



JANUARY

Dear families,

We were excited to welcome our students and families back to school last week! Thank you for helping us with a smooth transition. As we move into the second week of January, we wanted to share some upcoming dates and reminders with you.

Wishing you all good health and happiness in 2024!

Your Partners in Education,

Mrs. Thorpe, Mr. Ashley, and the Colonel John Stuart Elementary Team

School Arrival

Our breakfast program begins at 8:15 am. There is no supervision prior to this time. Our instructional day begins with the bell at 8:25 am. It is important for students to be in their classrooms ready for learning when the bell rings.



Student Success Plan (SSP)

As a school, we are constantly monitoring the achievement and well-being of our students. Our Student Success Plan (SSP) captures our priority work in literacy, math, and student well-being. The beginning of a new year is a wonderful time to reflect on goals, celebrate our successes and plan for new opportunities.



School Advisory Council (SAC) and Home and School

We will have a joint School Advisory Council (SAC) and Home and School meeting on Wednesday, January 31st. The meeting begins at 6:00 pm at the school. We will discuss agenda items for the SAC first. Please see the school website for SAC meeting minutes and our upcoming meeting agenda. We will then have our Home and School Meeting and will focus on plans for Family Bingo night, which is scheduled for Thursday, February 15th.



Skating at the Emera Oval

We will be heading to the Emera Oval on Friday, January 19th. Information and a consent form went home with students in P-6 last week. We will leave the school at 9:00 am and return around 1:30 pm to ensure plenty of time for dismissal. If your child requires skates and/or a helmet, please indicate on the consent form.

We are also looking for volunteers who have their paperwork on file at the school to join us at the Oval. Please let us know your availability for the trip. We require many volunteers to ensure supervision ratios and to speed up the skate tying process.



Math Coaching

A special welcome to Ms. Beth Graham, math coach who will be supporting us with our math goal around computational fluency. She will begin Monday, January 8th and will be getting to know students in grades 4-6.



Bundle Up!

A reminder that we go outside multiple times a day. Students are reminded to dress warmly for the weather. We have a supply of warm mittens, hats and a few coats and boots in the office for students who are in need or forgot some items. A special thank you to our community for donations of warm clothing.



Important Weather Reminders

Did you know? HRCE takes great care when making the decision to alter the regular operations of schools and school busses in the event of severe or inclement weather.

It is HRCE's goal to communicate any changes to the regular operations of schools and/or buses as close to 6:00 a.m. as possible. **A 6:00 a.m. announcement could be:**

- All schools are delayed in opening by two hours and bus pickups are delayed by two hours; or
- All schools are open, but some or all busses are not operating for the day; or
- Some schools (either individually or by family) are closed for the day; or
- All schools are closed for the day.

If weather deteriorates, or is forecasted to worsen throughout the morning, **an 11:00 a.m. announcement could be:**

- Bussed students will be picked up two hours earlier than their regular dismissal time; and
- Walking students will be dismissed at their regularly scheduled lunch hour.

How will I find out?

- By email to the addresses in PowerSchool
- By text message, **if you have opted in**. If you aren't sure if you have opted-in, text Y to the following number: **978338**.
- On our website www.hrce.ca
- On X (formerly Twitter) at [Twitter.com/HRCE_NS](https://twitter.com/HRCE_NS)
- On Instagram at www.instagram.com/hrce_ns/

It's important to always have a plan in place for childcare in the event of any cancellation.

For more information on how HRCE manages during inclement weather, visit www.hrce.ca/families/cancellations.



Family Literacy Day

Family Literacy Day takes place each year on January 27 to raise awareness about the importance of reading and engaging in other literacy-related activities as a family. This year's theme, in honour of Family Literacy Day's 25th anniversary, is let's have a party! Make food, sing songs, and play games. The possibilities for learning are endless.



Parking at School

A reminder to follow street and parking lot signage for both "no stopping" and "no parking" around the school. For safety reasons, we ask that you do not park in the parking lot and drop-off lane before and after school.

Excel families are reminded not to park in the fenced area of the school playground when dropping off and picking up their children. For safety reasons, there are no exceptions.

Please do not turn around in neighbours' driveways when dropping off. As well, please do not park too close to the entrance and exit of the school parking lot. This is to ensure buses entering the driveway can make the turn. It will also help drivers exiting the driveway to see oncoming traffic and neighbours leaving their driveways on John Stewart Drive.

Thank you for your continued understanding and cooperation.