

Ian Forsyth Elementary School Newsletter



Where Everyone Is A Star!

February 2025

Ian Forsyth Elementary School

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African Heritage Month 2025



“My humanity is bound up in yours, for we can only be human together.”

~ Desmond Tutu

Important Dates to Note

February

African Heritage Month 2025

Registration month for 2025-25

11 - Lockdown drill

12 - H&S Dance 5:30 to 7pm

17 - NS Heritage Day - no school

21 - Grade 7 registration information due

24 - African Heritage IFES Virtual Bus Tour

25 - African Heritage Month Assembly 11am - parents welcome

March

3 to Mar 12 - 3rd term milk on-line order

7 - Assess and Eval Day - no school for students

10 - 14 - March Break - inclusive

17 - 3rd term milk order begins

27 - 2nd term reports emailed home

31 to Apr 4 - Book Fair

April

3 - Professional Learning am, **Parent/Teacher 1:00 to**

6:00 - No school

8 - SAC and Home and School virtual meetings

18 - Good Friday

21 - Easter Monday

Message from Principal

February is African Heritage Month. Throughout the month, teachers will be working with students to recognize and celebrate the contributions and achievements of people of African descent.

Registration (for pre-primary and primary) is taking place during the month of February! All registrations are completed on-line. Please visit the HRCE Registration Website to find out more information.

<https://www.hrce.ca/families/student-registration-updates>

African Heritage Month

We are excited to celebrate African Heritage Month at Ian Forsyth Elementary! Throughout the month, we will host a daily trivia contest for all grade levels. This year, Amadou Kienou and the Djeli Sira Group will perform a special drumming and music show for our students. Additionally, we will launch our first-ever virtual Ian Forsyth African Heritage Month Bus Tour, where students will have the opportunity to explore class projects. Students projects will showcase artwork, poetry, historical events, important figures, and other meaningful projects. On February 25, we invite families to join us for a special African Heritage Month assembly.

“Character is power.” —Booker T. Washington

Being on Time and School Attendance

School attendance is a shared responsibility, and we need to work together to ensure that students are attending school and arriving on time. Please do your best to have your child arrive at school

between 8:35 and 8:45 each morning so no valuable instructional time is missed.

Please remember that any absenteeism more than 20% of the year (about 20 days) is considered chronic and your child's achievement (academic and social) can be negatively impacted.

If you need support with your child's attendance, please reach out to us. Supports could include our School Social Worker, Schools Plus, or our School Counsellor. Please reach out if any of these supports could be useful. We are here to help!

Kind Words and Leading by Example at IFES

During the month of January, we ran a kind words campaign at IFES.

Daily STARS were given to students who were overheard using kind and caring words at school. Students had an opportunity to win small daily prizes and, at the end of January we drew for three grand prize winners. Three students were selected to receive a Happy meal of their choice.

During the month of February our focus will be **leading by example**. We felt that this theme connected well to our study of inspiring leaders that students are learning about during African Heritage month.

We encourage all parents to inspire their children to lead by example, showing integrity, accountability, and a strong work ethic in their daily actions. Leading by example means showing others how to be honest, solve problems constructively, and take ownership of their decisions. It's about being dependable, offering support to those in need, and maintaining a positive attitude. When children witness these positive behaviors, they are more likely to adopt them themselves, helping to create a supportive and harmonious environment for all. We look forward to seeing how many stars our students can earn by setting a good example

and making thoughtful choices in their interactions with others!

Home and School Dance

Dress in RED and join us at this fun-filled family event hosted by the Home and School committee! Children must be accompanied by an adult.

When: Wednesday, February 12 - 5:30 to 7pm

Where: Ian Forsyth School Gymnasium

Cost: \$5 per family

Exciting music and dance lights to lead our event!
Free family photo booth with Valentine's props
Free Valentine's themed colouring station

Canteen and coat check will be available. Please note that we will **not** be selling hot dogs or pizza slices.

If you stay until the end of the dance, please stack chairs and help clean up where you can.

Proper footwear for physical education

Sneakers are the safest footwear to wear and are required during PE classes. If you are able to, please send a pair of sneakers for your child to leave here at school as their indoor shoes. Mrs. Griffiths does keep a small supply of extra sneakers in the gym for students to borrow, however sizes and quantity are limited. If you have some gently used sneakers to donate to our Phys Ed sneaker stash please send them in to Mrs. Griffiths.

Registration Month

Pre-Primary Registration - Children must be **four** by December 31st 2025 in order to register for pre-primary. Registrations can be completed <https://www.hrce.ca/families/student-registration-updates> In order for the registration to be complete, you must provide a copy of your child's birth certificate, health card and proof of address.

Primary Registration - Children must be **five** by December 31st 2025 to register for primary. For new students, please visit <https://www.hrce.ca/registration> to complete the necessary paperwork. For the registration to be complete, you must provide a copy of your child's birth certificate, health card and proof of address.

***** Important ***** - If your child is currently enrolled in the pre-primary program at Ian Forsyth, you are not required to complete a new registration form for primary.

If your child is currently enrolled in pre-primary at Ian Forsyth as an Out-of-Area student, you **must** register for primary at your neighbourhood school. Out-of-Area students in pre-primary are not automatically registered for primary. **Out-of-Area students in pre-primary must be registered for primary by completing a registration form for their home school.**

Early French Immersion Information - Shannon Park Elementary will have information posted on their website regarding the Early French Immersion Program that begins in September 2025. If you wish to register for the Early French Immersion program, simply complete the process outlined in an earlier email; complete the information sheet and update your registration information on the HRCE on-line registration system.

Junior High Registration - Revised information for grade 7 registration and course selection is required. We have already sent the form home. Please complete it and return to us by Friday, February 21.

Out of Area Requests can be completed any time, but they cannot be accepted by the receiving school until April 1st. You can make an Out of Area request on line at <https://www.hrce.ca/about-hrce/school-administration/student-registration/out-area-request> It is important to note that these requests are time sensitive and are accepted on a first come, first served basis. If you

need more information please contact the school for more information (902-435-8435).

Lockdown Drill - Tues Feb 11th

On February 11th we will hold our second Lockdown drill of the year. As a reminder, a Lockdown is used when there is an immediate threat to a school. During a Lockdown, no one enters or exits the building, and everyone stays in a secure location away from doors and windows. Our staff will explain the drill to students beforehand and remind them afterwards that it was just practice. When possible, our police partners join us for Lockdown drills.

You can learn more about our safety procedures in HRCE schools [here](#). Please contact Ms. Yerxa if you have any questions or concerns about lockdown drills.

Hold and Secures

Hold and Secures differ from Lockdowns. A Hold and Secure is called when there's a safety concern outside the school (nearby police activity or an animal). It can also be used for situations inside the school, like a medical emergency or a person in distress, where it's best to keep students in their classrooms and hallways clear.

During a Hold and Secure, outer doors are locked, and no one can enter or leave the school. Students stay inside and continue their regular activities, though movement between classes may be paused until the situation is resolved.

You can learn more about our safety procedures in HRCE schools [here](#).

Lost and Found

Each month we clear out the lost and found and donate any unclaimed items to a local charity. Please ask your children to have a look for missing items.