May 2024 News

EXCEL Registration:

The EXCEL program uses EZChildTrack, a Childcare Management Software as a Service (SaaS), to support our registration and payment process. EZChildTrack Parent Portal offers a secure, convenient, web-based system on which clients can register their child(ren) online for the EXCEL program. Returning, waitlisted, and new families interested in enrolling their child(ren) in the EXCEL program are required to submit an application for each new school year. Enrolment and waitlists do not carry over from one year to the next. Once your application has been processed, an Enrolment Approval/Waitlist email will be sent to you through EZChildTrack to inform you of your child(ren)'s enrolment status. Please note that students may not begin attending the program until written confirmation of acceptance has been received.

2024-2025 EXCEL Registration is divided into two periods:

- (1) Early Registration for families with a child(ren) enrolled in the 2023-24 EXCEL Program by April 26, 2024 and new siblings; and
- (2) General Registration for families who do not have a child(ren) currently enrolled in the 2023-24 EXCEL Program.

EXCEL 2024-25 registration dates are as follows:

	_	
Program	EARLY REGISTRATION Dates	GENERAL REGISTRATION Dates
Unit #1	April 29th (8am) to April 30th (7:59am)	May 13th at 8am to May 14th at 7:59am
Unit #2	April 30th (8am) to May 1st (7:59am)	May 14th at 8am to May 15th at 7:59am
Unit #3	May 1st (8am) to May 2nd (7:59am)	May 15th at 8am to May 16th at 7:59am
*Unit #4	May 2nd (8am) to May 3rd (7:59am)	May 16th at 8am to May 17th at 7:59am
All Units	May 3rd (8am - 4pm) & May 6th (8:00am) to May 10th (4pm)	May 17th at 8am onward



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



Reminders:

May

Excel Registration Opens

May 16

Information session for grade 5 FI parents at ES; Volunteer Tea

May 17

Keonte Beals School Visit

May 20

No School; Victoria Day

May 21

Primary Info Session for Parents @ 6:00 pm

May 30

Grade 4 Track Meet

Principal – Tracy Marchand

Vice Principal: Denise Jarvis; Acting VP: Christine Richey

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

May 2024 News

When registering your child for EXCEL at John W MacLeod Fleming Tower – you do not have to know which site they will be attending class at this time. Once class lists have been finalized, the school will let EXCEL know the finalized location of classrooms and students will be placed at the corresponding site.

At the time of registration, parents are required to identify any needs that their child may have that could impact their active participation in the program. Parents will be contacted by a member of the EXCEL management team for a pre-assessment conversation to discuss the specific supports that may be required. If it is determined that an additional staff person is the level of support needed to facilitate a child's meaningful participation in the program, the staffing will be adjusted to best meet the needs of the child.

The EXCEL program was created in the interest of providing an option to families, when and where opportunities are available. Offering such a service, however, is not a mandate of the HRCE. The interest of families to participate in EXCEL continues to grow each year. EXCEL staff continually work with schools to identify available and suitable program space at each site. Such space is not always available as the necessary work in schools does not end with the dismissal bell. Teachers continue important work in their classrooms at the end of each day, and extra-curricular activities and special events are regularly held in gymnasiums, libraries, and multi-purpose rooms. EXCEL utilizes space that does not conflict with these important and required functions. The educational needs of the schools always have priority.

Factors including availability of suitable program space; availability of staff to support participants; the safety of students; and EXCEL's ability to provide a quality experience for participants are considered when establishing program capacities. When and where demand exceeds capacities for an EXCEL program, waitlists are formed. These lists are used to understand demand and to generate conversations that explore the possibility of program growth. With the interest of serving families within our school communities, the EXCEL office operates 12 months a year to ensure that waitlisted families are contacted in a timely manner regarding available opportunities for participation.



Reminders:

May

Excel Registration Opens

May 16

Information session for grade 5 FI parents at ES; Volunteer Tea

May 17

Keonte Beals School Visit

May 20

No School; Victoria Day

May 21

Primary Info Session for Parents @ 6:00 pm

May 30

Grade 4 Track Meet

Principal – Tracy Marchand

Vice Principal: Denise Jarvis; Acting VP: Christine Richey

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



May 2024 News

Volunteer Tea Invitation:

The John W MacLeod Fleming Tower School Community would not be as rich without the dedication of our volunteers. We would like to show our gratitude for your dedication of time over the course of this school year.

If you have helped out in your child's class, or with a larger school-wide event, you have contributed to all JWMFT students' school experience. Please join us for a Volunteer Tea for coffee, tea, and light snacks on Thursday, May 16th at 10:30 am in the school Library. Please RSVP to kritcey@hrce.ca by Monday, May 13th.

Out of Area Requests:

Out of area requests opened on April 2nd for the 2024-2025 school year. Please note, a decision on out of area requests likely won't be made until late August/early Sept after late registration has occurred. Approval will only be granted if room exists in the requested classroom (defined by class caps). Students who have siblings already attending JWMFT do receive preference. There is no pre-primary French option.

Community Members for School Advisory Council (SAC):

We continue to look for one community members to join our SAC committee. The SAC collaborates with the principal to contribute to the achievement and well-being of the students of JWMFT.

What we discuss:

- -student achievement
- -safe and inclusive practices and initiatives
- -communication with parents & community
- -extra-curricular programming
- -special projects/grants accessible through the school

SAC members also act as a parent & community liaison between the school and both the HRCE and the Department of Education. Sometimes there are decisions to be made about how certain funds will be distributed. Grants must be used for specific purposes including improving academic experience for math & literacy, supporting health & well-being of the students, guest speakers, school events and field trips. Currently we are seeking one community members to sit on our SAC Committee. We meet once a month (two meetings left this year – May & June). To qualify as a community member, you must not have a child currently



Reminders:

May

Excel Registration Opens

May 16

Information session for grade 5 FI parents at ES; Volunteer Tea

May 17

Keonte Beals School Visit

May 20

No School; Victoria Day

May 21

Primary Info Session for Parents @ 6:00 pm

May 30

Grade 4 Track Meet

Principal – Tracy Marchand

Vice Principal: Denise Jarvis; Acting VP: Christine Richey

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/



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

3

May 2024 News

enrolled in the school. Please pass this opportunity on to those you think would be interested. It is a great way to get people involved with the school.

Classroom Configurations:

It is getting close to the time where teachers and additional school start staff thinking about classroom placements for next year. School staff work tirelessly on this process in an attempt to make well-informed decisions in the best interest of students. A great deal goes into this process and many considerations are taken into account: gender balance, learning styles, strengths, challenges, student relationship with other students, and specific programming details. No student is assigned to a classroom without thoughtful, professional conversation taking place.

At this time, I would like to invite you to share any characteristics of your child's learning you would like us to take into consideration when configuring classrooms. Without requesting specific teachers, I am encouraging you to forward an email or letter to my attention for future planning. Although I cannot guarantee requested placement as those decisions are made by a professional team, it will certainly provide additional information for us to consider when making these decisions. Please note that the staffing process is tentative until the end of September. Teaching assignments may change, to allow for enrolment increase/decrease, which means class configurations could change as well. I am confident you will trust in our ability to work with you to make the best educational decisions possible for your child. Please forward the requested information to Ms. Marchand by Friday, May 24th.

Staffing Changes:

As you know this is the time of year when staffing changes are likely to take place. The staffing process is not complete until the end of September as enrolment drives number of classes and teachers required. Late registration happens in August, which sometimes affects classroom configurations. Teachers also have the ability to move around if there is a vacancy at another school site during permanent posting rounds. We will keep you informed of any changes as we receive them.

Grade 5 Orientation Session for English Program Students:

Grade 4 English students will be visiting Cunard Junior High (during the day) on June 12th for a visit and tour of the school.



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



Reminders:

May

Excel Registration Opens

May 16

Information session for grade 5 FI parents at ES; Volunteer Tea

May 17

Keonte Beals School Visit

May 20

No School; Victoria Day

May 21

Primary Info Session for Parents @ 6:00 pm

May 30

Grade 4 Track Meet

Principal – Tracy Marchand

Vice Principal: Denise Jarvis; Acting VP: Christine Richey

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

May 2024 News

Grade 5 Orientation Session for French Immersion Families/Students:

Grade 4 FI students and families are invited to an orientation evening at Elizabeth Sutherland School on May 16th at 6:00 p.m.

Water Bottles/Sunscreen:

With warmer weather slowly approaching, staff is getting students outside more frequently. Students are reminded to take their water bottles to school and may require sunscreen before coming to school. Staff is not permitted to apply sunscreen on students.

May Mindfulness Tip:

At the end of each day, invite yourself to reflect on a positive moment that you had with your child or children. Even if it has been a particularly challenging day (especially if it has been so), recall a pleasant moment that you had with your child or children - or reflect on something that you appreciated about your child or children today.

It can be all too easy for our minds to hold on to the challenges that we experience in our day-to-day lives, overshadowing the moments of joy. Intentionally reflecting on the pleasant moments can support us in re-connecting with and remembering the joy and pleasure we share with our children each and every day.

"Instead of positive experiences washing through you like a sieve, they'll collect in implicit memory deep down in your brain." Rick Hanson

Volunteering at School:

We continue to receive questions regarding volunteering at school or on school trips. Parents/guardians at school must have a copy of a completed criminal records check **WITH** vulnerable sector and a child abuse register. These are TWO separate data bases so both have to be in conducted and clear. The school can send an email link to you for both of these checks, which reduces the cost of the criminal records check/with vulnerable sector to \$30 (down from \$50). A child abuse register is free. Checks are good for 3 years. Please be careful to ensure that all three sections of the Criminal Records Check notes "clear" instead of "conducted." As part of the application process you will receive a validation code that you go in and enter, which will turn the "conducted" into the "clear" message that is required.



Reminders:

May

Excel Registration Opens

May 16

Information session for grade 5 FI parents at ES; Volunteer Tea

May 17

Keonte Beals School Visit

May 20

No School; Victoria Day

May 21

Primary Info Session for Parents @ 6:00 pm

May 30

Grade 4 Track Meet

Principal – Tracy Marchand

Vice Principal: Denise Jarvis; Acting VP: Christine Richey

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

May 2024 News

Tick Information and Safety:

It's a great time of year to enjoy the outdoors — physical activity, fresh air and time with family and friends is so important! By being outside more, we also need to be aware of ticks. These are small insects — sometimes as small as the period at the end of this sentence — that are found across Nova Scotia. Tick checks help protect us from the germs that ticks can carry. Removing ticks as soon as possible can prevent or reduce the risk of infection. Follow these steps to help protect against ticks, especially in grassy, wooded or shrub covered areas:

- Apply insect repellents containing DEET or Icaridin to exposed skin and clothes. Follow directions on the package carefully.
- Wear light-colored long-sleeved shirts and pants, closed-toed shoes, and tuck shirts into pants and pant legs into socks.
- Keep lawns mowed short.
- Put playground equipment in sunny, dry places away from wooded areas, yard edges, and trees.
- Check your whole body for ticks and, when possible, take a bath or shower within two hours of coming indoors. This makes it easier to find ticks and washes away loose ones.
- If you find ticks, here's how to remove them safely: -Carefully grasp the tick with tweezers as close to the skin as possible. -Gently and slowly pull the tick straight out. Do not jerk, twist or squeeze it. -Clean and disinfect the site with soap and water, rubbing alcohol or hydrogen peroxide. -Dispose of the tick in a sealed plastic bag and put in the garbage. -Do NOT burn, squeeze or coax a tick's mouthparts from your skin using other methods.

Only the blacklegged tick can transmit the germ that causes Lyme disease, and only after being attached for at least 24 – 36 hours. One of the earliest and most common symptoms of Lyme disease is a rash that's often shaped like a bull'seye. The rash occurs on the same site as the bite. Other symptoms include fever, fatigue, muscle aches, joint pain and headaches. If you've been exploring outdoors, especially in wooded areas, forests, areas where tall grasses and or shrubs are present, or have found a tick on your body, and show these symptoms, see a healthcare provider. To learn more about tick safety, visit https://novascotia.ca/ticksafety/ or call your local Public Health office at 902-481-5800.



Reminders:

May

Excel Registration Opens

May 16

Information session for grade 5 FI parents at ES; Volunteer Tea

May 17

Keonte Beals School Visit

May 20

No School; Victoria Day

May 21

Primary Info Session for Parents @ 6:00 pm

May 30

Grade 4 Track Meet

Principal – Tracy Marchand

Vice Principal: Denise Jarvis; Acting VP: Christine Richey

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



May 2024 News

Grade 3 Literacy/Math Provincial Assessment:

Our grade 3 students will be participating in Literacy/Mathematics assessment during the week of May 13-28th. We have tentatively chosen the 13th & 14th (Literacy) and 21st & 22nd for administration of the assessment. Please see parent information that was distributed last week for more information.

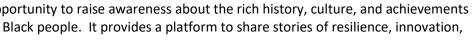
Run Club and Track and Field:

Run Club and Track and Field practices are well underway. The Grade 4 Track and Field meet is scheduled for Thursday May 30th with rain date May 31st. It would be great if all students could participate in the track meet but we are limited to a certain number of students per event. Permission forms will be going home with qualifying students. The events include 100-meter Sprint, 800meter and 1500-meter distant runs along with a throwing event (will be throwing a softball for distance) and a jumping event (this event the students run about 15 m then jumps into a sand pit as far as they can). The last event is a 4x100m relay (students will pass a baton from teammate to teammate around the track) we will have 2 teams participate.

Black Excellence Day:

Black Excellence Day, which will be celebrated on the third Monday in May each year, highlights the brilliance, achievements, and talents of students of African ancestry. It is a day to reflect, learn and applaud members of our community who are also of the African diaspora who have for generations contribute with purpose and intention to elevate our Nova Scotian community.

- 1. Representation and Recognition: Black Excellence Day provides an opportunity to celebrate the achievements, contributions, and successes of Black individuals within the community. It highlights the talent and accomplishments within the Black community, ensuring that Black students have an opportunity to highlight all their positive contributions within the educational system.
- 2. Empowerment and Inspiration: By celebrating Black Excellence, students are inspired and empowered to pursue their own goals and dreams. Seeing examples of successful Black individuals from various fields, such as science, arts, politics and sports, can motivate students to strive for their own excellence.
- 3. Education and Awareness: Black Excellence Day serves as an educational opportunity to raise awareness about the rich history, culture, and achievements of Black people. It provides a platform to share stories of resilience, innovation,





Reminders:

May

Excel Registration Opens

May 16

Information session for grade 5 FI parents at ES; Volunteer Tea

May 17

Keonte Beals School Visit

May 20

No School; Victoria Day

May 21

Primary Info Session for Parents @ 6:00 pm

May 30

Grade 4 Track Meet

Principal -Tracy Marchand

Vice Principal: Denise Jarvis; Acting VP: Christine Richey

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/



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

May 2024 News

and leadership, helping to combat stereotypes and promote understanding and appreciation of Black heritage.

- 4. Equity and Inclusion: Recognizing Black Excellence fosters a culture of equity and inclusion within schools. It sends a message that all students, regardless of their background, have the potential to excel and make valuable contributions to society. By celebrating diversity and promoting inclusivity, schools create a more welcoming and supportive environment for all students.
- 5. Community Engagement: Black Excellence Day can serve as a platform for community engagement and collaboration. It provides an opportunity for schools to partner with local organizations, leaders, and activists within the Black community to organize events, workshops, and discussions that promote dialogue and understanding. Overall, celebrating Black Excellence Day within HRCE schools is important for fostering a culture of inclusivity, empowerment, and appreciation for the diverse talents and contributions of Black individuals.

We are pleased to announce that Keonte Beals will be visiting our school on May 17th to give a keynote address to our students.

Keonté Beals

Keonté Beals is a Black Canadian singer/songwriter from North Preston Nova Scotia. The award-winning multi-hyphenate artist was born and raised in North Preston, Nova Scotia, where he started singing at the age of seven. In 2016, Keonté released "Man Down" from his self-titled EP 'Keonté,' followed by a second single "4 Ever" in 2017 and is the winner of various awards including Music Nova Scotia, African Nova Scotian Music Association (including Artist of the Year 2020), Coast Halifax, East Coast Music Association; Challenge AIDS and Malaria in Africa and recognized with an MLA Rising Star award.Keonté, in collaboration with CBC radio, produced a special "Keonte Beals: Christmas in North Preston", which was rated the number one story in Canada and earned a feature in "Being Black in Canada". His talents extend well beyond the world of music. In 2021, he paired up with his brother and wrote and published an inspiring children's book aimed at empowering kids titled, I Am Perfectly Me. He has published several more books over the last few years. We look forward to his visit.



Reminders:

May

Excel Registration Opens

May 16

Information session for grade 5 FI parents at ES; Volunteer Tea

May 17

Keonte Beals School Visit

May 20

No School; Victoria Day

May 21

Primary Info Session for Parents @ 6:00 pm

May 30

Grade 4 Track Meet

Principal – Tracy Marchand

Vice Principal: Denise Jarvis; Acting VP: Christine Richey

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



May 2024 News

Information Session for New Primary Parents:

It is an exciting time for you and your child, and we would like to welcome you both to an orientation of our school. Parents and Guardians are invited to a drop-in information session on the evening of Tuesday, May 21st from 6:00-7:00. This session will include a self-guided tour of the Fleming Tower Building, a backpack demonstration and a meet and greet with teachers and staff members. We will provide you with a handout and teachers will be available to answer any questions you may have at this time. Please note that staffing and class lists will not be finalized so specific questions pertaining to child placement, can not be answered at this time. We encourage you to bring your future student with you to the drop-in evening session, keeping in mind that all children must be supervised by you at all times. Popsicles will be provided! The future primary students are invited to visit Fleming Tower on Wednesday May 22nd, at 12:45-1:45. The children who currently attend Pre-Primary in the John W. MacLeod building, will walk over as a class at that time. Children who are not currently in the Pre-Primary program are encouraged to arrive at Fleming Tower at 12:45. Parents/Guardians are welcome to wait outside, and we ask that you do all that you can to let your child attend the visit independently. We are hopeful that the drop-in session with their parent/guardian before the student visit will help them have more success. During their visit, the children will have a chance to meet some of the current grade primary teachers, see the classrooms, the bathrooms, the gym, the music room and the library, and may have some time to explore the playground. A visit such as this will allow your child to develop some familiarity with the school and staff and help support conversation at home about the transition into school. We are looking forward to meeting you and your future grade primary student, and hope that you can attend.

SAVE THE DATE: June 15:

Spring Fest is happening on June 15th. Thank you so much for the donations to date! We will gladly take anything you have – big or small! You can continue to buy tickets on School Cash Online until May 23rd. We look forward to seeing you on June 15th. More details about the event will be available soon!

Change to School Bell Schedule Next Year:

The HRCE Student Transportation team is currently planning for the 2024-25 school year with the goal of improving bus service for all students. As part of this planning process, bell times will change at our school starting in September.



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



Reminders:

May

Excel Registration Opens

May 16

Information session for grade 5 FI parents at ES; Volunteer Tea

May 17

Keonte Beals School Visit

May 20

No School; Victoria Day

May 21

Primary Info Session for Parents @ 6:00 pm

May 30

Grade 4 Track Meet

Principal – Tracy Marchand

Vice Principal: Denise Jarvis; Acting VP: Christine Richey

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/

May 2024 News

New Bell Schedule for 2024-25 School Year:

• Entry bell: 8:15 a.m. (currently 8:20 a.m.)

• Instructional Start Time: 8:25 a.m.

• Dismissal Time: 2:35 p.m.

• No changes to lunch schedule (11:30-12:30)

We know a change in bell times can take some getting used to, which is why we wanted to share this well in advance of the new school year. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the office. Thank you for your understanding.



Reminders:

May

Excel Registration Opens

May 16

Information session for grade 5 FI parents at ES; Volunteer Tea

May 17

Keonte Beals School Visit

May 20

No School; Victoria Day

May 21

Primary Info Session for Parents @ 6:00 pm

May 30

Grade 4 Track Meet

Principal -Tracy Marchand

Vice Principal: Denise Jarvis; Acting VP: Christine Richey

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

