

Ian Forsyth Elementary School Newsletter



Where Everyone Is A Star!

January 2025

Ian Forsyth Elementary School

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Important Dates to Note

January

7 - Virtual SAC meeting 5:30 - H&S 6:30

20 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day

February

Registration month for new primaries 2024

11 - Virtual SAC meeting 5:30 - H&S 6:30

12 - H&S Valentine's Dance - 5:30 to 7:00

17 - Heritage Day - No school

Message from Principal

Welcome back to school and Happy New Year! Best Happy New Year and welcome back to school! We hope you had a restful holiday season. The staff at Ian Forsyth School extends our best wishes for a fantastic 2025. Thank you for the generous treats, gifts, and well-wishes we received before the holidays—they were truly appreciated!

As we start the new year, we'd like to take a moment to remind everyone about winter clothing. It's essential that students come prepared for the colder weather. While we know it's not always popular, mittens, hats, boots, warm jackets, and snowpants (for younger students) are necessary. Unless weather conditions prevent it, we go outside for recess and lunch at least twice a day.

Given our Maritime climate, temperatures and weather can change quickly. On especially cold, windy days, we've noticed some students arrive without the

appropriate gear. We ask for your help in making sure your child is dressed for the weather, so they can safely enjoy outdoor activities. We also recommend packing a change of clothes in your child's backpack, just in case.

January Kindness Focus

During January, stars will be given to students who show kindness. Kindness is important because it creates a positive and supportive environment where everyone feels respected. Even small acts of kindness can inspire others to do the same and strengthen our community. When students show kindness, it helps build better relationships and boosts their confidence and empathy. Please talk to your child(ren) about how they are being kind each day.

Cold Weather Guidelines

HRCE guidelines prioritize student safety, and we consider several factors, including clothing, temperature, and wind, when deciding whether to go outside. As a general rule, students will have outdoor playtime when temperatures are above -10°C. If the windchill reaches -20°C or colder, we will keep students inside.

We monitor local weather sites throughout the winter months, but we rely on you to ensure your child is dressed warmly and appropriately for outdoor time. Please remind your child that, unless conditions dictate otherwise, they are expected to go outside for recess and lunch. Thank you for your continued support in keeping our students safe and comfortable this winter!

Registration Month

February is registration month for the 2025-26 school year. HRCE now accepts all registrations online through the PowerSchool Enrollment Portal. This applies to new primary or pre-primary students (current pre-primary students at IFES do not need to re-register for primary). Registration ensures resources are in place for September. Children born in 2020 are eligible for Pre-Primary or Primary, and children born in 2021 are eligible for Pre-Primary.

Need a hand? HRCE is here to help! If you need support, please contact our Parent Navigators at 902-464-2000.

All information pertaining to student registration can be found at <https://www.hrce.ca/families/student-registration>

For students moving to grade 7, we will send home an information sheet to update for registration. Please return it promptly when received in early February, as we need to forward the details to the junior high school.

Lost and Found

The school's Lost and Found is emptied monthly. In December, we returned labeled items and donated the rest. At the end of January, unclaimed items will be donated to a local charity. Children are encouraged to check regularly for their belongings.

Head Lice

Please regularly check your family members for head lice. If you need assistance, feel free to contact the school administration. A child with lice may return to school after the first treatment. Head lice are common, and together we can help minimize their impact.

Arrival Time / Safe Arrival

Supervision begins at 8:35 when teachers are on duty, so please ensure your child arrives after that time. If your child will be late or absent, notify us using the SchoolMessenger app, website, or toll-free number. If the absence isn't reported in advance, you'll receive notifications via email, text, and phone calls. If we can't reach you, office staff will follow up. Your child's safety is our priority.

To report your student absences, any of the following methods can be used:

PowerSchool Parent/Student Portal

<https://sishrsb.ednet.ns.ca/public/>

SchoolMessenger App

Parents/guardians can download the SchoolMessenger app for Android and iOS devices and use their username and password for the PowerSchool Portal.

Toll-Free Number

1-833-582-6940

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 **@HRCE_NS**, 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 a mid-day closure due to weather, we will notify local radio stations by 11:00 a.m. Staff will

contact parents through the phone numbers listed in PowerSchool. If your child rides a Stock Transportation bus, it will depart two hours earlier, at 12:35 p.m. on mid-day closure days, though delays may occur. At the elementary level, we must contact parents before dismissing students. If a parent or designate cannot be reached, the child will remain at school until contact is made.