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Hello Cavalier Community:

I can’t believe it’s February already! I still find the occasional Christmas decoration around the school and my home. Students have come so far with their learning on many levels. It is very exciting to see their growth. Keep reading at home – it makes all the difference with their literacy skills…and it is fun.

Each day we have daylight longer, the sun is warmer…don’t blink – spring will be here before we know it!

Enjoy the snow,

Stephen Driscoll

Principal

**Important Dates & Reminders**

February 1 – 29 –Registration Month for the 2024-25 school year

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

February 19 - Heritage Day – No Classes

February 20 - Information Session for 2024-25 Grade Primary Parents 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm

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:\Users\charroun\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Outlook\F9IZL0NT\cad.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

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

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

**REGISTRATION INFORMATION FOR THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR!**

HRCE now accepts registrations for school through an online portal, PowerSchool Enrollment!

<https://www.hrce.ca/families/student-registration-updates>

Registration starts annually in February for the following school year to ensure appropriate resources are in place for September. Children born in 2019 are eligible for Pre-Primary or Primary and children born in 2020 are eligible for Pre-Primary in the 2024-25 school year.

Need a hand? We’re here to help! If you need support, please contact our Parent Navigators at 902-464-2000.

❤️❤️❤️

Next week, 12th – 16th, the Home & School Committee will be hosting Teacher Appreciation Week ❤️ Students are encouraged to make paper hearts or signs at home with messages for the teachers. It can be about a specific teacher or all of them in general. Please have them drop off their hearts/signs to Ms. Cindy in the office by **Friday, February 9th**. They will be displayed in the hallway. Stay tuned for other events next week where the Home and School Committee will be needing your help.

**Friendships**

As a continuation of Bell Let's Talk Day and in the interest of continually creating 'safe space' at Cavalier, next week, we will be focusing on 'healthy friendships'. Each day, during our daily class meetings, we are encouraging conversations about what a healthy friendship, sounds, feels and looks like! On the 14th, Valentines Day, staff and students are invited to come dressed in their warm and fuzzy pyjamas and complete activities/stories and reflect on what characterizes a good friend. We encourage families to ask their children questions about things discussed and what they have learned about friendship and kindness.

**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 HRCE website or email Cindy Harroun at [charroun@hrce.ca](mailto: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.

**COUGAR CONNECTIONS**

Stacy Payne has started a new initiative at Cavalier called Cougar Connections. This will be a multi-age Physical Education class with an emphasis on basic fundamental movement skills, concepts of play, positive social interactions, sportsmanship and fun!

Teachers throughout the school nominated numerous students to participate in this weekly event. I will aim to have groups of less than 20 students, who will meet once a week for four weeks. After the 4 weeks, a new group of students will be chosen.

Connecting in a school environment with multi-aged students can be an empowering experience for all students. Older students will have the opportunity to not only be leaders, but to play games through the lens of a small child. Our younger students will have the chance to form relationships with older students, that can help to create a sense of belonging, and safety while at school.

These sessions can also provide students with the opportunity to try skills that we may be moving towards in regular Physical Education classes, providing them with confidence going into their class.

You may hear your child use language such as "What is the game story?" or the "highlight". We will end each session with a "game story" or "activity highlights", focusing on the positive words or actions that they used, or saw someone else use. A focus on the positive aspects of a game can help students to create a healthy growth mindset, and perhaps some increased resiliency.

Stacy is thrilled to have the opportunity to foster some Cougar Connections throughout the Winter and Spring!

**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.

**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**

The high snowbanks decrease visibility for both drivers and pedestrians. Please remind children to check around them carefully when walking on sidewalks. It is always wise for children to walk with friends for both safety and social reasons.

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. Our next planned Lockdown Drill will take place the week of February 12-16.

**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!