

Colonel John Stuart Elementary School

Dear families,

We are halfway through the academic school year as we move into February! Our staff continue to work on implementing strategies that promote achievement of our school priority work in literacy, math, and student well-being. As always, we encourage you to communicate regularly with your child's classroom teacher to address any questions or concerns. Don't forget to check the school website for information and reminders, school and provincial policies and a calendar of upcoming dates.

Yours in Education,

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



February is Registration Month



Do you have a child who will be starting pre-primary or primary this fall? It's time to register! Registration for the 2024-25 school year begins on February 1st. To ensure we have the right staff and supports in place for September, it's important that we gather enrollment numbers now. Please drop by the school and we can walk you through the

Registration process. We also have computers on site to assist you with registering your child if needed. You can also visit the [HRCE website](#) for more information and to enroll your child today through PowerSchool Enrollment! **Tip:** Before you begin, make sure you have the following documents in electronic form (image, PDF, or Word document):

- Proof of identity/age with one of the following: birth certificate, passport, immigration papers, or legal adoption papers) if you are new to the HRCE.
- Proof of home address (a recently dated official government or utility document with your current address that includes your name and date, such as water bill, power bill, internet bill, home fuel bill, a tax receipt, property assessment or a mortgage contract); and
- Nova Scotia Health Card or Canadian Province Health Card or, for non-citizens while in Canada, proof of Medical Insurance Information.

Don't have a child to register? Maybe you know someone who does! Please help us spread the word and pass this information on to friends, neighbours or relatives who will be looking to register for the fall.

Reminder: February 19th is Heritage Day (no classes)

Observing Nova Scotia Heritage Day on the third Monday of February is an annual occasion to reflect on our province's rich history. It's a chance to recognize the remarkable people, places, and events that have shaped our unique heritage. Please see link for more information about this year's honouree, William Hall at <https://heritageday.novascotia.ca/content/2024-honouree-william-hall> .





Celebrate African Heritage Month 2024

The theme for African Heritage Month 2024 is "Our Smiles, Our Joy, Our Resilience as African Nova Scotians." This month-long celebration is dedicated to recognizing and honoring the history and culture of people of African descent. The theme coincides with the final year of the United Nations' International Decade for People of African Descent (DPAD) 2015-2024, which aims to promote global cooperation in support of people of African descent, raise awareness, and acknowledge their full and equal participation in all aspects of society.

Nova Scotia is home to more than 50 historic African Nova Scotian communities with a rich, deep, and complex history that spans more than 400 years. African Heritage Month is an excellent opportunity to celebrate and showcase the culture, accomplishments, and contributions of African Nova Scotians, both past and present.

Raise a Reader

Family Literacy Week provides us with an ideal opportunity to communicate with you, our students' families, about the importance of at-home reading and engaging with children in literacy-related activities.

To support you in your at-home reading journey, we are sharing an infographic with tips for families, as well as links to useful resources for caregivers.



At-home reading tips for caregivers



Look at your child's books with them. Discuss the pictures and build vocabulary by talking about new words.



Talk with your child about their books. Ask questions about the story and encourage your child to ask their own questions.



Make reading aloud a regular part of your routine – just 15 minutes each day can make a big difference in raising a reader.



Discuss examples that help them relate to what they're reading. Connect the story to your child's world.



Connect with your child's teacher for more suggestions on how to support reading at home.



Scan to learn more



Upcoming Dates

School Advisory Council (SAC) and Home and School



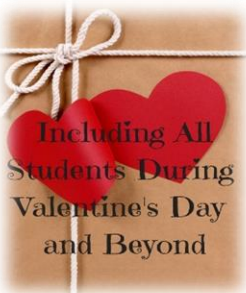
Our next joint School Advisory Council (SAC) and Home and School meeting on Wednesday, February 28th. The meeting will begin at 6:00 pm at the school. We will discuss agenda items for the SAC first. Please see the school website for SAC meeting minutes and our upcoming meeting agenda.

Global Play Day February 6th, 2024



Colonel John Stuart will celebrate Global Play Day, which has become a much-loved tradition at the school! Global Play Day brings attention to the value of play in learning and fosters a global conversation about the role of play in education. Classroom teachers will send home more information closer to the date. See link for more information: <https://globalschoolplayday.com/about>

Valentine's Day February 14th



Valentine's Day treats will be provided to each class in pre-primary-six by funds raised through Home and School Association initiatives. Students are asked to wear red, pink, or white on this day to show their school spirit. A class list will be handed-out prior to the Valentine's Day. Students are asked to include *all* their classmates in their Valentine giving. If you are in need of Valentine Cards, please let the Office know by February 7th.

Family Bingo Night February 15th at 6:00 pm



Information about the Home and School Association's Bingo night will be coming home this week. Money raised will support funding of end of year school trips and activities for pre-primary -six students.

Bundle Up and Indoor Shoes



We go outside multiple times a day. Students are reminded to dress warmly for the weather. **Please send in indoor shoes for students so we can limit puddles from boots in the classrooms and hallways that can lead to slips and falls.** 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.

Volunteers Make a Difference!



A special thank you to over 40 volunteers who joined us on our Emera Oval Trip! We appreciate all your help with tying skates and supervision on and off the ice! Our school community is amazing! We hope you all know how awesome, amazing, and appreciated you are!