

Hello Cavalier Community:

It seems we have just put our Hallowe’en costumes away and we are suddenly anticipating holiday concerts. The first term has flown by, and we have so much to celebrate with our young learners. The second term will bring even more growth of those young minds. As always, thanks for all you do to support students and staff.

Sincerely,

Stephen Driscoll

Principal

**Important Dates & Reminders**

December 4 - Professional Learning Day – No Classes

December 6 – Green Christmas

December 13 – Christmas Concert – 6:00p.m. (see list of classes performing below)

December 14 – Christmas Concert – 6:00p.m. (see list of classes performing below)

December 21 – First day of Holiday Break

January 2 – School re-opens

January 8 – Home and School – 6:00p.m.

January 25 – Family Bingo – 6:00p.m.

February 15 – Art Show – 6:00 – 7:00p.m.

February 19 - Heritage Day – No Classes

March 4 – Home and School – 6:00p.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 – 7:30p.m.

April 4 – Professional Learning and Parent Teacher Conferences – No Classes

May 6 – Home and School – 6:00p.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](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Ccharroun%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CINetCache%5CContent.Outlook%5CF9IZL0NT%5Ccad.hrce.ca)

**SCHOOL HOURS**

Supervision Begins 7:40am (Students should not be on the playground unsupervised before 7:40am)

School Starts 8:00am

Lunch 11:30am - 12:30pm

Dismissal 2:00pm

 **CHRISTMAS SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES**

Please see important information on the last page of this newsletter for families who are in need of support for the Christmas season.

**GUIDELINES FOR SCHOOL AND/0R BUS CANCELLATIONS**

<https://www.hrce.ca/weather>

**GREEN CHRISTMAS**

On Wednesday, December 6th we will be holding a *Green Christmas Sale* for students. Students are asked to bring a small amount of money if they wish to purchase gently used items for the special people in their life. All items will sell for 50 cents. All students will have the opportunity to shop for 3-4 gifts. Money raised will be used to support families in our community during the season. Each student is asked to bring a reusable shopping bag to carry their wrapped gifts.

We are looking for donations of gently used items such as, but not limited to: ornaments, knick-knacks, DVD’s, toys, puzzles, games, purses, neckties, jewelry, small household items (something a child can carry home). We have books to sell from previous donations. Please do not send books.

If you can help us out with a donation of any of the above items, please drop them off at the school office any time between November 14th and December 5th.

**HOLIDAY CONCERTS**

We will be having our annual Holiday Concerts on Wednesday, December 13 and Thursday, December 14 at 6:00 p.m. Please reserve those dates to come and enjoy the talents of young, energetic and talented students. There will be an afternoon performance each day at 12:45 p.m. for grandparents or family members/friends who won’t be able to attend the evening performance due to our limitation of **two tickets per family** for the evening event.

The following classes are performing on:

**Wednesday, Dec. 13**

P Chalmers & P/1 Womby

2/3 Arnold & 3 Raymond

2/3 Fraser & 3/4 Strang/Trainor

4/5 Parsons & 5

 MacDonald

**Thursday, Dec. 14**

P/1 Ward and P/1

 Pope/MacNamara &

 1/2 McPhee

1/2 Lajo & 1/2

 Surette/Boudreau

3/4 DesChamp &

 4 Langille

4/5 McCarthy & 5 Dares

Tickets will be handed out to the youngest family member on concert day.

If you will not be using your evening tickets please contact Cindy Harroun, 902-864-7524, before your concert day so that the tickets may be added to the extra tickets list.

Please contact the school office, 902-864-7524, if you would like your name to be added to a list for extra tickets. We will contact you before the concert if tickets become available.

**Doors will open at 6:00 pm.** Any students performing should arrive by 5:30 pm. This year we are also collecting food donations to be used as part of the Breakfast Program, i.e. cereal, granola bars (nut free) etc. Parking is very limited. Please do not park in the fire lane. The school needs to be accessible to emergency vehicles. Students are to remain in their classrooms until the end of the performance. After the concert, parents are asked to go to the classrooms to pick up their children. This procedure ensures the safety of our students on a very busy evening.

**CHAPERONING AND VOLUNTEERING**

If you are interested in volunteering in the school and/or chaperoning on field trips, parents are required to have their paperwork up-to-date and on file in the school office. In accordance with HRCE’s Student Protection Policy, prior to volunteering with the Halifax Regional Centre for Education, all volunteers will provide a **Criminal Records Check with Vulnerable Sector Check and a Child Abuse Registry.**

If you have any questions or wish to check the status of your paperwork, that is currently on file in the school office, please read the volunteer information on the school website and/or email Cindy Harroun at charroun@hrce.ca

**SINGLE USE PLASTIC**

Please remember to include a fork or spoon in your child’s lunch. The school is unable to provide utensils any longer.

**SCHOOL CASH**

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

**WINTER WEATHER**

It is a good idea to pack a change of clothes and perhaps extra mittens and a hat in your child’s book bag. All children will play outside during recess and lunch. This will eliminate a call home for a change of clothes.

**UPDATING DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION**

**How do I get started?**

Visit the PowerSchool Parent Portal at
<https://sishrsb.ednet.ns.ca/public/>.

From inside the Parent Portal:

1. Select the student you wish to register along the top
2. Select the "HRCE Demographic Updates" icon from the Navigation menu on the left side
3. Enter the Date of Birth
4. Complete the form

The HRCE Demographic Updates Form is available to you on the PowerSchool Parent Portal to submit.

**We need all families to submit this form** so that we can confirm that we have the most up to date information for our students.

Though you may not have demographic updates, please still submit the form as it includes the "Publication of Student Personal Information and Student Work" permission form that needs to be updated every year.

**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.

There is not an option for a Late Arrival so if your child will be arriving late please select the “AWN” code and when your child arrives at school they should check in at the office. We will switch their code to “L”

**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 EXCELlent 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 allow their little ones 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 between 7:40am and 7:55am takes place on are asked to say good-bye at the end of the fence/sidewalk on Cavalier Drive.
* **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**

Parents are able to order hot lunches from The Lunch Lady. Check out the link below for more information. You will need to send a utensil with your child on days that you order hot lunch. The Lunch Lady does not supply utensils.

<https://thelunchlady.ca>

**RECESS**

All children play outside if the weather is suitable. 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. 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.

**CAVALIER CLOTHING**

All orders for [Cavalier clothing](https://cavalierdriveelementary.entripyshops.com) 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!

CHRISTMAS SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES

Christmas Support for the Salvation Army closes Dec.6th.

<https://salvationarmy.ca/maritime/home/christmas/hrm/>

<https://www.feednovascotia.ca/find-food>

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| A child eating corn on the cob  Description automatically generated | [Find food](https://www.feednovascotia.ca/find-food)Find a food bank or meal program. If you are in need of food for yourself or your family we can find the closest location near you.[www.feednovascotia.ca](http://www.feednovascotia.ca) |

<https://www.freedomkitchensackville.com/>

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| A green building with stairs and stairs  Description automatically generated | [Home | Freedom Kitchen | Lower Sackville, NS](https://www.freedomkitchensackville.com/)Freedom Kitchen & Closet is an outreach program of Knox United Church Lower Sackville. We provide free meals to those in need every Monday night. We also provide free clothing, toiletries, and other essentials for those in need.[www.freedomkitchensackville.com](http://www.freedomkitchensackville.com) |

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| [Beacon House](https://beaconhousens.org/)Beacon House Neighbours Helping Neighbours Help us on our mission The mission of Beacon House Interfaith Society is to work in a caring and…beaconhousens.org |

<https://beaconhousens.org/>

St Paul’s Family Resources Institute: Registration begins after Thanksgiving and runs until the end of November. Call to register at 902-477-5090.

Salvation Army: Starting Monday, October 23, you can register online at hrmchristmas.ca or in person at 2038 Gottingen Street in Halifax. If you have questions, call 902-422-1598.

Parker Street: Starting Monday, October 2, you can register online at parkerstreet.org or by visiting in person Monday to Friday, between 8:30am and 12pm or between 1pm and 3pm. For more information, call 902-425-2125 and select option 1.

There are over 40 other organizations in Halifax Regional Municipality that offer food and/or gift support for Christmas. 211 will also have some information about certain organizations offering holiday food and gift support programs. You can contact them to see if there are support options in your area. If you're unable to register directly with an organization, you can request to be matched with an organization for your support.

Via Feed Nova Scotia, you can submit requests for support starting November 1st online at feednovascotia.ca/find-food/find-christmas-support. Alternatively, you can submit requests via phone starting November 8 by calling  902-457-2849 and staff will be available 9am until 4pm, Monday to Friday.