



Central Spryfield Elementary

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February/March 2024 News

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It's hard to believe that we have hit the halfway point of the school year. Thank you for your continued support as we all work together to best support our students.

Do you have a child who will be starting pre-primary or primary this fall? It's time to register! Please see the next page for details.

February is African Heritage Month. We will be playing the Black National Anthem, *Lift Every Voice and Sing*, as part of our daily announcements. There will be a daily "Did You Know?" question again this year as well. This month-long celebration is dedicated to recognizing and honoring the history and culture of people of African descent.

As always, thanks for all you do to support students and staff,

Kind regards,

Karen



Dates to Remember

Feb 19 - Heritage Day

March 11-15 - March Break

March 18 - Assess and Eval Day (no classes for students)

March 29 - Good Friday (no classes)

April 1 - Easter Monday (no classes)

April 4 - Professional Learning am/parent teacher pm

School Bell Schedule

8:35 - Students start arriving

8:50 - Classes begin

11:50-12:45 - Lunch

2:50 - Dismissal



Healthy Hunger lunch options

PIZZA - Wednesdays

SUBWAY - Fridays



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 1. To ensure we have the right staff and supports in place for September, it's important that we gather enrolment numbers now.

Tip: Before you begin, make sure you have the following documents in electronic form

- 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.

Visit the [HRCE website](https://www.hrce.ca) for more information and to enrol your child today through PowerSchool Enrollment!

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.

February is Registration Month!

If your child was born between January 1 and December 31, 2020, they are eligible to begin school in September 2024!

Visit [HRCE.ca](https://www.hrce.ca) to register!

Halifax
Regional Centre for Education

One child, one teacher, one book, one pen can change the world.

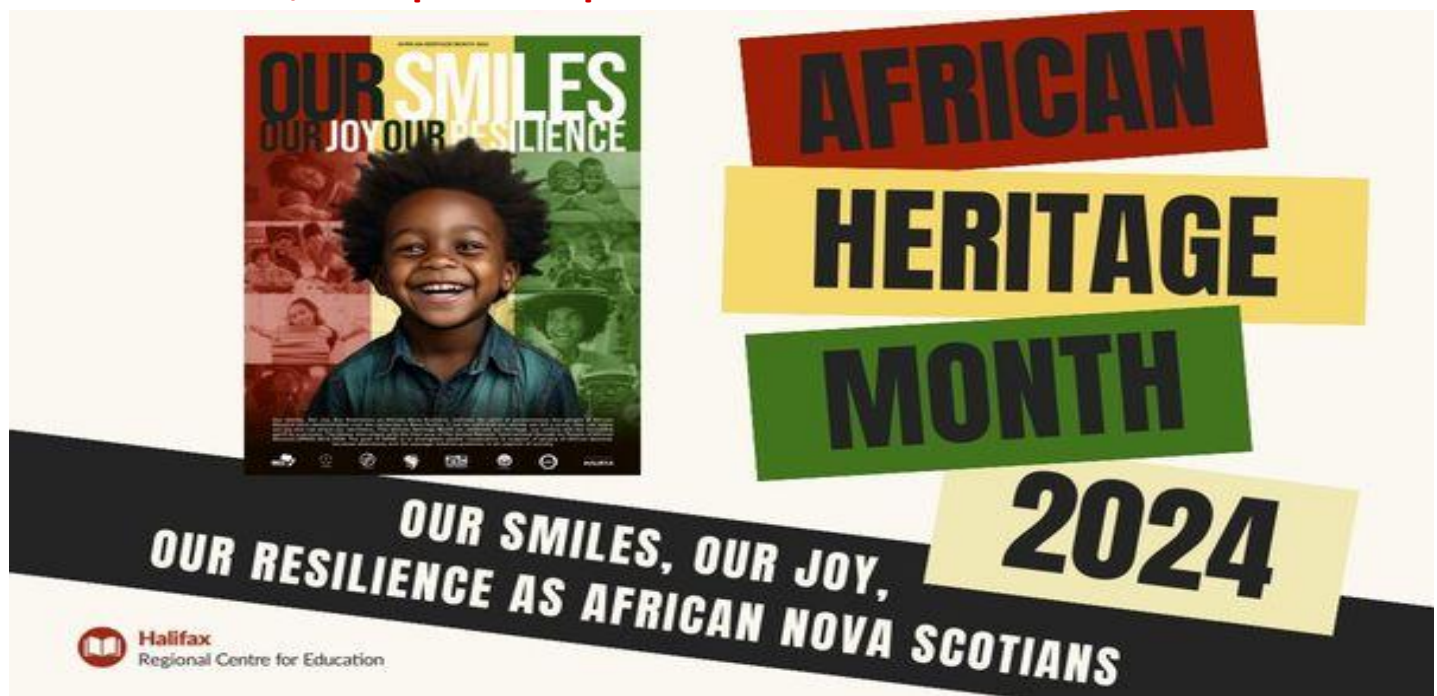
- Malala Yousafzai

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.



One child, one teacher, one book, one pen can change the world.

- Malala Yousafzai



February 19 is Heritage Day

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 take time to learn about William Hall, the 2024 honoree, [here](#).

REMINDER

There will be no classes on Monday, February 19 for Heritage Day honouring William Hall.



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Raise a Reader








Family Literacy Week in January provided 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 a simple 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.



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Red Means Stop!



School Bus Safety Reminder

HRCE has recorded 691 school bus stop-arm violations in Halifax Regional Municipality since the beginning of the school year. This means that motorists have failed to stop for a bus when its red lights were flashing and the stop sign was extended. This poses a serious risk to children and families who may be crossing the road to enter or exit the bus. Drivers may also face a fine and demerit points if caught by police.

Help us spread the word to remind drivers (including cyclists) that it is illegal to drive past a school bus when they see its red lights flashing and stop-arm extended.

Drivers must slow down and prepare to stop in all directions when they see flashing lights – either amber or red in colour – on a school bus. This means the bus is planning to stop or may have already.



Here are some safety tips from Safety Services Nova Scotia to keep in mind when waiting for or exiting the bus:

- Stand back from the edge of the road.
- Line up in single file when you see the bus coming.
- Wait for the bus to come to a complete stop.
- Walk, never run.
- Make sure the bus driver sees you if you are crossing the road. Take 10 giant steps in front of the bus before crossing.
- Wait for the bus driver to signal that it is okay to cross.
- Always look both ways before crossing the road and listen for traffic.
- Never cross the road from behind the bus.

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We will be having a lockdown drill in February



The safety and security of our students and staff is a top priority for *Central Spryfield Elementary* and the Halifax Regional Centre for Education.

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 son/daughter about this procedure and reinforce its importance. We practice these drills to ensure our school remains a safe place for teaching and learning.

Please contact me if you have any questions about lockdown drills.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Regards,

Karen

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- *Malala Yousafzai*