

Ian Forsyth Elementary School Newsletter



Where Everyone Is A Star!

January 2024

Ian Forsyth Elementary School

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Important Dates to Note

January

- 15 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 15 - February R&B Kitchen on-line order opens
- 22 - February Pizza on-line order opens
- 24 - February R&B Kitchen on-line order closes
- 30 - Virtual SAC meeting 5:30 - H&S 6:30 (make up date)
- 30 - February Pizza on-line order closes

February

- Registration month for new primaries 2024
- 15 - March Pizza on-line order opens
- 19 - Heritage Day - No school
- 20 - March R&B Kitchen on-line order opens
- 26 - March Pizza on-line order closes
- 27 - Virtual SAC meeting 5:30 - H&S 6:30
- 29 - March R&B Kitchen on-line order closes



Message from Principal

Welcome back to school and Happy New Year! Best wishes for 2024 from the staff at *Ian Forsyth School*. We are sending out thanks and appreciation for all the well wishes, treats, and gifts we received before the holiday.

I know I mention outdoor clothing often, but it is truly important that students are prepared for everything

that comes with the winter season. As much as many students do not agree, they really do need mittens, hats, boots, and warm jackets (and snowpants for littles). Unless weather conditions prohibit outdoor time, we go outside at least twice a day.

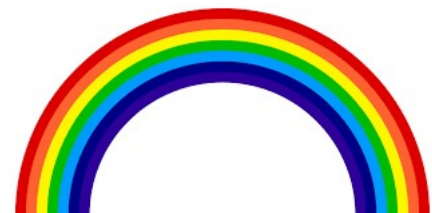
We know being from the Maritimes, that temperature and weather conditions can fluctuate considerably. We find that, on days with low temperatures and high wind, not all students arrive at school prepared for the cold weather. We seek your assistance in making sure that our students come to school dressed for the weather and prepared to spend time outdoors at recess and lunch. As well, this is also a great time of year to put a change of clothing in your child's backpack.

HRCE guidelines state that student safety is a priority and when deciding to take students outside, we need to consider several factors such as: are students dressed in warm clothing, how long they will be outdoors, will they be standing or playing, is there sunshine... At IFES, we feel that students should, generally, enjoy outdoor play when temperatures are above -10°C. If the windchill is at -20°C or colder, students will remain indoors.

We do check the temperature on local weather sites during the winter months. Please help us keep your kids safe by monitoring your child's clothing so that they will be adequately dressed to go outside during the cold weather. For student's safety and supervision purposes, please remind your child that it is expected that they are outside during outside recess and lunch.

IFES Rainbow Club

In January we will be beginning a new club at IFES; the Rainbow Club. The goal of the Rainbow Club is to provide a safe space for student to explore and express their identities, while encouraging and fostering allyship within our school, families, and community. We hope to create a greater sense of belonging and inclusivity within our school environment.



Registration Month

February is registration month for the 2024-25 school year. HRCE now accepts **all** registrations for school through an online portal, PowerSchool Enrollment!

Registration Month is for new primary or pre-primary students (current pre-primary students enrolled at IFES do not need to re-register to attend primary at IFES). The registration process starts annually in February for the following school year to ensure appropriate resources are in place for September. Children born in 2019 are eligible for Pre-Primary or Primary and children born in 2020 are eligible for Pre-Primary in the 2024-25 school year.

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 on to grade 7, we will be sending home an information sheet for families to update with current information and/or information that will apply to your student's registration for grade 7. When you receive that sheet (in early February), please ensure that you send it back as soon as you are able. We need to pass along all information to the receiving junior high school.

Lost and Found

The school's lost and found is emptied every month. At the end of December, we went through the clothes, pulled out any with student names on them and donated the rest to a local charity. At the end of the month, there are always many items in the school *Lost and Found* collection. Children are encouraged to check for their belongings on an on-going basis. We will be donating any unclaimed lost and found items to a local charity at the end of January.

Monthly Pizza/R&B Kitchen Lunch

As we head into the winter season, if school is cancelled for any pizza/R&B Kitchen day, we will be issuing a

refund for that day. The on-line School Cash system will automatically be credited to the account you paid from.

Head Lice

Please continue to regularly check family members for head lice. This can be a bothersome issue to deal with and we are happy to assist families as we can with the matter. Please let school administration know if we can help. A child with head lice, may return to school after the first treatment. Please know that head lice is a common occurrence and we can all work together to minimize the effects.

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 arrive at school before that time.

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 can 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.

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.

Water Filling Stations

Please be reminded that students must bring their own water bottles to fill at our water filling stations. We do not have a supply of cups for students to use. Students should bring their own labelled water bottles. If students do not bring a water bottle, they will not have anything to drink water out of.



Student Lunches - No school supply of spoons and forks

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. We also are not accepting "Skip the Dishes" type delivery food orders for students.

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 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 can 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.