concern?

Did you know that there's a protocol in place to help families contact schools, or HRCE Central Office, when you have concerns about your student's education or well-being?

- All concerns should first be shared with your child's teacher.
- If your concern is not resolved, you should then contact the principal.
- If your concern remains unresolved, you can reach out to [HRCE's Parent Navigators](#) who can provide information about a wide range of supports and resources or connect you with the school supervisor.
- If your matter continues to be unresolved, you can then initiate a formal review process in which the matter will be investigated by the appropriate HRCE Directors.
- The final step is for your concern to be passed on to the Regional Executive Director.

Click here to view the [Parent/Guardian Concern Policy](#).



## Track and Field: Calling All Athletes!!!!

The Track and Field season is just around the corner and practices will be starting soon. This sport is an opportunity for athletes of all strengths and abilities to show their skills. After March Break we will start our season with sessions giving athletes the opportunity to learn about and try the various events to see what might be fun for them and what might be a good fit.

**Fun Fact:** Last year the DSA Royals earned the 2<sup>nd</sup> most combined points (male / male identifying plus female / female identifying) of all schools in the province in the junior category (grades 7/8). As well, the male / male identifying team won the district banner which is only the 2<sup>nd</sup> banner in DSA history across all sports.

Please have your athletes keep an eye out for more information which will be posted in the school and on upcoming announcements.

## March Break

Reminder that schools will be closed for March Break – March 11 to 15.

**For elementary and junior high:** Please note that Monday, March 18 is an Assessment & Evaluation Day. Classes will resume on March 19.



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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.

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## School Messenger Safe Arrival: 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.

## SCHOOLCASH ONLINE SYSTEM

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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/>