



Welcome Back!

Hello Cavalier Community:

Our first week of 2023-24 with students has gone amazingly well. Given all the work parents/caregivers and staff do in preparation for the first day, I am not surprised. It was great to see so many of you on Curriculum Night and hopefully we will see everyone at our first family dance on October 26th. It will be here very quickly. Please continue to reach out to us with questions or concerns. By working together, we can make this year the best year yet.

Sincerely yours,

Stephen Driscoll
Principal

Important Dates & Reminders

- September 14 – Stand-Up Against Bullying Day – wear pink
- September 19 - Home & School Meeting – 6:00 p.m.
- September 28 - School Advisory Committee – 6:00 p.m.
- September 29 - Wear orange in recognition of Truth and Reconciliation Day
- October 2 - Truth and Reconciliation Day – No Classes
- October 4 - Student Photos
- October 9 - Thanksgiving Day – No Classes
- October 16 - Photo Retakes
- October 19 – Home and School meeting – 6:00 p.m.
- October 26 – Family Dance – 6:00 p.m.
- October 27 – Provincial Conference Day – No Classes
- October 28 – School Advisory Committee – 6:00 p.m.
- November 6 – Home and School meeting – 6:00 p.m.
- November 10 – Remembrance Day Ceremony 9:30 a.m.
- November 13 - Remembrance Day – No Classes
- November 14 – Send in donations for Green Christmas
- November 17 – Assessment and Evaluation Day – No Classes
- November 23 – Parent Teacher – No Classes
- December 4 - Professional Learning Day – No Classes
- December 6 – Green Christmas
- December 13 – Christmas Concert – 6:00 p.m.
- December 14 – Christmas Concert – 6:00 p.m.
- December 21 – First day of Holiday Break
- January 2 – School re-opens

[We Help Each Other Grow](#)

January 8 –	Home and School – 6:00 p.m.
January 25 –	Family Bingo – 6:00 p.m.
February 15 –	Art Show – 6:00 p.m.
February 19 –	Heritage Day – No Classes
March 4 –	Home and School – 6:00 p.m.
March 11 – 15 –	March Break – No Classes
March 29 –	Good Friday – No Classes
April 1 –	Easter Monday – No Classes
April 3 –	Parent Teacher – 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
April 4 –	Professional Learning and Parent Teacher Conferences – No Classes
May 6 –	Home and School – 6:00 p.m.
May 20 –	Victoria Day Holiday – No Classes
May 30 –	Family Dance – 6:00 p.m.
June 8 –	Spring Fling – 10:00 a.m.
June 25 –	Grade 5 Farewell – 9:00 a.m.
June 27 –	Assessment and Evaluation Day – No Classes
June 28 –	Last Day of School

Calendar of dates is also on the [school webpage](#)

SCHOOL HOURS

Supervision Begins	7:40am
School Starts	8:00am
Lunch	11:30am - 12:30pm
Dismissal	2:00pm

ONLINE DEMOGRAPHIC UPDATING

Families will receive information by email next week explaining the procedure for updating demographics for their children. The email will only go to Contact #1. This will replace the paper copy of the registration form that we previously sent home in September. As well parents will be able to update their Media Release preferences at

the same time.

BUS TRAVEL

Southland Transportation provides busing. Bus drivers will review bus safety with children at the beginning of the year. All students will practice an emergency bus evacuation in October. It is necessary for someone to meet each grade Primary student at their bus stop. If no one is there to meet

them, the child will stay on the bus and come back to the school. We will contact you to come pick them up at the school office.

SAFE ARRIVAL PROGRAM

HRCE has a new Student Absence Reporting System. There are three ways to report your child absent. Please visit <https://www.hrce.ca/SafeArrival> for more information.

SICK CHILDREN

Sick children and children with contagious diseases should not come to school. Children who are sneezing and coughing frequently are also passing along colds to others, as well as not being physically able to keep up the active pace of the daily program. Consideration for your child's health, as well as the health of others is requested.



EXCEL Child Care

The EXCEL Childcare Program is a department of the Halifax Regional Centre for Education (HRCE). It offers an option to parents in selecting before school and after school care five days a week. The name EXCEL stands for Extended Care and Enhanced Learning. EXCEL will strive to provide EXCELent programming for your child. The program is designed for students from grades pre-primary to 5. Our goal at EXCEL is to create an organized, fun atmosphere for your child and to provide you with the sense of security knowing your child is in good hands.

SCHOOL SAFETY

At the beginning of the school year, your child may need to be taught the route to school or to the bus stop. Many parents ask an older child to tag along until there is no doubt that the child knows the correct way to school. It is always wise for children to walk with friends for both safety and social reasons. Children should always use available sidewalks and crosswalks.

In order to regulate the flow of traffic from staff, school buses, parents and caregivers we ask you to adhere to the following:

- Student drop-off is between 7:40am and 7:55am.
- Parents/caregivers of grade 2-5 students who are driving/walking to school please say good-bye at the beginning of the day and hello at the end of the day at a predetermined spot on the sidewalk along Cavalier Drive. This practice helps immensely with traffic congestion, as parents are able to get back to their vehicles much quicker and create a spot for another vehicle.

- **Entrance to the parking lot between 7:30am and 3:00pm is only permitted for staff, busses and volunteers**
- Parents/Caregivers who are driving to the school to pick up students park on Cavalier Drive or Cavendish Drive
- The driveway policy remains in effect on inclement weather days as well
- Exceptions apply for students whose mobility is impaired for any length of time. Parents of students in this situation are asked to drop by the main office to discuss arrangements.
- Parents sign in at the main office when visiting the school

LUNCHES

First day for ordering lunches from The Lunch Lady will be September 20th.

<https://thelunchlady.ca>

RECESS

All children play outside if the weather is suitable. Please ensure children are dressed appropriately for the weather. It is important your child

brings a healthy recess snack. Ideas include apples, oranges cut in sections, grapes, a banana, cheese and crackers, a muffin, or other healthy snack. Salty and/or sugary snacks provide a quick burst of energy, but do not provide the nutrition they require for learning.

Please Note:

Cavalier is a nut-aware school.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Emergency Management Plan has a number of steps to be followed to ensure the safety of all in the building. These procedures are discussed and practiced throughout the year so everyone is knowledgeable of what they should do in an emergency.

The three main components of the Emergency Management Plan are:

Evacuation – This is commonly referred to as a fire drill. A school may need to be evacuated for reasons other than fire, so we use the generic term 'evacuation'. We had our first drill this week.

Relocation – If our school had to be evacuated for a significant period of time during the day, we would have all students and staff relocate to another building in the community. Currently, this is the local church.

Lockdown Procedure – Unlike an evacuation where everyone leaves the building, the goal of the lockdown procedure is to have everyone remain in the building and follow directions to take a position of safety. Although infrequent, the possibility of a major incident creating a situation causing serious injury in our school is a possibility. There could be a hazardous leak outside the school, an animal loose in the building or in the general area, or a major health concern. We will practice a Lockdown drill during the week of September 18th.

SCHOOL CASH

Please take a few moments to sign up for our [new payment system](#). HRCE is moving away from accepting cash in the school for missing library books, pizza days, school trips, etc. Thank you.

CAVALIER CLOTHING

All orders for [Cavalier clothing](#) can be placed online and shipped directly to you. There is free shipping offered on orders over \$85 and discount rates when ordering multiple items so feel free to combine orders with your family and friends to get a discount. Also, if you sign up for the clothing site newsletter, they offer sale codes during the year.

You are able to customize the items by choosing your logo, style etc. and can even embroider on your child's name...so it's less likely to get lost! These items also make great Christmas and birthday gifts.

Another bonus is that Cavalier Drive will get a rebate cheque for 10% of the profits, so this is another fun way to support your school AND get something cool in the process!