



# École Shannon Park School

75 Iroquois Dr, Dartmouth, NS, B3A 4M5 Phone (902) 464-2084; Fax (902) 464-2866  
Bells – Supervision 8:05 Classes Begin 8:25 Lunch 11:25-12:15 Dismissal 2:15

## DECEMBER 2023

### Upcoming important HRCE dates

Reminder of some important upcoming dates in the HRCE calendar.

There will be no school on December 4 as it is a Professional Learning Day for all grade levels.

The 2023 Holiday Break will begin on December 21. The first day of school in the new year will be January 2.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**  
Mark these Important HRCE dates on your calendar!  
Visit [hrce.ca/calendars](http://hrce.ca/calendars) to view & download the 2023-24 calendar.

DECEMBER 4	<b>NO CLASSES</b> Professional Learning Day
DECEMBER 21	<b>NO CLASSES</b> First day of holiday break
JANUARY 2	<b>CLASSES RESUME</b> First day of school for 2024



### Happy Holidays!

To all who celebrate, we wish you a joyful holiday season! Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas, and Blessed Kwanzaa!



## Reminder New Morning Duty Procedures started Nov 14<sup>th</sup>

**Morning Duty Schedule (8:05 - 8:20am)** Zones: Side playground and pavement (Grade P-2 students) / Front playground and pavement to circle steps (Grade 3-6 students). When students get off the bus, they will now go to their designated playground areas above. These zones will be supervised by teachers starting at 8:05am, not before. The entrance bell will ring at 8:20 and students will line up and meet their teachers at their regular entrance doors. Teachers will communicate with you what line colour they will be using for their class.

**Indoor/Rainy days:** Students enter at 8:05am and will go straight to their classrooms where their teachers will be.

**Breakfast Program:** will remain the same and students can come in, make a choice and take it back outdoors with them or wait until they enter at 8:20 to choose something if they want it.



**We're always hiring!**

Did you know that HRCE has nearly 12,000 employees serving more than 58,000 students?

Our job postings are updated every Wednesday at noon and feature a wide variety of career opportunities!

As HRCE grows, so does our staff. Add yourself to a world of learning! Check out new opportunities weekly at [www.myhrce.ca/jobs](http://www.myhrce.ca/jobs).

## SchoolsPlus is here to support you

SchoolsPlus is a confidential, free service available in every school in Nova Scotia. Our goal is to build positive relationships between families, schools, and communities. We can help students with what they need to succeed – from home, to school, and back again! For more information, email [schoolsplus@hrce.ca](mailto:schoolsplus@hrce.ca).

**What is SchoolsPlus?**

SchoolsPlus is a confidential, free service available in every school in Nova Scotia. Our goal is to build positive relationships between families, schools, and communities. We can help students with what they need to succeed – from home, to school, and back again!

**Connect with us!**

Parents, guardians and students (12+) can self-refer to SchoolsPlus - 12 months a year!

902-464-2041  
schoolsplus@hrce.ca  
@HRCESchoolsPlus

**Resources & support**

**Recreation**  
Help finding and applying for rec programs or funding.

**Tutoring**  
Help understanding and accessing tutoring supports.

**Food supports**  
Help accessing food banks and other local food supports.

**Health & wellness**  
Help navigating healthcare systems.

**General support**  
Help completing paperwork and applications, as well as transportation and accompaniment to appointments.

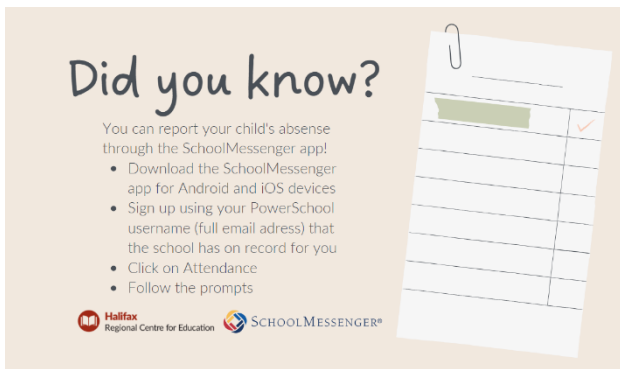
**Schools Plus**  
NOVA SCOTIA • NOUVELLE ÉCOSSE

## SchoolMessenger App

Did you know you can report your child's absence through the SchoolMessenger app?

SchoolMessenger's SafeArrival is an absence-management system that improves student safety and makes it easy for you to let the school know about your child's absence.

- Download the SchoolMessenger app for Android and iOS devices
- Sign up using your PowerSchool username (full email address) that the school has on record for you
- Click on Attendance
- Follow the prompts



## Inclement Weather

Did you know? HRCE takes great care when making the decision to alter the regular operations of schools and school buses in the event of severe or inclement weather.

It is HRCE's goal to communicate any changes to the regular operations of schools and/or buses as close to 6:00 a.m. as possible. **A 6:00 a.m. announcement could be:**

- All schools are delayed in opening by two hours and bus pickups are delayed by two hours; or
- All schools are open, but some or all buses are not operating for the day; or
- Some schools (either individually or by family) are closed for the day; or
- All schools are closed for the day.

If weather deteriorates, or is forecasted to worsen throughout the morning, **an 11:00 a.m. announcement could be:**

- Bused students will be picked up two hours earlier than their regular dismissal time; and
- Walking students will be dismissed at their regularly scheduled lunch hour.

### How will I find out?

- By email to the addresses in PowerSchool
- By text message, **if you have opted in**. If you aren't sure if you have opted-in, text Y to the following number: **978338**
- On our website [www.hrce.ca](http://www.hrce.ca)
- On X (formerly Twitter) at [Twitter.com/HRCE\\_NS](https://twitter.com/HRCE_NS)
- On Instagram at [www.instagram.com/hrce\\_ns/](https://www.instagram.com/hrce_ns/)

It's important to always have a plan in place for childcare in the event of any cancellation. For more information on how HRCE manages during inclement weather, visit [hrce.ca/weather](http://hrce.ca/weather). For more information on our school early dismissal procedures, please see the notice attached to the Nov newsletter email.

## Message from our Home and School Committee:

Shannon Park Elementary's Home and School committee is a group of family volunteers who help make important programs (like breakfast and lunch) and special events (like dances, fairs, and fundraisers) happen at our school. We are all about building school spirit and a sense of community!

We always need new volunteers and welcome ideas and creativity. Get in touch: [shannonparkspec@gmail.com](mailto:shannonparkspec@gmail.com)

**Our DFS Fundraiser came to a close and raised nearly \$4400 for our school!** Thank you to all who participated.



**Food donations made at the Cookies and Crafts event will be donated to the Dartmouth Community Fridge.** Thank you to everyone who volunteered and made the event a success!

**The next Home and School meeting will be held on January 10 at 7 PM.** Anyone is welcome to join in person in the library or on Zoom.

**Little Caesar's pizza lunches are now ready to order for the remainder of the school year.** You can place your order at [HealthyHunger.ca](http://HealthyHunger.ca).

**Thanks to your donations at the Halloween Howl, we were able to purchase a new guitar for the guitar club.**

**We continue to look for volunteers for our breakfast and lunch programs.** Each takes about an hour of time and very basic food preparation. Email [shannonparkspec@gmail.com](mailto:shannonparkspec@gmail.com) for more information.

**Our Mabel's Labels fundraiser goes throughout the school year!** Go to [Campaigns.MabelsLabels.com](http://Campaigns.MabelsLabels.com) and search for Shannon Park Elementary School.

**Gratitude Note:** A very big THANK YOU to IMP Solutions for their generous donation to our breakfast program. This donation has had a direct and positive impact on the lives of our students, helping them start their day with a nutritious meal that sets them up for success in the classroom.



Also a huge thank you to all our book fair volunteers who helped! And another huge thanks to all our students and families who came out to purchase books and support our school library. We raised over \$3500 to spend on new books for our school! Amazing job everyone!



## SCHOOL PROCEDURES

Please ensure you are aware of the procedures to help our school run smoothly and safely.

- **Safe Arrival** - Please report an absence for your student in advance, up to the start of the school day on the date of your child's absence by:
  1. **Toll-Free Number** - Parents/guardians can call **1-833-582-6940** to report future absences using an automated system.
  2. **SchoolMessenger App** - Parents/guardians can download the SchoolMessenger app for Android and iOS devices and will sign up using their PowerSchool username (full email).
- We require a valid working phone number, so we can contact you
- Supervision starts 8:05 do not arrive before
- Please ensure your child arrives on time to limit disruptions to important routines
- Please call/email for an appointment with the principal, vice principal or teachers to ensure availability
- Visitors must sign in at the office, wear a visitor badge and state a reason for each visit.
- Visitors are not permitted to roam the school as we protect our instructional time and ensure the safety of students, staff and visitors too
- Teachers will generally respond to email within 2 business days
- We are a scent and nut aware school
- No pets! For your safety, student safety and pet safety (Service Dogs permitted)
- No smoking or vaping on school property
- Proper forms are required for the administration of any medications. No medications will be administered to students by school staff during school hours unless it is necessary and prescribed by a health care professional. This includes any over the counter medications.
- Please ensure we have current custody or court documents if applicable
- Talk to your child about crosswalk safety
- All students will ride their assigned bus/buses only
- Children are not permitted to open outside doors or answer the doorbell
- Hold Secure Practice, Lockdown Practice and Fire Drills We will practice these security measures throughout the year to develop an awareness and expectations for safety.
- No Driving/Parking on School Property
- There is **absolutely no driving/parking on school property** for unauthorized vehicles without prior arrangements during the school day. Please drive slow and watch for crosswalks. **When buses arrive, do not drive, or walk around them.** This protects all of us and especially our students.
- **Power School Parent Portal Login** - <https://sishrsb.ednet.ns.ca/public/>



### School Lunch Program

Lunch monitors supervise students at lunch, **not** teachers and there is no access to a microwave. Students are required to follow the provincial code of conduct. Students will play outdoors for half and eat indoors for half of the time: 11:25am-12:15pm

Hot Lunches are To Be Determined based on Volunteer availability.

**We are still looking to hire lunch monitors** If you are available at lunch a few days a week or all days of the week, please reach out to Paula Leger in the office for a hiring package and ensure that you have your criminal records check (with vulnerable sector) and child abuse registry.

## Regular Attendance/Reducing Classroom Interruptions

Thank you for your continued contribution to reducing classroom interruptions and making sure students arrive on time and scheduling appointments outside school hours when possible. Of course, we understand that circumstances are sometimes unavoidable but **having your child here regularly on time is very important.**  
“While student attendance is a critical determinant of student success, students are encouraged to engage in healthy habits and remain at home if they are feeling unwell, especially if they have an infectious disease that might affect fellow students or school staff.” ~ Nova Scotia Student Engagement and Attendance Policy

## Important Dates

### DECEMBER

**4:** Professional learning day (PP-12) - no classes

**21:** First day of holiday break

### JANUARY

**2:** Classes resume

**10:** SAC and Home and School Meetings 6-8pm

### FEBRUARY

*February is Registration Month!*

**19:** Heritage Day - no classes

**21:** SAC and Home and School Meetings 6-8pm

### MARCH

**11-15:** March Break

**18:** Assessment & evaluation day - no classes

**25-April 4:** Report cards sent home

**29:** Good Friday - no classes

### APRIL

**1:** Easter Monday - no classes

**4:** AM professional learning & PM parent-teacher conferences - no classes

**10:** SAC and Home and School Meetings 6-8pm

### MAY

**8:** SAC and Home and School Meetings 6-8pm

**20:** Victoria Day - no classes

**25:** Spring Fair 10:30-1:00pm

**29:** Spring Concert Date for Grade 3/4-6 (During the school day- schedule to be determined)

**30:** Violin Concert 6:00pm

### JUNE

**1:** Spring Fair Rain Date if needed

**27:** Assessment & evaluation day (PP-12) - no classes

**28:** Last day of school