



December/
January 2023
Volume 3



Principal's Message

It has been a busy beginning and positive start to our academic school year. Staff and students were excited to be back in the building. The year began with our picture day, university and college tours, club fair, environment cleanup day, online Remembrance Day Ceremony, and lots of spirit activities sponsored by student council. Our Breakfast Program continues to run every Tuesday and Thursday.

It is great to witness the enthusiasm of students, as well as speak to our future graduates about their plans. For some, there is a certainty of where they will go and what they will take and others are still undecided. Whatever their feelings, the administrators, staff, guidance counsellors, and school personnel are here to support their next steps. Encourage your son/daughter who will be graduating in June 2023 to begin to develop their letters for scholarships. Information regarding scholarships can be found on the student services board. This is updated regularly with the latest scholarships and open houses.

We were pleased to have our curriculum night in September and Parent- Teacher night took place in November. School sports and extracurricular activities are off to a great start with participation in all events. We had a successful season in girls' and boys' soccer, cross -country, and golf. The football team placed second in the championship game.

In addition, our grade 12's had their first semi formal. It went extremely well and was well attended. Grad photos were taken in December and retakes will happen in February 2023. All grade 12 students must have their picture taken with our photographer to be in the yearbook and on the school composite. Yearbooks are on sale for \$65 from purchasing a book at the school or online. Deadline to purchase a yearbook is March 1, 2023.

School Advisory Meeting (SAC) are held the first Monday of each month. If you are interested in being a member, please send your name to one of our administrators. This year the school and the SAC are raising funds to replace our school bleachers. Please look out for events and how to support this important initiative. Next SAC meeting is February 6, 2023 at 6pm.

Exams will begin January 23 -27. Our Assessment Day is on January 27. The second semester will begin on January 30. Our school is still collecting letters for our 1792 project. Please send your submissions to Auburn Drive high at 300 Auburn Drive, Cole Harbour, NS B2W 6E9.

In the event of school closure due to **inclement weather** please check the HRCE website, twitter account, or cancellation information line 902-464-4636. There also could be a delayed opening to the school day. Delayed starts would be considered when it is not safe to open schools at the regularly scheduled time, but it is predicted that conditions will improve after a **2-hour delayed opening**. "Delayed openings would be considered when a severe weather event has concluded but snow clearing or other operations require additional time. Delayed opening may also be considered when a physical plant is experiencing an issue (power, water) and additional time is required to prepare the facility for opening".

Karen Hudson, Principal

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- Jan.3 - School Re-opens
- Jan.23-27 Exams
- Jan.30— Second Semester Begins
- Jan.31—Grade 9 Parent Meeting @ 6:30pm
- Feb.6—SAC @ 6pm
- Feb.15—Curriculum Night
- March 1— Deadline for Purchasing Yearbook
- March 13-16 March Break
- April 20—PD/PT Interviews
- June 27—Prom
- June 29—Graduation @ 2pm

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Indigenous Holiday Tradition

Like many cultures, Mi'kmaw will gather around a tree on December 25 and open presents among family and friends. Many will attend church later in the day while some will not. Many may undergo a sweat or other ceremony to pay homage to the spirit world as their customs dictate

Kwanzaa

Kwanzaa is an annual celebration of African-American culture that is held from December 26 to January 1, culminating in a communal feast called Karamu, usually held on the 6th day.

Hanukkah

(Hebrew: "Dedication") also called **Feast of Dedication, Festival of Lights, or Feast of the Maccabees**, is a Jewish festival that begins on Kislev 25 and is celebrated for eight days. Hanukkah reaffirms the ideals of Judaism and commemorates in particular the rededication of the Second Temple of Jerusalem by the lighting of candles on each day of the festival.

Chinese New Year 2023—The



Year of the Water Rabbit

Starting from January 22nd, 2023 (Chinese New Year), and ending on February 9th, 2024 (Chinese New Year's Eve).

The rabbit is the symbol of longevity, peace, and prosperity in Chinese Culture, thus 2023 is predicted to be a year of hope. The Rabbit of 2023 falls under the wood element, with water as the complementary element.



We are pleased to welcome the following new staff to our school:

Ms Joanna Kavanagh—Administrative Assistant

Ms Cheryl Chambers—Library Assistant

Ms Ann Hanna—EPA

Ms Madhu Purba-Wilson

Mr. Morris Grey—Teacher

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Mr. Matthew Hakim—Teacher

Student Council Presents Spirit Week December 12th -20th

Monday— Holiday Character Day

Tuesday— Holiday Sock & Sweater Day

Wednesday— White Out & Wrap Day

Thursday— Holiday Colours Day

Friday— Freaky Friday



Information From The Office:

#1792: Proclamation and Commemoration. Mayor Savage has declared January 15th, 2022 the 230th anniversary of Black Loyalists Exodus. Thank you Mr. Savage and thank you Ms. Hudson and the Auburn Drive High Afrcentric Cohort for all do stay tune upcoming workshop on March 10th at the Maritime Museum.

ATTENDANCE

Co-op and O2 attendance is done by the advisors once per week after they have checked in on with the placement managers. You will receive a phone call home on those days from our automated system.

****REMINDER:** If your student is going to miss class/classes, you can (1)send an email to Joanna.Kavanagh@hrce.ca asking her to mark the student as excused OR (2) send a note with the student upon his/her/their return. Messages left on voicemail or called into the office will not be recorded.

GRAD PHOTOS -Adams Photography was at Auburn taking grad photos. If you missed this opportunity but would still like your photo taken for the composite you can schedule a private session @ 902-434-0558. Mr. Adams will be returning in early February for retakes. You may have your photo taken at that time as well. *****ONLY PHOTOS TAKEN BY ADAMS PHOTOGRAPHY WILL BE DISPLAYED ON OUR COMPOSITE.**



STUDENT SERVICES

Its time for our grade 11 and 12 students to really start paying attention to our scholarship board in student services and checking

the Auburn High School website and most importantly, follow us on Instagram **@auburnstudentservices** for the latest scholarship and bursary information. Things really pick up in January so be sure take every opportunity and apply for financial offset for your post secondary education.

Auburn Drive High School is pleased to offer a Mi'kmaq/Indigenous Student Support Worker Program for students identified as having Indigenous ancestry - This refers to First Nation, Inuit, or Metis. The Halifax Regional Centre of Education (HRCE) developed the program to help Indigenous students achieve a more positive school experience and have greater success throughout their schooling.

The role of the support worker is to:

- provide a safe office environment for Indigenous students to meet, study or relax;
- assist in developing strategies with Indigenous students and school staff in achieving educational success;
- promote cultural awareness to all students and staff;
- create a communication strategy between Indigenous students and others;
- invite cultural guest speakers;
- conduct student activities that encourage cultural learning in a group setting or, one on one situation;
- assist Indigenous students in the transition from one level of education to another;
- attend meetings and other information sessions that enhance the educational and cultural needs of Indigenous students;
- provide other duties that are deemed beneficial to the Indigenous students and school as a whole.

Please feel free to reach out to should you have any questions to Rachel Merrick at rachel.merrick@hrce.ca.



* **Yearbooks** are available through online cash. Cost is \$65. Make sure to order yours early so you do not miss the deadline. All grade 12 students must have their picture taken with our photographer to be in the yearbook and on the school composite.

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development has launched a public engagement on strengthening local voice in our education system. This is a great opportunity to enhance our connection with communities and ensure we are putting students in the best position to be successful. The survey and virtual townhall (ThoughtExchange) can be found at: <https://www.ednet.ns.ca/consultations>

Inclement Weather:

Bus Planner Text Messaging (slider provided, link to <https://www.hrce.ca/node/41333>)
Did you know? HRCE is growing!

Winter is Coming: Guidelines for Inclement Weather:

Making the decision to alter the regular operations of school and/or school buses due to inclement weather is never an easy task. To learn more about how the Halifax Regional Centre for Education (HRCE) makes this call, visit www.hrce.ca/weather.

When is the decision made?

HRCE's goal is to make the decision as close to 6 a.m. as possible.

A 6 a.m. announcement could be:

All schools are delayed in opening by two hours and all 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 the weather deteriorates through the school day, the HRCE can decide to dismiss early. In the event of an early dismissal, the decision will be communicated as close to 11 a.m. as possible.

An 11 a.m. dismissal means:

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.

Please Note: students in Grades Primary to 6 will not be released from school until parents/guardians or designates have been notified by the school.

How will families be notified?

Families will receive an email and text message (*opt-in is required: text Y to 978338*)*
Check our website at www.hrce.ca
Follow us on Twitter at [@HRCE_NS](https://twitter.com/HRCE_NS)
Call the HRCE information line at 902-464-INFO (4636)
All local radio stations are informed

[Click here](#) for a printable PDF of our guidelines.

**If you know someone who is NOT a parent/guardian who would like to receive an email and/or text message, let them know they can sign up here: www.hrce.ca/notifications*

Bus Planner Text Messaging:

Does your child ride the bus? We are excited to introduce text messaging through Bus Planner!

To ensure compliance with Canadian Anti-Spam laws, you must opt-in to receive information by text message. You can opt-in by logging into [Bus Planner Parent Portal](#).

By opting in, you will receive texts from Bus Planner, including late notifications, general notices, and bus cancellations due to inclement weather.

Click [here](#) for directions on how to opt-in.

Don't have a Bus Planner Parent Portal account? Need help logging in? Please contact the HRCE Student Transportation Team at transportation@hrce.ca or call 902-431-4723.

Did you know? HRCE is growing!

More than 57,000 students are currently enrolled in the Halifax Regional Centre for Education (HRCE). In the last five years, enrolment has increased by 7,733 and that number continues to grow!

As our region's population expands (Nova Scotia's population reached one million last year), new families are registering all year round. This is an exciting time for our province, our city and for HRCE!

You can learn more here: www.hrce.ca/growth

