

Portland Estates Elementary School

45 Portland Hills Drive

Dartmouth, NS

Mrs. L. Henman-Poirier, Principal/Directrice
Mrs. J. Broussard, Vice Principal /Directrice Adjointe
Ms. N. Norton-Ashley, Secretary/Secrétaire

February 2022

February Newsletter 2022

African Heritage Month 2022 – Through Our Eyes – The Voices of African Nova Scotians

“Today I am unafraid of lifting up my voice, calling it my own and discovering its infinite beauty”.
Shauntay Grant

February is African Heritage month. We are excited to be celebrating African Nova Scotian culture and history with our students. Throughout this month, teachers will be working with students to recognize and celebrate the contributions and achievements of people of African descent.

At Portland Estates Elementary, we continue to strive to improve student learning and enable our students to achieve their full potential. Home and School are education partners; please remember to read often with your children and stay involved with their learning. Invite them to talk to you about what they are learning and encourage them to discuss their day. Our newsletters and school website have information and links which you may find useful in supporting your child’s learning.

Well winter is in full swing! Students do go outside for recess and lunch each day (unless it is raining heavily or exceptionally cold), so please make sure your little ones have hats, scarves, mittens/gloves and warm outerwear.

Lastly, we would like to send our best wishes to Ms. Corrigan, Music teacher, who is on leave until next September. As well we would like to welcome back Mr. Chris Smith who will be working as our 100% Music teacher from February until June. Mr. Smith was formerly our Physical Education teacher here at PEES so he is familiar with our school community and routines.

Mrs. Henman-Poirier

Important Dates to Remember:

February 1- Chinese New Year

February 2- Groundhog Day

February 3 – SAC/PTO meetings – Sweater Day!

Monday, February 7 -Nifty Nickel Monday - Our kick off! Bring in as many nickels (or any other loose change) as you can.

Tuesday, February 8- Toonie Tuesday - If as an entire school we collect 200 toonies or \$400 worth of coins the students will be awarded a double recess. We invite students and staff to dress up as their **favourite Storybook Character today**.

Wednesday, February 9- “Whatcha” Find in the Couch Wednesday - Search all those places coins like to hide... between couch cushions, under car seats, in the pockets of those pants you haven't worn for a while!

Lockdown drill

Ellenvale Virtual Parent Meeting – 6:30 pm

Thursday, February 10- “Lotsa” Loonies Thursday - Bring in a loonie and wear your hat in school.

Friday, February 11 - Fun Money Friday – “I’d Wished I had stayed in Bed with a Good Book” Day – **Wear your PJs** to school and bring your favourite book to read. Bring in a silly amount of money.

February 14- Valentine’s Day– Wear Red to school today!

February 17 – Preprimary & Grade Six registration forms due

Winter Walk Day

February 18- Professional Development Day – No school for students

February 21- Heritage Day – No School

February 23 – International Stand up Against Bullying Day- Wear Pink

March 14-18 – March Break

Lockdown Drill - On February 9, 2022, we will be holding our second Lockdown drill. The safety and security of our students and staff is a top priority for PEES and the HRCE, therefore, we practice a few measures to ensure our school remains a safe place to learn.



REGISTRATION FOR 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR

February is Registration Month! Portland Estates Elementary will be accepting **Primary** and **Pre-Primary** Registrations for September 2022 until February 28. If your child will be turning four or five years of age by or on December 31, 2022, they are eligible to register for Pre-Primary and Primary respectively. As part of the registration procedure, **birth certificates, health cards and proof of child’s primary residence (current utility bill)** are checked. If you do not have a Birth certificate for your child, the Vital Statistics number is 424-4381. **Current water/power bills, or telephone bills** can be used for proof of child’s primary residence.

Students looking to enroll in the Early French Immersion program are asked to register at Shannon Park Elementary.

Grade Six students are asked to bring their Junior High registration forms back by February 17 with a **proof of child’s primary residence address attached**. These will be delivered to Ellenvale Junior High by February 26. Please remember to mark off the correct program: **English or Late French Immersion** as well as **Band** on the form if your child is continuing in the Instrumental Music program. Ellenvale Elementary will host a virtual meeting on **Thursday, February 9** at 6:30 pm for parents who may require further information on any Grade Seven programs. Please check Ellenvale website for more information.

Moving: If you are moving or have moved out of area, please let the office know as soon as possible and register at your home school during the month of February.

Don’t Be Late! – It is important that students arrive to school on time. Students should arrive at school between **8:40- 8:50 am**. If your child is late to an appointment, please call the school at 902-433-7100 or send in a note.



due

Lunch Monitors Needed! We are always in need of lunch monitors- whether you can work one day per week or all five. Please contact Ms. Broussard at 902-433-7100 or email JBroussard@hrce.ca.

Inclement Weather

The Halifax Regional Centre for Education takes great care when making the decision to cancel schools and/or busses 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.ca, on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/HRCE_NS](https://twitter.com/HRCE_NS), recorded at 902-464-INFO (4636) and communicated to all local radio stations. Families can also receive notice of school and bus cancellations by e-mail or text message by following the link on the front page (left side) of the HRCE website. The weather in Nova Scotia is unpredictable so it's always a good idea for families to have a back-up plan for child care when school is cancelled. To learn more about the process on how decisions regarding closures and cancellations are made, visit: <https://www.hrce.ca/about-our-schools/parents/inclement-weather>.

Delayed Opening due to Inclement Weather -If weather conditions warrant, the Halifax Regional Centre for Education could implement a delayed opening. Delayed openings would be considered when a severe weather event has concluded but snow clearing or other operations require additional time. Delayed opening may also be considered when the physical plant is experiencing an issue such as a power outage or loss of water and additional time is required to prepare the school to open. If this was to occur, school and preprimary would be delayed by two hours. At Portland Estates school, this means school would start at **11:00 am**. If the Special Needs Bus is operating, the expectation will be that students are picked up two hours later than their regularly assigned time pending any weather-related delays. Our lunch, afternoon schedule and dismissal times will remain at their regularly scheduled times. The Excel program will be cancelled for the morning only.

Breakfast Program- The Breakfast Program at PEES is up and running. Breakfast to Go is available to students everyday of the week. All homeroom classes have Breakfast snack bins so food is available to all students throughout the day. We thank Mrs. Graham and Mrs. Hartlin for keeping our bins stocked daily.

Power Outages – The HRCE has a Power Outage Protocol. Power Outages are inevitable and when they occur they do not mean an early dismissal, often the schools remain open until Power is restored. For Portland Estates Elementary School it means that once our Emergency lighting goes (shortly after the thirty minute mark), we have lanterns posted in the main washrooms on both floor. Students have to wash hands using the classroom sinks as water is unavailable in the washrooms but hand sanitizer is also available. **Our Public Address system (PA) is unavailable as well as our telephone system so do not try to contact the school instead please monitor the situation on the HRCE website or Twitter feed.** The HRCE central office will send out an Alert email if they decide to close school early and staff will contact parents/guardians using their own personal devices if possible.

Covid-19 Update: Please remember if your child is feeling unwell, it is important that you keep them at home and consult the Daily Covid checklist which is found on our website, the HRCE website or Public health website. Despite, growing numbers of cases reported in our school, we are no longer required to do close contact tracing. As well, remember to send your child to school with two clean masks. The Back to School Plan (January 2022 states three layer masks are required).

“ As a reminder, 3 layered non-medical masks or medical masks are required indoors. Particular attention should be paid to fit of the mask. Masks are not required when actively eating or drinking, participating in rigorous physical activity or when outdoors.” (Return to School Plan DEECD, January 2022)

Caring School Community – Portland Estates Elementary continues to offer our students the Caring Schools Community program.

The objectives of the Caring Schools Program are:

- Build caring relationships among students and adults
- Directly teach social skills that students need in school and in life
- Integrate Social Emotional Learning (SEL) and academic learning throughout the school day
- Use classroom management strategies that create calm, productive learning environments
- Implement student-centered discipline that teaches students self-management and self-discipline

Make the Earth better by wearing a sweater!

Celebrate National Sweater Day and save energy on February 3rd!

National Sweater Day is a way to learn about the importance of saving energy and to inspire you to use less energy all winter. Heating accounts for 80% of residential energy use in Canada. If all Canadians lowered their thermostats by just 2 degrees Celsius this winter, it would reduce greenhouse gas emissions by about 4 megatons – that’s equivalent to taking nearly 700,000 cars off the road! http://www.wwf.ca/events/sweater_day/

National Sweater Day is about thinking differently about how we use energy, where our energy comes from and how we can play an important role in fighting climate change by using energy wisely. It is designed to help raise awareness about renewable energy and change behaviours around energy consumption in Canada.

Ideas for your family to celebrate Sweater Day

- Turn down your thermostat and wear a sweater on Feb 3rd – and every day this winter!
- Ask your children to brainstorm with you about ways to save energy at home. Make a pledge to implement as many as you can.
- Read a children’s book on conservation such as: *Why Should I Save Energy?* by Jen Green. Encourage lots of questions and find the answers together.
- Learn about Green Energy sources. What types of renewable energy are available in Nova Scotia – Wind? Solar? Geothermal?
- Valentine’s Day is just around the corner – use recycled materials to create your cards this year!

2022-23 EXCEL Registration Dates:

Registration for the 2022-23 EXCEL Program will start in late April for Parents/Guardians with children currently enrolled and in early May for New Parents/Guardians. ***Please note: Siblings of current EXCEL participants who will be starting school in September 2022 are eligible to enroll during the Early Registration Period.***

Registration will be completed online by accessing the EZChildTrack Parent Portal. If you have an existing account with EXCEL, access the Parent Portal by entering your email and password in the Returning Parents Sign In section. If you are new to the EXCEL Program, enter the Parent Portal using the “New Parents Open Account” section.

Once finalized, specific details on the registration process and fees for 2022-23 will be posted on the HRCE website at https://www.hrce.ca/excel_registration.