

# École John W. MacLeod Fleming Tower School



## January 2024 News

### Happy New Year! Bonne Année!

Welcome back everyone - Happy New Year to all our students and families! We hope you had a safe and happy holiday season. We are very much looking forward to a busy and productive second term.

Thank you to students, families and staff who participated in our holiday theme days prior to Christmas break. It was great way to add in some extra fun!

### Winter is here: Guidelines for Inclement Weather:

Making the decision to alter the regular operations of school and/or school busses due to inclement weather is never an easy task. To learn more about how the Halifax Regional Centre for Education (HRCE) makes this call, visit [www.hrce.ca](http://www.hrce.ca)

### When is the decision made?

HRCE's goal is to make the decision as close to 6 a.m. as possible.

### A 6 a.m. announcement could be:

- All schools are delayed in opening by two hours and all 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 the weather deteriorates through the day, the HRCE can decide to dismiss early. In the event of an early dismissal, the decision will be communicated as close to 11 a.m. as possible.

### An 11 a.m. dismissal means:

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

### Reminders:

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](mailto:jwm@hrce.ca)



Remember to check the website at <https://jwm.hrce.ca/> for this newsletter and the most up-to-date information

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**Please Note: Students in PP-6 will not be released from school until parents/guardians or designates have been notified by the school**

### How will families be notified?

- Families will receive an email and text message (opt-in is required: text Y to 978338)
- Check HRCE website at [www.hrce.ca](http://www.hrce.ca)
- Follow on Twitter @HRCE NS
- Call the HRCE information line at 902-464-INFO (4636)
- All local radio stations are informed

### BusPlanner Text Messaging:

Does your child ride the bus? We are excited to introduce text messaging through BusPlanner!

To ensure compliance with Canadian Anti-Spam laws, you must opt-in to receive information by text message. You can opt-in by logging into BusPlanner Parent Portal.

By opting in, you will receive texts from BusPlanner, including late notifications, general notices and bus cancellations due to inclement weather.

To opt-in to text messages on BusPlanner Parent Portal, please follow these steps:

1. Log in to BusPlanner Parent Portal
2. Click Parent
3. Select My Account
4. Click Mobile Numbers
5. Check box to confirm you want to receive text alerts
6. Enter up to five phone numbers
7. Select Update

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Don't have a BusPlanner Parent Portal account? Need help logging in? Please contact the HRCE Student Transportation Team at [transportation@hrce.ca](mailto:transportation@hrce.ca) or call 902-431-4723.

### Winter Clothing:

As students are spending more and more time outdoors, it is important they come prepared to be out in all kinds of weather. Depending on the conditions, we try to be outdoors whenever possible. If temperatures reach -20 or colder, we usually err on the side of caution and remain inside, but again, that depends on the conditions. We thank you for helping us reinforce the importance of dressing appropriately for NS weather.

### Family Literacy Day:

Did you know that January 27 is 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 is "let's have a family party!" Celebrate 25 years of Family Literacy Day and learning together as a family by having a party! Make food, sing songs, and play games. The possibilities for learning are endless – and it's fun when you do it together.

### Hot Lunch:

Just a reminder that hot lunch continues to be posted for the month but parents/guardians can choose what day or week they want.

### February Registration

Registration for the 2024-2025 school year will be taking place during the month of February. If you have a child or know someone in the neighborhood who has a child that will be five years old on or before December 31, 2024, they are eligible for school in September 2024.

Please Note: Acceptance of your child's registration is not complete until the school verifies the registration documentation.

Families can register online using the following steps:

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1. Verify your neighbourhood school.
2. Complete all fillable sections of the registration form (PDF or Word) – submit electronically

\*The following information must be attached:

1. Proof of Identity (for pre-primary and primary students only) – birth certificate\*, passport, immigration papers or adoption papers
2. Proof of Civic Address – current utility, internet or phone bill
3. Provincial Health Card or proof of medical insurance

Early registration is important as it will be a factor in staffing the school year.

**Preprimary students attending John W MacLeod Fleming Tower this school year do not need to register again for grade primary unless you will be attending a different school.**

\*Please note: John W MacLeod Fleming Tower continues to welcome pre-primary registrations all year long! To be eligible, a child must have reached his/her fourth birthday on or before December 31, 2024 and live within the catchment area of the school offering the program.

### **Out-of-Area Request for Grades Pre-Primary to 12**

Parents/guardians may seek placement for their child in a school outside of the neighborhood in which they reside under the guidelines of the Student Registration Policy.

The Out-of-Area request process begins on April 3 at 8:00 a.m. for the following school year.

The electronic submission will be sent automatically to the receiving school and will include a date and time stamp.

Requests for students who will have older siblings in the receiving school in September will be given priority for an Out-of-Area placement if adequate accommodation is available. Out-of-Area requests can be made for

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students in Grades Pre-Primary to 12. Please note that Out of Area requests can sometimes take until late August to be approved if determining space is not clear.

By accepting an Out-of-Area transfer, families are responsible for transporting their child to and from school. Please contact the Student Transportation Team if you have questions about bus eligibility.

The Out-of-Area transfer is permanent.

### January Well-being Tip:

#### *Embrace winter:*

Understanding that physical health and mental health are connected, it's important to stay active. Having a positive mindset about winter may encourage you and your family to think of new ways to get outside more. Spending time outdoors and in nature can have a positive impact on our moods – the snow and cold doesn't have to change that. Building a snowman or a snow fort can be a fun way to spend time together outdoors and enjoy an activity that we can't do other times of the year!

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