

École John W. MacLeod Fleming Tower School



September 2023 News

PRINCIPAL's MESSAGE:

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year. My name is Tracy Marchand and I am so happy and excited to be returning to the JWMFT family this year. I am very much looking forward to the wonderful year ahead and feel very privileged to be Principal of this amazing school. Please know that my door is always open so do not hesitate to contact me for any reason.

The start of a school year is a very exciting time for everyone, especially for our new students and their families. We look forward to working with you as partners to ensure all students are successful. We encourage open communication between home and school at all times and hope you'll find opportunities to volunteer.

Our monthly newsletter and calendar will be available during the first week of every month. We look forward to seeing you all shortly.

Have a wonderful year!

Tracy Marchand

The staff of John W MacLeod Fleming Tower for 2022-23:

JWM Preprimary: L. Dompierre (ECE Lead), K. Mowat (ECE Support)
JWM Preprimary: Q. Ojiemudia (ECE Lead), Reina Park (ECE Support)
FT Primary FI: G. Rice
FT Primary FI: M. Henley
FT Primary English: L. Bennett
FT Primary/One English: C. Richey
JWM Grade One FI: B Carroll
JWM Grade One FI: K. Holloway
JWM Grade One FI: S. Lent & L. Bell
JWM One/Two English: J. Doucette
JWM Grade Two English: L. Watson
JWM Grade Two FI: Carine Abi Daoud
JWM Grade Two FI: M. Zimmerman
JWM Grade Two/Three FI: E. Rockwood
JWM Grade Three FI: C. Power

Reminders:

September 7

Students back to school

September 14

Stand Up Against Bullying Day

September 25 & 26

Picture Day (details to follow)

September 28

Curriculum Night & BBQ; 6:00-7:00 pm (info to follow)

October 2

Truth and Reconciliation Observance - No school for students

Principal –
Tracy Marchand

Vice Principal: Denise Jarvis

Administrative Assistant – Kim
Ritcey

1511 Purcell's Cove Road
Halifax, NS B3P 1B7

Phone: 479-4437
Safe Arrival: 1-833-582-6940
Fax: 479-4442

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

Email: jwm@hrce.ca



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September 2023 News

JWM Grade Three English: E. Thompson
JWM Grade Three/Four English: J. Steeves
JWM Grade Four FI: A. MacDonald
JWM Grade Four FI: D. Dibblee
JWM Learning Center: M. Carey
FT Learning Center: K. Kelly
JWM Resource English (50%): D. Ratchford
JWM Resource FI (100%): Asha Arora
JWM Early Literacy Support FI: S. Lent
Learning Disabilities Teacher: Virginia Morash-MacNeil
Reading Recovery FI: L. Bell
Early Literacy Support & Reading Recovery English: H. Davies
JWM Music: P. Burton (60%)
Music: T. Sampson (30%)
JWM Core French: J. Nagle (10%)
Phys. Ed: G. Walsh & D. Lewis
JWM Librarian: O. Hahn
EPA: C. Goneau
EPA: K. Collins
EPA: S. Allen
EPA: N. Wilson-Hagens
EPA: S. Saoud
EPA: R. Deveau
EPA: J. Slaunwhite
EPA: J. Martin
EPA: Andrea Glazebrook
EPA: Emily Banfill
African Nova Scotia Student Support: Denise Grouse
JWM Lead Excel: A. Clayton
Administrative Assistant: K. Ritcey
Guidance: L. Wall
Caretaker: M. Goris, (JWM) & W. Higgins (FT)
Principal: T. Marchand
Vice Principal: D. Jarvis

We remind parents/guardians that the staffing process does not end until September 30, 2023. Enrolment figures are reviewed in September by Central Office School Administration. During the month of September, please keep in

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mind that changes are indeed possible. We will keep you informed and up to date in a timely manner should that become the case.

Before Coming to School

COVID-19 is still present in our communities; that's why it's important to continue to take steps to minimize the spread. Parents should continue to screen their child daily for any symptoms of cold, flu, or other symptoms that may be associated with COVID-19 or any other type of illness, prior to sending their child to school. Students and staff are asked to stay home if they exhibit any signs of illness.

Safe-Arrival

If your child is unable to attend school for any reason please call the safe arrival line at 1-833-582-6940. If your child arrives after the bell, they should check in at the office so we can avoid unnecessary calls.

All students may start arriving at 8:05 a.m. Please do not send your child before this time as no staff will be outside prior to 8:05 a.m., and students will not be able to enter the building. Staff will be outside at 8:05 am daily to accept your children as they arrive on the yard. School entry bell rings at 8:25 and instruction begins at 8:30 am. Students are marked late after 8:30.

Hygiene Practices

Staff will teach and review hygiene routines in their daily practice. Staff will schedule handwashing/trips to bathroom throughout the day, particularly around staggered eating times (recess, lunch and outdoor play). Hand Sanitizing stations will be located throughout the building.

Dismissal time for all students is 2:35 p.m.

After school, we start dismissing our students starting at 2:35 pm. We announce the bus number when it arrives and students give us their bus cards when getting on the bus to ensure they are on the right bus. The bussing process usually completes by 2:55. Please sign up for busplanner to receive notifications of any bussing delays at the end of the day. We anticipate this process will take some time during the first couple of weeks of school but will speed up as we get used to the end of day routine. Teachers will let you know what door your child will be dismissed from if they are a walking student.

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Visitation

Non-essential visitors, including parents/guardians, will be permitted entry to the building – please ring the bell outside the front door. We would like to ask that you please make an appointment with school staff before coming when possible. If you need to pick your child up early, we ask that you call ahead and we can get them ready and have them meet you at the main entrance door. All entry to the school should be made through the main front doors. All visitors need to both check in and sign-in so the main office knows who is in the building at all times. If you are dropping off a student or an item for your child, please do so via the front office.

Website

Please check our website frequently for updates and calendar events - <https://jwm.hrce.ca>

Student Safety

The security of your children is at the center of our practices and we have a number of measures in place to facilitate their safety:

- **Supervision of students begins at 8:05 am.** Please do not leave children on school grounds unattended before that time.
- To avoid congestion and to assist your child in establishing routines, please allow your child to enter the school on their own when possible. Let the child know you will be waiting for them outside the designated doors if they are walking students.
- We also ask for your cooperation in not driving onto the parking lot during instructional hours. The school driveway is for bus and staff use only. Exceptions apply for students whose mobility is impaired for any length of time. Students frequently go out the front door directly into the parking lot and it is safer for all if vehicles are not present. If you need to pick up your child before the end of the day we ask that you call the office in advance of to make arrangements for them to come outside. Please ensure students have notes indicating a change in routine or pick up when necessary. Thank you for helping maintain a safe environment for the students of JWMFT.
- The doors in our building will be locked shortly after the entrance bell. There is a “buzzing in” system that must be activated by the push of a button outside the front entrance after the morning bell.
- Any person with prior permission to enter the building must gain entry through the building’s main door and report to the main office, before proceeding through the building.

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September 2023 News

Life-Threatening Allergies & Epi Pens

HRCE policy states that students who have identified life-threatening allergies must carry their epinephrine auto injectors (epi pen) on their person at all times while at school. We have several students who have life-threatening allergies to **peanuts/nuts** and associated products. In addition, we also have a student with a kiwi allergy. We would like to respectfully ask that parents/guardians avoid sending things to school that may contain these products. Additionally, some of our students have medical conditions which can be worsened by scented products. We are also a scent smart school and encourage visitors to avoid wearing strong scents when at school. This includes scented hand sanitizers. Thank you very much for your cooperation!

Outdoor Education

Students and teachers will be spending some learning time outdoors. It is important that parents help us prepare for this by applying sunscreen to students before coming to school (staff is not able to do so) or teaching students how to apply it themselves. Teachers will be taking students out in all kinds of weather conditions so it would be helpful if students dress for the day assuming time will be spent outdoors.

Medic Alert No Child Without Program

The No Child Without program offers a free MedicAlert membership to students who attend our school and are between the ages of 4 up to their 14th birthday. If your child has a medical condition, allergy or is required to take medication on a regular basis then you should consider a MedicAlert membership through this program. If your child is already part of the No Child Without program and there have been changes to their medical condition, medications or emergency contact information, call Medic Alert at 1-866-679-3220 Ext. 1 to update your child's file.

Medication

School staff members are not permitted to administer non-prescription or prescription medications to students without specific consent forms filled out. Medication dosage information and pharmacological documentation must be listed on the forms which parents complete prior to sending any medication to school. This includes medication that students may administer themselves, such as inhaled prescriptions (puffers). Students should not bring over the counter

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September 2023 News

medicines (such as Tylenol) to school to take on their own, as this may accidentally pose a risk to others. We are more than happy to safely store such medications with the teacher or in the office, when necessary, once the proper forms have been completed.

Volunteers

Any volunteers wishing to assist us with class trips and activities throughout the year will need to have **BOTH a Criminal Records Check WITH Vulnerable Sector and Child Abuse Register** completed. Your checks are good for three years. If interested, please send an email to kritcey@hrce.ca for the online link to my backcheck, which you can do online and get your results forwarded to us. If we send you the volunteer link directly, the fee is reduced from \$50 to \$30. You can find the Child Abuse Register form online on the website. This is filled out by the applicant and sent by mail. The results will come back to you in the mail, which you then can provide us with a copy.

Hot Lunch

We hope to be able to offer some hot lunch options for parents this year. More information about setting up lunch accounts through School Cash Online will be sent out shortly.

Breakfast Cart

Just like in previous years, our breakfast program will start up mid-September. Students will be able to choose from “grab and go” items. We will once again be offering the breakfast program 5 days a week.

Home and School Association

What is the HSA Committee?

The HSA Committee are a group of parents, caregivers, community members and JWMFT staff who plan fundraisers throughout the school year with the goal of providing enrichment to your child's learning environment.

Do I have to come to every meeting?

No! :) Our group relies on many different members who provide support in many different ways, such as IT support, hands on support during the preparation of events and assistance during the actual events.

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How do I get involved?

Please contact the office or any of the other HSA members you may know to have your email added to our list serve.

School Advisory Council

The ongoing work of John W MacLeod Fleming Tower administration is supported by the School Advisory Council (SAC). This is a formal, provincially legislated body that meets monthly to discuss school business and advise on policy and practices. Serving on the SAC are representatives from the parent/guardian community, school teaching staff and school support staff. All SAC general meetings are public and you are welcome to attend. More information will be coming regarding filling vacant positions.

What is Head Lice?

The start of the school year is a great time to talk about Head Lice. Head lice are tiny insects that live on the head. They lay eggs (called nits) close to the scalp. Head lice do not spread disease, and having head lice does not mean that you are not clean. Head lice are very common among children. Scratching the head can be a sign of head lice, but you can have head lice without any itching.

How is Head Lice Spread?

Head lice spread through direct contact among children (head-to-head), or indirectly on items such as hats, combs, hairbrushes, headbands, helmets and toques.

Communication

Communication between school and home is essential to the success of your child. There are many ways to have communication flowing easily between your home and the school. The newsletters, website, class apps, message bags, agendas, email, voice alert messages, and phone all help to ensure that parents/guardians have the information they need.

Teachers will be sending home class notices/newsletters/calendar to keep you up to date on specific class activities.

If you wish to make an appointment with a teacher or the administration, please email or call ahead so that we can ensure we will be available. Please allow 48 hours for teachers to get back to you during the school week and after the

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weekend. If you have any concerns please let us know so that together we can make sure we stay on top of things as quickly as possible.

Parent/guardian concerns related to classroom issues should be addressed with the teacher. If the issue remains unresolved, it should be directed to the principal. If still unresolved, the parent/guardian should follow the parent concern protocol. Contact information is available through the HRCE website.

Environmentally Friendly Efforts

Please refer to the school website during the first week of every month to read our monthly newsletters. Newsletters will also be distributed via an email attachment to families. If you would still prefer to receive a hard copy of our newsletter, please call or email the office and let us know and we will be more than happy to send one home to you. Thank you for your support! We will send home a voice message from the school letting you know when the newsletter has been posted.

Bussing

We always expect (and plan for) the late arrival of busses during the first few weeks of school.

As per HRCE's Student Transportation Policy, there is no obligation to provide transportation to students within the walk zone or out of area students. If students residing in the walk zone were bussed in the past, this would have been done as a courtesy. Some parents might not even be aware that they live within the walk zone of the school. It is recommended that parents determine their distance from the school, and if necessary be prepared to apply online for bussing requests. The routing tool: Bus planner, allows you to go online and do just that (<https://hrce.mybusplanner.ca>). Students who need to be routed to another residence for after school care will also need to apply as well. A student manifest exists detailing who is assigned to the bus route. Notes for alternate after-school transportation arrangements are not accepted (example: birthday parties, sleep-overs, play dates, etc.). We do recognize that unforeseen situations with families occur and we will work with you to help solve these as best we can.

Please check the bus planner tool to check on:

- Transportation eligibility
- Route changes, delays
- Track busses

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- Request seating

Parents/guardians, please ensure current student addresses (home) and alternate addresses are updated including all contact information. K. Ritcey (Admin Assistant) will soon be sending out information regarding registration verification you will need to fill out to ensure we have the most up to date information for you. The school also uses a school messaging phone system that allows us to communicate important information. You can manage your own preferences of contact by either calling the office or setting up a parent/guardian portal account on Power School. Setting up an account allows you to view your child's information, schedule, report cards and attendance records. It is very important that you have an accurate account because this is the way most school related things are communicated including receiving report cards.

Contact Information:

HRCE Transportation Team: transportation@hrce.ca
902-431-4723

Changes in Student's routine

If you have changes to make in your child's routine for the day (i.e. early pick up, dismissal changes, bussing information), please send a note to the teacher in the morning explaining the change of routine. The office frequently gets multiple requests during the day to pass along messages and we cannot always guarantee these get delivered on time. We thank you in advance.

We are currently recruiting for casual staff to work as Lunch Monitors

Lunch monitors provide support and assistance to students during lunchtime activities under the direction of the school principal. The Lunch Monitor will oversee students in a variety of settings including the classroom, lunch areas, and outside play areas and may be required to conduct a variety of indoor and outdoor games and activities. Lunch Monitors are paid \$15.00 per hour plus 4% vacation pay. If you are interested in this opportunity, please call the school to discuss.

Requirements:

Strong supervisory skills specifically with children
Ability to work well as part of a team
Capable of organizing and controlling large numbers of children
Strong communication skills

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Curriculum Night

We are looking forward to welcoming you to curriculum night on Thursday, September 28 at 6:00 pm. Upon arriving at school you are invited to head directly to your child's classroom to hear about all the fantastic learning opportunities your child will be engaged in this year. We will have a bbq at the end of the evening. As you are aware, curriculum night is an evening spent on curriculum and learning opportunities. As we are always happy to discuss individual student progress with you, we would like to remind you that this is not possible during curriculum night due to the structure of the evening. We thank you for your understanding and support!

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