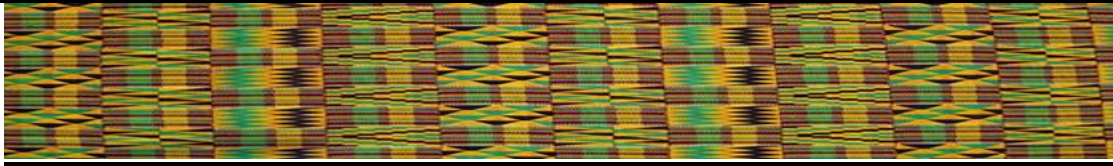




Humber Park School

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Tracey White, Principal
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THE HUMBER NEWS February 2021

Principal's Message:

Dear Families:

African Heritage month is upon us...a great month to celebrate as we work to educate the rest of the year! February tends to be a busy month and with the cold it usually feels longer than it really is but we are hoping that some of the events we are having will help us all manage to enjoy winter and keep positive during this pandemic! We know that we are certainly lucky to be in Nova Scotia! Please check out the information below.

Yours in education,
Ms. White

Drop Everything and Read begins (D.E.A.R.): Although Covid-19 has forced us to adapt and change the things we do, we are trying very hard as a staff to adapt important events to meet public health safety guidelines. To continue to work on our Student Success Plan goals of improved reading we are happy to say we will be continuing our weekly D.E.A.R time and we will be having another Read-a-Thon in March. Our whole school (adults included) will undertake a quiet reading time for 10 minutes beginning in early February. Teachers will begin with reviewing expectations and supports to students and we will practice in the classroom to begin. Then once students are ready, we will have a whole school reading time every Monday and Friday morning where students will drop everything. This year we cannot have classes coming to the lobby to read with staff or special

visitors as we did last year but we will have staff including myself visit their classrooms where appropriate. The goal is to increase interest, confidence and stamina within our school reading community in support of our SSP reading goal.

African Heritage Month Kick Off Assembly: On Monday, Feb. 1st, we will have our third annual African Heritage kick off assembly (virtually) at 1PM. One of the other ways we will celebrate our black learners and their heritage this month will be that all of our students from grades P-6 of African Decent will receive a copy of Big Dreamers: The Canadian Black History Activity Book by Akilah Newton and Tami Gabay which (celebrates the inspiring contributions of Black Canadians who overcame adversity and went on to achieve greatness while changing the course of history. Every teacher will also receive a copy to use as a resource in their classroom.

2021 African Nova Scotian History Challenge: As part of our culturally relevant work at Humber Park, we are organizing a school challenge based around the 2021 African Nova Scotian History Challenge held by the Delmore Buddy Daye Institute in Halifax. Each year, students in grade 3-6 work with Mr. Bundy, our African Nova Scotian Student Support Worker to research and create an essay or project with the intention of submitting the best entries to this contest. We hope to make this an annual event and we are planning to have each class undertake research on our local heroes and we will have prizes for the best entries. Grades P-2 will probably research a local hero(s) together as a class activity and our older grades will work in pairs, small groups or individually for this work.

Home & School: A small but dedicated group of families met in January with our Home & School president, Steph Bourque. At this meeting, we discussed future fundraisers possible in a pandemic. In March, we will have another Read-a Thon and in June, we will look at having a Walk-a-Thon. Also, it was suggested that as students look to May to display their art work at a virtual “Open House”, it was discussed that we may sell some of the students’ art work as a fundraiser...further discussion at our next meeting (sometime in late March – watch the March newsletter for a date. All money raised will continue to go towards supporting classroom teachers, school events like our African Nova Scotia Essay contest and setting funds aside towards the purchase of a new sound system when the pandemic ends.

Valentines: In our ongoing efforts to keep COVID precautions in place, Valentine celebrations this year will be a time to recognize friendships but **we will not be bringing Valentines from home.** This practice is consistent with the majority of schools in our Auburn High family. Many classes are having students make Valentines in class to give to friends and all students are encouraged to wear red or pink on Friday February 12th. The school will be providing individually wrapped treats that day to each class.

SAC: The SAC is our School Advisory Council, a group of parents and community members who advises the principal and vice principal on matters of importance to the school. The following parents and community members are part of our SAC: Marilyn Smith – chair, Teaira Cain, Jeanine Goulet, Larissa Lee, Hollie Pearce and Fiona Coulter. If you have topics you would like the SAC to discuss or questions you have for the committee, you can contact Marilyn Smith at the SAC e-mail address: hrce-sac-hpk@gnspec.ca. SAC meeting minutes are also posted on the school website if you would like to see what is discussed. Our next meeting is Tuesday, February 23rd at 6:00 for all members.

SSP – School Success Plan: Each school in Nova Scotia is expected to gather data on what academic areas their students are experiencing the greatest difficulty and plan strategies to support students to have the most impact on improving their achievement and helping them experience success. For Humber Park we continue to work on the following two goals: Our literacy goal is to improve student achievement in reading with an emphasis on accuracy, fluency and deeper comprehension. Our math goal is to improve student achievement in the area of number sense with a focus on students communicating their understanding.

Delayed Opening: If weather conditions warrant, the HRCE could implement a delayed opening. Delayed openings are considered when a severe weather event has concluded but snow clearing or other operations require additional time. Delayed opening may also be considered when the physical plant is experiencing an issue such as a power outage or loss of water and additional time is required to prepare the school to open. If this was to occur, school and Pre-Primary would be delayed by two hours. In our school, this means school would start at 10:10. If Southland is operating, the expectation will be that students are picked up two hours later than their regularly assigned time pending any weather-related delays. Our lunch and dismissal times will remain at their regularly scheduled times. Please be sure to keep the emergency dismissal information you provided us with this

past month for your child up to date in the event of a school closure during the day.

Important Upcoming Dates :

February 15 th	Heritage Day - Edward Francis Arab Day – No School
March 1st -	Pledge sheets go home for Read-a Thon
March 5 th -	Humber High Five assembly
March 3-10 th	Read a Thon begins (Wednesday – Wednesday) details to follow
March 15 th -19 th	March Break
March 24 th	Assessment & Evaluation Day – No school for students
April 6 th -	Report cards go home
April 8 th -	PD day/Virtual Parent/teacher meetings - No school for students