

École John W. MacLeod Fleming Tower School

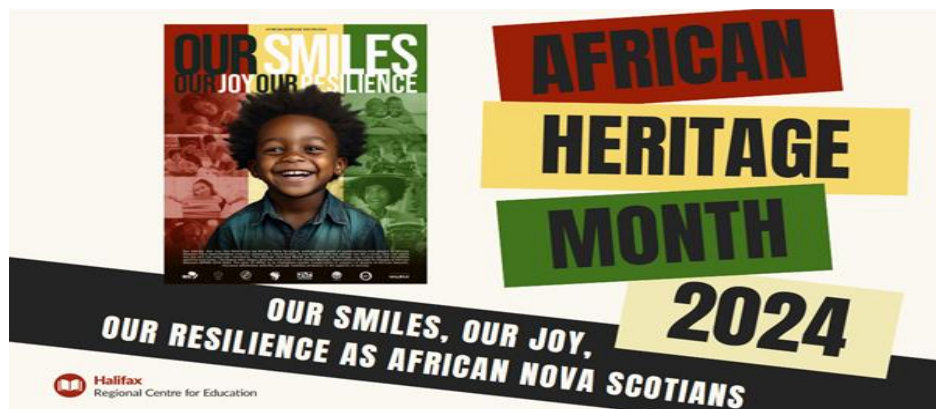


February 2024 News

Have you Heard?

- Shubenacadie Sam predicts an early Spring ... Mother nature obviously has other plans!
- February is new registration month. If you or someone you know has a child starting school in September, please refer them to the HRCE website (www.hrce.ca). Registration forms are completed electronically.
- JWMFT will have chocolate chip pancakes *available* for students on our breakfast cart on Thursday, February 13th.

February is African Heritage Month:



The 2024 African Heritage Month theme – Our Smiles, Our Joy, Our Resilience as African Nova Scotians – outlines the spirit of perseverance that people of African descent have demonstrated over the centuries in Nova Scotia.

“As we recognize the 40th anniversary of the celebration of African Heritage Month here in Nova Scotia, the theme selected for this year is embodied in the joy and pride that is felt when we share our history and culture – a culture that highlights the resilience of the Black Nova Scotian community that has survived and thrived over 400 years here in Nova Scotia.”

— Crystal D. Mulder, co-Chair, Black History Month Association

Reminders:

February 19
Heritage Day

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



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

École John W. MacLeod Fleming Tower School



February 2024 News

Nova Scotia has more than 50 historic African Nova Scotian communities with a long, deep and complex history dating back more than 400 years. African Heritage Month provides another opportunity to celebrate and promote the culture, legacy, achievements, and contributions of people of African descent in Nova Scotia – past and present. At JWMFT we are committed to doing the same. We have students doing daily trivia questions and have an ongoing spotlight series on inspiring African Nova Scotians during the daily announcements, in addition to individual classes doing activities and learning about history. We try to ensure this work continues, not just in the month of February, but all year long.

Nut and Scent Sensitive Reminder

As you are aware, we have a number of students at JWMFT who are allergic to specific foods, especially nuts (and kiwi). JWMFT continues to be a **Nut Aware School**, similar to many other schools in HRCE. Please send recess/lunch snacks that contain only nut free products. In addition, strongly scented products can cause some students and adults to experience breathing problems, dizziness and/or headaches. Please note that our school is **Scent Aware** as well. We ask for your cooperation in not wearing strongly scented products when visiting the school. We thank you in advance for your support!

February Registration

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 to register!

Halifax Regional Centre for Education

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. Early registration is important, as it will be a factor in staffing the school year. To facilitate a smooth registration process,

Reminders:

February 19
Heritage Day

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



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

École John W. MacLeod Fleming Tower School



February 2024 News

parents may visit HRCE's website and download the registration form (www.hrce.ca).

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.

Please note: Registration for pre-primary 2024-2025 can take place at any time. If you have a child or know someone in the neighborhood who has a child that will be four years old on or before December 31, 2024, they are eligible for pre-primary in September 2024.

***Current pre-primary students attending JWMFT do not need to register again for grade primary. Information has already been sent by current pre-primary teachers to their families that provides some information about the French immersion program. We will be hosting an open house coming up later this month. Please let your pre-primary teacher know if your child will be choosing primary English or the primary French immersion program as soon as possible. This helps inform staffing and class configuration decisions.**

Please share this information with your friends and neighbors with children who will be 4 or 5 years old by December 31.

Need help with online registration? Our Parent Navigator is ready to support you!

Charlene Sparks
Telephone: (902) 464-2000 ext 4362
Fax: (902) 464-2254

Reminders:

February 19
Heritage Day

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



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

École John W. MacLeod Fleming Tower School



February 2024 News

Email: charlene.sparks@hrce.ca

What's Pre-Primary all about?

Check out our [Welcome to Pre-Primary](#) site.

What does Grade Primary look like?

Visit our [Welcome to Primary](#) site.

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.

Out-of-Area requests can be made for students in Grades Pre-Primary to 12.

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.

The Out-of-Area process for the 2024-25 school year opens on April 2, 2024.

<https://www.hrce.ca/families/student-registration/out-area-request>

Classroom Parties/Celebrations

With Valentine's Day upon us, we wanted to remind parents/guardians not to send in food items for the whole class unless asked to do so by the teacher. Parents/guardians are welcome to send in a snack/treat for their child. Thank you for your cooperation.

Reminders:

February 19
Heritage Day

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



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

École John W. MacLeod Fleming Tower School





February 2024 News

Heritage Day – February 19

REMINDER

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



Celebrated the third Monday in February, Nova Scotia Heritage Day is an annual reminder of our storied past and an opportunity to honor the remarkable people, places and events that have contributed to this province's unique heritage. The 2024 Honouree is William Hall. <https://heritageday.novascotia.ca/content/2024-honouree-william-hall>

Changes to Contact Information

If you have made changes to your home phone, cell phone or work numbers, kindly send along any updates to ensure we have current information on file to contact you in the event of illness, early dismissal, etc. We thank you in advance.

School Counsellor Week February 5-9, 2024!

February 5-9, 2024 is School Counsellor week! School Counsellors hold a Master's Degree in Education (Counselling) or equivalent (e.g.: Master's Counselling Psychology) and are uniquely trained to provide Counselling in Schools, as well as in clinical settings. School Counsellors address several issues including: anxiety, grief, divorce, social justice (anti-racism), depression, LGBTQ+, social and emotional learning, and self-regulation to name a few. Counsellors are professionally trained and many hold additional professional certifications and competencies, which allow them to provide high quality support to those in need.

Reminders:

February 19
Heritage Day

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



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

École John W. MacLeod Fleming Tower School



February 2024 News

Family Literacy Day Winners:

Congratulations to all families who participated in our Family Literacy Challenge. Students who participated were entered into a draw for a free pizza or pasta lunch – please see list below. When ready to claim your lunch for your child (Monday is pasta, Friday is pizza) please let the classroom teacher know a day in advance.

Congratulations to the following prize winners:

Pre-Primary: Campbell M. & Violet R.
Primary: Rachelle M. & Kendrick L.
Grade One: Gus N. & Corinne T.
Grade Two: Evelyn S. & Yianni K.
Grade Three: Lachlan M. & Kinsly B.
Grade Four: Audrey F. & Ava P.






Raise a Reader:

Family Literacy Week 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.



Reminders:

February 19
Heritage Day

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



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

École John W. MacLeod Fleming Tower School



February 2024 News

Mandatory Emergency Management Drills - Lockdown Drill Practice Next week:

The safety and security of our students and staff is a top priority for John W MacLeod Fleming Tower and the Halifax Regional Center for Education. We are committed to implementing a number of measures as part of a comprehensive plan aimed at ensuring our school remains a safe place for our students to learn.

As you are likely aware, our school practices both lockdown and hold and secure drills a couple of times a year as part of our emergency planning/preparedness cycle. 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. In a hold and secure drill, students remain inside the classroom with their teacher, but can resume activity within the classroom. 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 or hold and secure 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 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. Our first drill is scheduled for the end of this week. We will be preparing students this week in advance of the drill. Please contact us if you have any questions about our drills.

Pancakes on February 13

Students will see an extra breakfast choice on the morning cart on February 13 – small chocolate chip pancakes. Thank you going out to Mrs. Ritcey for preparing these for the students.

Well-being Tips:

One of the goals in our Student Success Plan focuses on well-being. JWMFT has strategies in place to ensure we are doing intentional work with students to

Reminders:

February 19
Heritage Day

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



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

École John W. MacLeod Fleming Tower School



February 2024 News

improve their experience at school. We will be sharing tips and strategies with you in our monthly newsletter.

It is FEBRUARY AND THE MONTH OF LOVE!

In our busy world, we often forget to put ourselves and our health first. This month, focus on making self-care a priority. Implementing small changes to your routine can improve your overall mood and protect your mental health. After all, you can't take care of others if you don't take care of yourself first.

RECOGNIZE YOUR VALUE

Remind yourself that you are making a difference despite all the long days and many challenges. Get in the habit of [positive affirmations](#) to remind yourself how important you are. Some steps you can take to get yourself comfortable with positive affirmations include:

- Every morning when you wake up, say to yourself one thing you like about yourself.
- Write something motivational on a sticky note and put it on your mirror.
- Get a friend or family member to repeat these affirmations to you.

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 air 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.



Reminders:

February 19
Heritage Day

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



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

École John W. MacLeod Fleming Tower School



February 2024 News

Red Means Stop! School Bus Safety Reminder



SAFETY REMINDER!
When a school bus is stopped, with its lights flashing, drivers must stop and not proceed past the bus.

 Halifax
Regional Centre for Education

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 color – 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.

Reminders:

February 19
Heritage Day

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



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

École John W. MacLeod Fleming Tower School



February 2024 News

- 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.

Illness in School

Our collective actions protect the collective health of everyone here at school. Please check your child frequently for signs of illness before coming to school and have a stay at home plan for days that your child appears unwell. As expected, we saw a rise of student absenteeism in January and want to take extra precautions to reduce those numbers over the next month. We thank you for your efforts in helping to reduce the spread of illness to other students and staff.

SAC Parent Reps

Our School Advisory parent reps are here for you to listen and/or possibly express your voice as parents/guardians in our school community. If you would like to reach out to one of parent reps to discuss a question and/or concern, please see contact information below. Concerns are usually brought forth to the SAC Chair, via a parent rep, and discussed with the principal prior to a scheduled meeting. Thank you for your feedback. We are always open to thoughts and suggestions and value your voice!

Maria Pryde (SAC Chair): hrce-sac-jwm@gnspecs.ca

Shannon MacDonald (SAC Chair): shannon.m.macdonald13@gmail.com

Ardath Whynacht: ardath.whynacht@gmail.com

Reminders:

February 19
Heritage Day

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



Remember to check the website at <https://jwm.hrce.ca/> for this newsletter 10
and the most up-to-date information