

# Ian Forsyth Elementary School Newsletter



*Where Everyone Is A Star!*

## February 2024

### 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](mailto:ifes@hrce.ca)

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

## African Heritage Month 2024



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

~ Desmond Tutu

## Important Dates to Note

### February

African Heritage Month 2024

Registration month for 2024-25

**8** - H&S Dance 5:30 to 7pm

**9** - Winter Fun Day

**13** - Lockdown drill

**15** - Pizza March order opens

**19** - NS Heritage Day - no school

**20** - R&B March order opens

**23** - Grade 7 registration information due

**26** - Pizza on-line March order closes

**27** - Virtual SAC 5:30

**27** - Virtual H&S 6:30

**29** - African Heritage Month Museum

**29** - R&B on-line March order closes

### March

**8** - 3<sup>rd</sup> term milk on-line order opens

**11 - 15** - March Break - inclusive

**18** - Assess and Eval Day - no school for students

**18** - 3<sup>rd</sup> term milk on-line order closes

**19** - 2<sup>nd</sup> term milk order ends

**20** - 3<sup>rd</sup> term milk order begins

**28** - 2<sup>nd</sup> term reports emailed home

**29** - Good Friday

### April

**1** - Easter Monday

**2** - SAC and Home and School virtual meetings

**3** - 5-7pm Parent/Teacher conferences

**4** - PD morning and afternoon Parent/Teacher conferences 1-4pm

## 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 celebrating African Heritage Month at Ian Forsyth Elementary. We will be hosting a trivia contest for all grade levels. We will invite you to visit the *Ian Forsyth Elementary School African Heritage Month Museum* to view the exhibits with your child's class. Students will celebrate African Heritage Month by creating and displaying works of art, poetry, historic events, significant figures, or other objects of value. We will be in the gym on **Thursday February 29<sup>th</sup>**, for individual class tours from 12:30-2:30 pm. Classroom teachers will sign up for a specific time and families are welcome to join during the time their child's class visits the museum.

**“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 at IFES

---

Each month our learning centre teachers will visit each classroom to teach lessons on the topic of the month. Last week we launched a kind words campaign at IFES that will run for the month of February.

Daily STARS are given to students who are overheard using kind and caring words at school. Students have an opportunity to win small daily prizes. We are working towards earning a game day for the entire school. At the end of the month, we will draw from all the stars and a few students will win lunch from McDonalds.

Please encourage your children to share compliments, encouragement, apologies and understanding to other school community members. We look forward to seeing how many stars students can earn.

## Winter Fun Day - School Leadership Team

---

**Friday February 9<sup>th</sup>** - Peer leaders have worked hard organizing activities for a Winter Fun Day at IFES.

Activities include:

10:45-11:45 - **Primary - Two** - DANCE PARTY

10:45-11:45 - **Grades 3&4** – OUTDOOR WINTER STATIONS (dress warmly)

1:45-2:30 - **Grade 5&6**- HOT CHOCOLATE HANGOUT

## 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:** Thursday, February 8 from 5:30pm to 7pm

**Where:** Ian Forsyth School Gymnasium

**Cost:** \$6 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

Hot dogs (\$2 each)

Treat bags (\$4 each)

Chips (\$1 per bag)

Beverages (\$1 each)

## 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.

## **Water Refill Stations**

---

Students are required to bring some sort of drinking container to use at our water refill stations. The container should be clearly labelled with their name.

## **Registration Month**

---

**Pre-Primary Registration** - Children must be **four** by December 31<sup>st</sup> 2024 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 31<sup>st</sup> 2024 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 as an in-bounds student, 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 School will have information posted on their website regarding the Early French Immersion Program beginning in September 2024.

<https://spk.hrce.ca/>

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 23.

**Out of Area Requests** can be completed any time, but they cannot be accepted by the receiving school until April 1<sup>st</sup>. 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 13<sup>th</sup>**

---

The safety and security of our students and staff is a top priority for *Ian Forsyth Elementary* and the Halifax Regional Centre for Education. We have been implementing a number of measures as part of a comprehensive plan aimed at ensuring our school remains a safe place for our students to learn.

One of the procedures our school will be practicing is a lockdown drill. During a lockdown drill, classroom doors are secured, and the students remain inside the room until instructed by the teacher to resume their activities. All exterior doors are locked, and no one is permitted to enter or leave the building.

Students are kept inside the school and classrooms when circumstances make it safer to stay in the classroom rather than evacuate. Just as we prepare our students to properly respond to a fire drill, they

also need to be aware of the proper response during a lockdown drill. These drills should be treated with the same level of importance as fire drills.

Please be assured that staff at our school will spend time discussing the importance of this procedure with students prior to running a drill. We will also take time after the drill to remind them that it was only a practice and there was no danger. When possible, our School Liaison Officer may assist us in conducting the lockdown drills just as the Fire Department assists with evacuation drills.

Please take the time to speak with your child about this procedure and reinforce its importance. We practice these drills to ensure our school remains a safe place for teaching and learning. We will be holding our 2<sup>nd</sup> lockdown drill on February 13<sup>th</sup>.

Please contact Ms. Yerxa if you have any questions about lockdown drills.

### **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.