
September 2021-2022

Rockingstone Heights

1 Regan Drive

Halifax, Nova Scotia

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Home of the Tigers

Welcome Back to School!

Dear Families of Rockingstone Heights School!

We are so excited to be back and to be back with some lightened restrictions. We will continue wearing masks and hand sanitizing. Please refer to updated public health policies sent to families yesterday by the HRCE. I have included it in the body of this newsletter. We had a great start to our 2021-2022 school year! The weather was in our favor and students and staff quickly got back into new routines.

Tomorrow is **Stand up to Bullying** day. We are encouraging students and staff to wear pink!

Grade Seven Immunization forms will be sent home and will need to be signed and returned as soon as possible. We will also be sending registration forms home for you to review and edit. It is very important that contact information is updated.

At this time we still have water coolers to supply water however new fountains are being installed. Please remember to send your child with a water bottle as we don't provide cups or bottles.

Our desire is to create a safe and caring learning environment. So your child has an optimal learning experience, we have decided that the use of personal devices will only be permitted during morning arrival and during lunch. Your child can check their phone during those times. If you need to reach your child prior to those times, please call the office 902-479-4452 and we will make sure they get your message. ~ Amy Weedon and Greg White

Important Dates

September 9

Stand up to Bullying

September 15

Curriculum
Information to go
home

September 16

School Picture Day

September 23

PD DAY – No School
for students

September 30

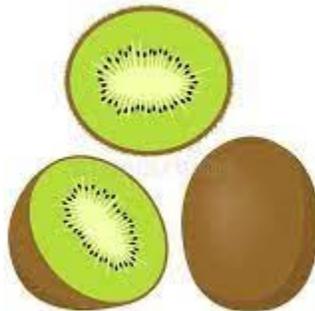
National Day for
Truth and
Reconciliation – No
School

Entry and Dismissal Doors

Main Entrance	Back Baseball Field Entrance	Back Entrance Near Lot
All Staff	Grade Primary MacGuire	Grade 3-4 McCulley
701 Haverstock	Grade P-1 Jones	Grade 4-5 LeBlanc
702 Hennessy	Grade 1-2 MacNeil	Grade 5-6 Liew
703 MacNeil	Grade 2-3 Erickson/Aalders	<u>Grade 6 MacIssaac</u>
801 Megeney	<u>Pre-Primary</u>	<u>Grade 6 Singer</u>
802 Mughal		
Late Arrivals		
Bus Students		

Allergies!

Please remember we are a NUT aware school! Refrain from sending any nut products to school as we have several staff and students with severe allergies. We also have some staff and students with serious allergies to pineapple and kiwi.



School Advisory Council (SAC)

We are looking for parents who want to support Rockingstone in a positive way and in a collaborative way. Our first School Advisory Council (SAC) meeting will be held on October 26th. The SAC is a provincially-mandated group that acts in an advisory capacity to the school principal. Our SAC is made up of administration, Teaching and Support Staff representatives, Parents/Guardians and Community Members. The SAC meets 6 times a year and discusses a variety of topics surrounding student success in our school. If you are interested in being part of our School Advisory Council, please contact Ms. Amy Weedon (aweedon@hrce.ca).

Welcome New Staff

Tiffany Sparks – Additional EAL Teacher

Michael MacIsaac – Grade Six

Tony Kiew- Grade 5-6

Julie Singer – Grade 6

Jenny MacNeil – Jr. High Core French/Social Studies 7

Rita Mistak – Lead ECE Pre-Primary

Judy Higgins – Caretaker

Derrick Hennessey – Grade 7 Math, Grade 7 Science, Grade 8 Social Studies

Arunita Lal – 50% Resource

Tara Aalders – 50% Grade 2/3

Michelle Harley – P-2 Learning Center

Amanda Bowden – School Counsellor

EPA – Melanie Davis

Schools Plus Assistant Leader – Rosalind Curran

Lunch Program

All students have the opportunity to stay for lunch at no charge. Student can stay for lunch starting on the first day of school. Students must bring their lunch to school. There is no microwave to heat food for students.

A form will be going home this week for parents to complete if their child is staying for lunch. Please return this form immediately to ensure we have an accurate count of which students will be staying and what students will be leaving the building

School Closures/Bus Cancellations

Decisions on school closures are posted on the Halifax Regional Center of Education website at www.hrce.ca, on Twitter at [hrce_ns](https://twitter.com/hrce_ns), recorded on 464-INFO (4636) and communicated to all local radio stations. You can also receive notice of school and bus cancellations by e-mail or text message by following the link on the front page (left side) of the HRCE website.

In case of a school closure during the day, you can help us to ensure that your child is dismissed safely by making sure that we have up-to-date contact information.

Public Health Guidelines - Families

We all have a role to play to keep our families, our schools and our communities safe.

While the expectation is this school year will look and feel more familiar, Nova Scotia has a [Back to School Plan](#) that provides Public Health guidance to keep everyone safe.

If you haven't already, please take the time to review the plan and its core public health measures.

Like last year, there are steps we can all take to keep each other healthy and safe. These include:

- Reviewing the [COVID-19 Daily Checklist](#) each day to closely monitor your health and the health of those you care for.
- Understanding what to expect if your child develops symptoms while at school by reviewing the [Preventing COVID-19 Spread in Child and Youth Settings](#) fact sheet.

Nova Scotia Health has also updated its [Contact Tracing in Child and Youth Settings](#) fact sheet which outlines the steps Public Health will take if a case of COVID-19 is reported in a school.

As everyone settles back into the school year routine, it's important to remember that getting vaccinated is our best defense against COVID-19. The more people in a community who are vaccinated and protected from COVID-19, the harder it is for the virus to spread. All Nova Scotians aged 12+ have access to safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines free-of-charge. You can learn more about COVID-19 vaccines, including how to book an appointment, at <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/vaccine>.

SchoolCash Online

Families:

Paying school-related fees is about to get easier!

We're excited to let you know that HRCE is launching a new system that will allow you to make payments electronically, with the click of a button. From lunch orders to yearbook fees, you will be able to make all payments safely, securely and quickly through **SchoolCash Online**.

Our school will post items for purchase and assign school fees relevant to your child. You can make all purchases and payments from your phone, tablet or computer.

We would like families to register as soon as possible.

To get started, please register for **SchoolCash Online**. It's free and takes less than two minutes. You will receive an email once items are posted for purchase.

Visit <https://hrce.schoolcashionline.com/> and click **Register** to get started.

Need support? Connect with the SchoolCash Online help desk at schoolcashionline.com/Home/Support

We hope that **SchoolCash Online** makes paying school-related fees more convenient!

Thank you,

Amy Weedon

We are having a Lockdown Drill this Month!

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The safety and security of our students and staff is a top priority for **Rockingstone Heights School** and the Halifax Regional Center for Education. We have been implementing a number of measures as part of a comprehensive plan aimed at ensuring our school remains a safe place for our students to learn.

One of the procedures our school will be practicing is a lockdown drill. During a lockdown drill, classroom doors are secured and the students remain inside the room until instructed by the teacher to resume their activities. All exterior doors are locked and no one is permitted to enter or leave the building. Students remain inside the school and classrooms when circumstances make it safer to stay in the classroom rather than evacuate. Just as we prepare our students to properly respond to a fire drill, they also need to be aware of the proper response during a lockdown drill. These drills should be treated with the same level of importance as fire drills.

Please be assured that staff at our school will spend time discussing the importance of this procedure with students prior to running a drill. We will also take time after the drill to remind them that it was only a practice and there was no danger. When possible, our School Liaison Officer may assist us in conducting the lockdown drills just as the Fire Department assists with evacuation drills. We practice these drills to ensure our school remains a safe place for teaching and learning.

Please contact me if you have any questions about lockdown drills.

Thank you,

Amy Weedon

Principal

Rockingstone Heights School