

Ian Forsyth Elementary School Newsletter



Where Everyone Is A Star!

December 2024

Ian Forsyth Elementary School

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Important Dates to Note

December

- 3 - Holiday concert 6pm (doors open 5:30)
- 5 - Morning professional learning for staff
- 5 - 1pm to 6pm - Progress conferences (parent/teacher meetings)
- 6 - 50/50 Raffle draw - 3pm
- 16 - Holiday Bazaar set up 2:45
- 17 - Holiday Bazaar - morning only
- 18 - School-wide student bingo 1:30
- 19 - Pancake Breakfast for students
- 20 - Last day of school before Holidays

January

- 2 - School reopens for staff - professional learning - No school for students
- 3 - 1st day for students
- 7 - Virtual SAC 5:30; H&S 6:30

February

- Registration month for new primaries for 2025
- IPP Review meetings - date TBA
- Feb 17 - Heritage Day - no school

Message from Principal

As winter approaches, we want to make sure our elementary students stay comfortable and safe at school. With colder weather coming, please dress your child in layers to help keep them warm throughout the day. A good base layer, like a long-sleeve shirt, plus a sweater or fleece will provide warmth. Be sure to send your child with a weather-appropriate jacket or coat for outdoor activities. We also recommend a hat and gloves to protect them from the cold winds during outdoor

recess. Together, we can create a comfortable environment for students to learn and play.

HRCE guidelines focus on student safety. When deciding if students should go outside, we consider factors like the temperature, how long they'll be outside, if they'll be standing or playing, and if it's sunny. At IFES, we generally allow outdoor play when temperatures are above -10°C. If the wind chill is -20°C or colder, students will stay inside.

We check the temperature regularly during the winter months. Please make sure your child is dressed properly to go outside. Also, remind your child that they are expected to be outside during all recess times for safety and supervision. Thank you for helping us keep our students safe and warm!

Thank you to Tattletales for the generous donation of a \$500 gift card to support our breakfast program.

Angela Yerxa-Weeks - Principal

Holiday Wishes

As December arrives, we are excited to share the multicultural celebrations happening at our school. Our diverse community is coming together to recognize traditions from around the world, promoting cultural exchange.

From Diwali and Hanukkah to Christmas and Kwanzaa, our students are taking part in activities that highlight the variety of cultures within our school. This month is a great chance for everyone to learn about and appreciate the different customs that make each family unique.

As the holiday season approaches, we send our best wishes to all families for a peaceful and joyful time with loved ones. We hope this season brings moments of connection and celebration for everyone.

Wishing you a December filled with warmth and togetherness.

Holiday Concert

When: Tuesday December 3rd

When: Doors will open at 5:30pm. The concert will begin at 6:00pm.

Where: Woodlawn High School

Dress: Students are encouraged to wear their choice of festive wear, no themed/specific clothing is required

All are welcome to attend. There is no limit on the number of guests. We will have a silver collection at the door to help cover the costs of renting the auditorium and the audio-visual equipment for the concert. The cost of the rental will be approximately \$700.

Students may be dropped off at 5:30 in a designated classroom at the high school. Guardians **must** remain on site while their children are present. Please **do not** drop your child off and leave Woodlawn High. Please find your child's classroom below.

First floor rooms

[theatre entrance is also on the first floor]:

110: 1 Smith

111: 1-2 Hiltz

112: 1-2 Owens

113: Both Primary classes

115: 2-3 Greene

116: 2-3 Oakey

117: 3 Witty

118: 3-4 Murphy

119: Overflow

120: Overflow

Second floor rooms:

212: 4 Beaton

213: 4-5 Maclsaac

214: 5 Banfield

215: 5 Stratton

216: 6 Sneath

217: 6 Wamboldt (Rhodenizer)

Report Cards

Report cards were emailed to families on Nov 28th, 2024, to the email address we have on file. If you require a paper copy, please contact Ms. Hannaby at the main office to request one. If you have difficulty accessing your child's report, please contact Ms. Yerxa. ayerxa@hrce.ca

Progress Conferences (Parent/Teacher meetings)

Our first progress conference (parent-teacher) for students in grades Primary to Six, will take place on **December 5 from 1:00 to 6:00 pm**. Parents may request in-person appointments or phone calls.

This year we will be using an on-line self-serve booking service to make appointments. Please click on the link below or scan the QR code sent home to go to the booking service.

BOOKING LINK

Use this booking link to make your appointment.

<https://schoolinterviews.ca/code/gcaf9>



Spirit Week Info

During the last 5 days of school before the holidays we will be engaging in themed Spirit Days.

Mon Dec 16 **Candy Cane Lane** - Dress in red or white.

Tues Dec 17 **Bling in the Holidays** - Wear your bling, bells or sparkles.

Wed Dec 18 **Holiday Headwear or Footwear:** Wear some festive socks or hairdos.

Thurs Dec 19 **Holiday Sweater** - Dress in your best festive shirt, sweaters, or outfit.

Wed Dec 20 **Jammin' in Jammies** - Wear your favourite holiday PJs.

Lost and Found

We strongly encourage you to remind your child to check the lost and found regularly for any missing items. Our lost and found has accumulated a variety of belongings, and we want to make sure everything is returned to its rightful owner. Please have your child reclaim any lost items before December 20th. Any

unclaimed items will be donated to charity to help those in need. Your support in reminding students to check the lost and found is greatly appreciated as we work together to keep our school organized. Thank you!



Home & School 2024 - 50/50 Fundraiser

(Ticket Lottery Permit Number: **AGD-347294-24**)

Funds raised through the 50/50 draw will be split 50/50 between the lucky winner and the school. The proceeds will be used to purchase new technology and new student reading materials. The draw will be taking place at 3pm on Friday December 6th and winner will be contacted by phone or email. **The class with the most sales wins a pizza party!** Be sure to select a class to support.

If you have questions, please email Krista at kristamack24@gmail.com Thanks for your support and good luck!

Ticket Prices: 25 for \$50 8 for \$20 3 for \$10 1 for \$5	Purchase Tickets Online at Rafflebox: https://www.rafflebox.ca/raffle/ifes/1 Draw Date: Friday, Dec 6, 2024
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Holiday Bazaar



Holiday Bazaar 2024! The Home and School will be organizing the annual student shopping event, the

Holiday Bazaar, on Tuesday, December 17th (morning only). To make this event a success, they are requesting donations of new or gently used gift items, as well as supplies for wrapping the gifts.

Suggested donation items include:

- Gifts for men (these are often in short supply)
- Jewelry, toys, books, trinkets, kitchenware, accessories, etc.

They are also in need of gift-wrapping supplies:

- Gift bags, wrapping paper, bows, tags, tape, gift boxes
- Cereal/cracker boxes (for oddly shaped items)
- Plastic bags to carry gifts home
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Please note that they cannot accept cloth items (e.g., towels, clothes, stuffed animals) unless they are new and still in their original packaging.

If you are able to volunteer your time, additional help is needed for set-up on December 16th at 2:45 PM. We would love for you to join us!

Thank you for supporting this fun event that our students look forward to every year!



School and Bus Cancellation

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 <https://www.hrce.ca/>, on Twitter at www.twitter.com/HRSB_Official, recorded on 464-INFO (4636) and communicated to all local radio stations. You 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.

We are in the **Woodlawn High School Family of Schools**. Please listen and or look for either the *Family* name or the individual name of the school in all announcements.

Delayed Opening of Schools

On school days when conditions exist that it is not safe to open schools at regularly scheduled time but it is

predicted that conditions will improve, a **2 hour delayed** opening may be considered. 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 building is experiencing an issue (power, water) and additional time is required to prepare the facility for opening. In the event of a delayed opening the following will apply:

- School opening will be delayed 2 hours
- Ian Forsyth Elementary would open at 10:35 am
- School bus pick up times will be delayed 2 hours
- At schools that have Excel, the program will be delayed opening by 2 hours
- Each school will alter morning schedules to best address their timetables
- Lunch times will not change
- Afternoon class schedules will not change
- Dismissal time will not change

Mid-Day School Closure

In the event of mid-day closure due to deteriorating weather, you will be informed on local radio stations as close to 11:00 a.m. as possible. Staff will contact parents (or the person you have previously indicated) via the phone number recorded on in PowerSchool. It is essential that we are able to reach you in the event of a school closure during the day. If your child is transported on a Stock Transportation school bus, those busses will be departing from school two hours earlier than normal on mid-day closure days. Therefore, Stock busses will depart Ian Forsyth at 12:35 in the case of a mid-day closure. Due to changing weather conditions some busses may be delayed.

Please note that at the elementary level we need to contact parents directly before we dismiss students to walk or take a bus. If the classroom teacher is unable to reach a parent or designate of a particular child, that child will remain at school until contact with a parent or guardian is made.

Allergy Alerts / Medication

Please keep in mind we have numerous students and staff with severe allergies to food and scents. Please refrain from wearing scents when in our school and be diligent about the food items your child brings to school. Nut products cannot be sent to school.

If your child requires medication at school, an Administration of Medicine form must be filled out. All medicine is kept secured and distributed from our main office. Medications are required to be in the original container and clearly labelled by the pharmacy for your child.