

Ian Forsyth Elementary School Newsletter



Where Everyone Is A Star!

October 2023

Ian Forsyth Elementary School

22 Glencoe Drive

Dartmouth, NS

B2X 1J1

Phone: (902) 435-8435

Safe Arrival: (902) **435-8333**

Fax: (902) 435-8365

E-mail: ifes@hrce.ca

Website: <https://ifs.hrce.ca/>



Important Dates to Note

October

- 3 - Virtual SAC 5:30 and Home & School 6:30
- 4 & 5 - Grade 6 Assessment - Literacy
- 9 - Thanksgiving - No Classes
- 10 - Fire Drill #2 (this week)
- 11 & 12 - Grade 6 Assessment - Math
- 13 - Fall Fun Fest set up 3pm
- 14 - Fall Fun Fest 10:30 to 12:30
- 17 - Bus Evacuation Drills
- 18 - Online orders student lunch - R&B Kitchen opens
- 23 - Retake - School Photos - **No family/group photos**
- 24 - Online orders student lunch - Pizza opens
- 26 - Online orders student lunch - R&B Kitchen closes
- 27 - NSTU Conference Day - No school

November

Week of 6th - Third fire drill

- 1 - Online orders student lunch - Pizza closes
- 7 - Virtual SAC 5:30 and Home & School 6:30
- 11 - Remembrance Day
- 13 - No School - in lieu of Remembrance Day
- 17 - Assessment and Evaluation Day - no School
- 21 - Term One Reports home
- 22 - Evening Parent/Teacher 5:30 to 7:30
- 23 - Professional Learning morning - no school
- 23 - Parent/Teacher afternoon 1 to 4

December

- 4 - Professional Learning - no school for students
- 5 - Holiday concert Woodlawn High School

Message from Principal

We thank students, families, and staff for our wonderful first month of school.

This month our children have been busy getting to know each other, learning routines, participating in class meetings among many other activities including our fun and flavourful curriculum night and popsicle social. We look forward to the first full month of fall and remind everyone to dress in layers and pack mittens, hats and a change of clothes (where needed)!

Please be reminded that lots of colds and flus are circulating. Individuals who are ill must stay at home. Thank you to all for keeping our shared health a shared responsibility.

As with colds and flus, when large groups of students gather we often get the spread of headlice. We have had several reports of live lice this week. Please review the *Head Lice in Schools* attachment carefully and follow guidelines.

Angela Yerxa-Weeks - Principal

Pre-Primary and School Events

There have been some questions around how pre-primary students are integrated into the events we have at school. On days when school staff are engaged in professional learning, there will be no pre-primary program those days. As well, all school holidays are observed in pre-primary.

Any curriculum-based events (curriculum evening, parent/teacher...) are not pre-primary events as there is no curriculum being followed for those students. If you have any questions or concerns your lead ECE is available via email.

Pre-Primaries are welcome to participate in other school events such as Home and School events, hot lunch and the milk program. If you ever have questions about participation, please call our main line 902-435-8435 to inquire.

Mi'kmaq Heritage Month

October is Mi'kmaq Heritage Month. Students and teachers will be engaged in learning about and honouring the Mi'kmaq culture and way of life. Besides playing a Mi'kmaq version of O Canada, we will be finding out about

the earliest inhabitants of our province through story telling, art, fact learning, and research. Please ask your child what they are learning about as the month progresses.

This year's theme sports. From archery to lacrosse, from waltes to wapnaqnk, traditional sports and games have connected Mi'kmaw people to each other and to the ancestors who came before. Join us this Mi'kmaw History Month as we celebrate the proud history of sports across Mi'kma'ki and beyond!

Student Lunches - No deliveries, please.

We are asking that parents do not drop off student lunches at school if at all possible. Please send your child to lunch with their lunch pre-packed. School-based staff need to make all deliveries to students' classrooms, when lunches are delivered to school, adults have to leave what they are doing to deliver lunch. Deliveries also mean "Skip the Dishes" and meals delivered by taxi. We do not accept Skip the Dishes type deliveries for student lunches. We also realize that there may need to be some exemptions when situations arise. As long as lunch delivery is not the norm, we can work with families.

Please be reminded that we cannot heat up lunches for students. If you are sending in items that need to be served warm, a thermos is your best bet. As well, we **do not** have a supply of plastic forks and spoons for students. Please ensure that you send any necessary cutlery for your students' lunches.

It is very important that you do not send in food containing nuts or nut products. We have several students with severe nut allergies at our school.

Hot Lunch Pizza

We will continue our pizza lunches each Tuesday in November. The orders will be collected once a month. Students must order for the entire month. We cannot accommodate partial orders. We also will not accept any late orders.

All orders are made using our on-line ordering system through School Cash Online.

If your child is absent on Little Caesar day, their order will be kept for one day. Students can pick their pizza from the main office the following day. Because Little Caesars pizzas are pre-ordered, we are unable to reimburse or carry over Little Caesar orders if students are absent. If school is **cancelled** on a pizza Tuesday, the cost of your order for that day will be refunded, in the manner in which it was paid. These refunds **only** apply to school cancellations as we are permitted to cancel that order with Little Caesars.

Ordering Dates - November on-line orders open on October 24 and close on November 1. **Please be reminded that no late orders will be accepted.**

Student Lunch Option - R&B Kitchen

We have decided to continue to offer a second hot lunch option for Thursdays. We are trialing R&B Kitchen for October and November. If all goes well, we will continue to offer the second hot lunch for the remainder of the school year. All R&B Kitchen orders will be for Thursdays.

There will be two choices from R&B Kitchen. Students may order BBQ chicken with macaroni & cheese or spaghetti and meatballs. The items are more fully described on the on-line ordering system.

All orders are made using our on-line ordering system through School Cash Online.

Items will cost \$5 per week. There will be an option for families to purchase lunch for students who may need assistance purchasing hot lunch.

If your child is absent on R&B Kitchen Thursday, their order will be kept for one day. Students can pick their order from the main office the following day. Because the lunches are pre-ordered, we are unable to reimburse or carry over orders if students are absent. If school is **cancelled** on a Thursday, the cost of your order for that day will be refunded, in the manner in which it was paid. These refunds **only** apply to school cancellations as we are permitted to cancel that order with R&B Kitchen.

Ordering Dates - on-line November orders open on October 18 and close on October 26. **Please be reminded that no late orders will be accepted.**

School Photos

Again this year, school photos will be taken by Adams Photography. School photos were taken place last week. We have a retake date for those who missed the first date. Monday October 23rd will be our retake date.

Home and School

Our first Home and School meeting took place virtually on Tuesday October 3rd at 6:30. If you are interested in attending future Home and School meetings, please rsvp Krista Hetherington Duffy at kristamack24@gmail.com She will require your email address to email you the virtual meeting link.

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Fall Fun Fest!

Fall Fun Fest - Saturday October 4th from 10:30 to 12:30

The FUN FEST is one of our most exciting family events of the year, with lots of activities, features, food, and refreshments planned. Traditionally, we have held our Fun Fest in June. Because of everything that was happening last June, we decided to hold our Fun Fest in October. It's a fun-filled event for all! If you are able to volunteer for this event, please contact Krista Hetherington Duffy at kristamack24@gmail.com

School Advisory Council

Please join me in welcoming the current members of our SAC:

Parent Members: Krista Hetherington Duffy, Melanie Smiley, Cait Green

Staff Members: Meghan Conrad (Teacher), Jenna Hawkins (Teacher), Tracey Johnson (VP/Teacher), Angela Yerxa-Weeks (Principal)

Community Members: Tammy Mahar, TBA, TBA

We do require two community member spots to be filled to complete our council. If you are interested in joining SAC please send an email to the school ifes@hrce.ca



Other School Safety Items

Please help to keep our students safe when dropping off and picking up your children. Here are a few friendly reminders:

- Smoking is not permitted in public places. This includes on the sidewalk or at school bus stops. If you are picking up or dropping off students, please refrain from smoking while on the sidewalk.
- All student pickups will take place outside. If you are picking up students from school at dismissal time, please meet them at their regular entrance doors.

- If you are picking up students outside of dismissal time please follow the directions below:

- Call the school when you are on your way to the school to let them know who you are picking up and what class they are in. 902-435-8435
- Buzz the doorbell when you arrive.
- Your child will be brought to you at the front door.

- Picking up from pre-primary, you must go directly to the appropriate pre-primary class and knock on the door.

- Bikes, scooters and skateboards are not to be driven on school grounds. Please remind your children to that they must walk with these items while on the school grounds.

- When parking, be certain not to stop in areas that block the crosswalk in front of the school. As well, you are asked to please observe the pylons as non-stopping areas.

- Please do not move, drive past or drive on the pylons in front of the school or the pylons blocking the driveway of the school.

- There is no parking for visitors available on the school grounds. If you need to park to come to the school, carefully check that you are in a permitted parking area.

- Dogs are not permitted on schoolyard or playgrounds while students are present.

School Bus Safety

We generally have most cars not respecting the school bus drop-off and pick-up zones. Some days, drivers are not stopping/parking in safe spots around the school. Please note that drivers of vehicles dropping off or picking up students around bus time, need to be extremely cautious. Please do not drive around any vehicles stopped in front of the school. Often times, a school bus is in front of those vehicles. We realize that you may have limited amounts time during drop off and pick up. We are working hard at keeping our students safe and we can only do that if we have all parents/guardians on board. Many thanks!

Arrival Time / Safe Arrival

Please remember supervision does not begin until 8:35 when teachers are on duty in their classrooms. Your children should not be on the school grounds before that time. When they arrive, students must go directly to their classrooms and enter the school. There is to be no playground play before school begins in the morning. Classes begin at 8:45. Classroom doors will remain open

until 8:45. If students arrive after that time, they must go to the main entrance to enter the building and collect a late slip from our admin assistant. Even if it is raining, students are expected to enter at their classroom doors if they arrive before 8:45.

On days when your child will be late or absent, please be sure to let us know. One of our greatest priorities is ensuring that all our students arrive safely at school each day. Our school is continuing to use a new system to report absences through SchoolMessenger. You are able to report future absences using an app, website, or toll-free phone number. Any time your student is absent (or late after 8:45) and the absence has not been reported in advance, you will receive notifications via email, text, and phone calls from SchoolMessenger. If SchoolMessenger cannot reach you, office staff will follow up.

Moving forward, to report your student absences, any of the following methods can be used:

PowerSchool Parent/Student Portal

Parents/guardians can log in to <https://sishrsb.ednet.ns.ca/public/> to access the SchoolMessenger website to report future absences.

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

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.

Please visit <https://www.hrce.ca/SafeArrival> for more information.

Changes to end of day routines

Please do not leave messages on our phone with messages for changes of end of day routines. If you are changing the regular arrangement for your child, please make sure that you speak directly with our admin assistant **before 1:30pm**. We are getting phone calls daily when the bell rings and it is near impossible to get those messages to students before they leave for home. If you know of a change in advance, please email you child's teacher in advance.