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<http://humberpark.ednet.ns.ca>

Suzanne McKenzie, Principal
Nicholas MacDonald, Vice Principal
Pauline MacInnis, Administrative Assistant



THE HUMBER NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2021

Principal's Message:

Dear Families:

Welcome Back to School! I am so excited to be joining your community as Principal. I have had the pleasure of meeting the students this past week. I am working hard to learn more about the Humber Park School Community and how to best support and guide the students towards personal well-being and success in academics. I look forward to a wonderful year of learning and growing!
Ms. McKenzie

Safety Updates: We will continue to navigate the Covid 19 Pandemic as advised from Provincial Health and Dr. Strang. The back to school plan link is included below as well as the daily checklist. If your child is sick please continue to keep them home. Use the daily checklist in your morning routine. We are hoping on September 15th that masks will be optional but we encourage students to continue to wear masks when they cannot social distance and continue increased hygiene procedures. Also, please note that **“Buffs and scarves” are not considered acceptable in place of a mask according to Public Health** and children were given new masks at the beginning of the year. Next week, any student who arrives with a scarf or buff in grades 3-6 will be given a mask to wear instead.

<https://backtoschool.ednet.ns.ca/>
[COVID-19 Daily Checklist](#)

Our 2021-22 School Team is as follows:

Principal – Suzanne McKenzie
Vice Principal – Nick MacDonald
Secretary – Pauline MacInnis
Grade Primary - Kim Stobo
Grade Primary/One –Val Dowding
Grade One/Two – Peyton Dewolfe
Grade Two – Kate MacLean
Grade Three/Four – Cassandra Chisholm
Grade Four/Five – Holly Collings
Grade Five – Nick MacDonald & Tara Webber
Grade Six – Laura Gibson
Music- Andrea Jeffrey
African NS Student Support - Juan Bundy
Band -Brittany Hann
Physical Education – Whitney Halloran & Meghan Robertson

Guidance – TBA
Reading Recovery/ELS – Cathy Cooke
Learning Centre – Crystal Gale, Amanda Vandenbrand & Aaron Mielnik
Resource- Phyllis-Ann Downey
French- Doris Ponce
Child and Youth Care Practitioner- Noah Tryder
Pre-Primary Lead-Lisa Smith
Pre-Primary Support ECE-Marissa Beaver
Library Support Specialist- Timothy Estey
Educational Program Assistants- Tonya Thomas, Tanya Crawley, Sharleen Scott-Hearn, Lauren Nickerson, Christine Dixon, Dominga Norrie, Melissa Vickery, Brittany Perry, Martha Collicut, Stephanie Mannette.

School Hours: 7:50-8:00 Classroom supervision - students enter the school and proceed to their classrooms.
8:00 First Bell – Student enter the school
8:10 Second Bell - Instruction begins
9:40-9:55 Recess
11:40-12:35 Lunch
2:10 Dismissal

Being On Time: It is essential that students arrive on time in the morning so that our routines are firmly established. Please try to pack a student’s essentials in the morning so that you do not have to drop them off during the day. We know everyone forgets occasionally and that is understandable but we are hoping to eliminate the times when this is a regular occurrence each day. We appreciate your understanding and support.

Communication Home: It is very important that we have the most up to date information in our PowerSchool database for our families. All forms of communication use this information so if we have a snow storm for example, and students are dismissed early and we have an old number, this can cause a great deal of anxiety for your child. All communication will be sent home via e-mail unless it has to be a paper copy with registration papers for example. If you do not receive communication regularly, please call the office so we can check your information.

Safe Arrival: If your child is not in attendance or will be late, please call our safe arrival number 902-464-5179.

Our Parking Lot: In an effort to maintain safety for students we ask that Parents/Guardians do not enter the parking lot when picking up or dropping off students.

High Five Awards and Assemblies: At this time we will continue to have High Five Ceremonies, Fantastic Friday Phone calls and sharing good news. If your child has news to celebrate or share such as an accomplishment or other achievement please share with us through a note to your child’s teacher and we can celebrate their success during an assembly or a morning announcement.

Volunteers: We are happy to announce we can now have visitors to our school. Right now, we have enough dedicated breakfast program volunteers to run our “food delivery program” but if you are interested in helping with breakfast, please call the office and let Ms. MacInnis know so we can add you to a list if needed. In order to volunteer, you must have your Criminal Records Check and your Child Abuse Registry completed and updated **every three years**. These are stored on file and are good for three years so if you completed one last year and returned your paperwork to the school, you are covered. **If you are unsure how long it has been since you have last completed yours, or have any other questions, please contact the office.**

Media Release Form: We are asking families to review these forms, sign them and return them to the school ASAP. The **media release form** allows us to have a student's picture published should the media visit for an event (on those rare occasions) and to put students' pictures on our website if applicable. At all times, only students' first names may or may not be included but generally no names are included. Families are asked to fill this out so the school is aware of your wishes from the beginning and can honour them.

Internet Permission Form: The internet permission form **will be sent home soon** and must be filled out before a student can access the internet here at school. Please fill this out and sign it as soon as possible.

Breakfast Program: Our breakfast program begins on Monday September 13th with food being delivered to the classrooms after ann

Terry Fox Walk: We will again be participating in the Terry Fox Walk on Friday, Sept. 17th. Classes will be learning about Terry's legacy in class and then doing a walk around the school grounds. Cancer is something that affects so many families in Nova Scotia that we believe it is important to carry on Terry's legacy. We will be collecting "Coins for Cancer" donations to support this cause during the week of September 13th to 17th.

SAC: The SAC is our School Advisory Council, an organization that advises the principal and vice principal. We value the support the SAC provides for the decisions we make each day and appreciate their input. This year, we will require several new members – we need one parent member and two community members to support us in our work in continuing to take care of the children of Humber Park. It is a great way for busy parents to stay informed on what is happening here at the school and have input in the decisions that affect their children. If you are interested in joining our SAC, please e-mail me at smckenzie@hrce.ca or call the school. The best day/time for meetings will be decided once the group is in place and our first meeting will be in October with an expectation that we have six meetings in the school year.

Orange T-Shirt Day- We are going to wear Orange shirts on October 1st this year which is Treaty Day! We wear shirts to acknowledge the trauma and tragedy that resulted from the Residential School System that First Nations children were forced to attend. October is Mi'kmaq History Month so classes will be learning about various aspects of Mi'kmaq culture, traditions.

Medications: The Halifax Regional School Board policy states that all prescription medication (puffers included) taken at school must be accompanied by a form filled out by parents. Parents are required to update these each school year. We are not permitted to administer over the counter medications unless prescribed by a doctor so we cannot give students such things as Tylenol for example. Also, **please notify us of severe allergies as under new HRSB policy, all students must carry their EPI pen on them at all times. The school is expected to no longer store these for students as per the policy.** All medications taken at school must be sent in the original containers. If you have any further questions, please give the office a call.

No Child Without: HRSB schools are involved in the Canadian Medic Alert Foundation's *No Child Without* program again this year. There is no cost for students who are between the ages of 4 to 14 to join Medic Alert through this program. If your child has a medical condition, allergy or is required to take medication on a regular basis, then you should consider this program. For further information, go to www.nochildwithout.ca.

Milk: This year milk will not be available.

Indoor Footwear and Extra Clothing: Students will need to have a set of indoor shoes once the snow comes and they are wearing boots. These will need to be transported home each day to ensure the caretaker is able to disinfect thoroughly. This is why we are NOT asking for indoor shoes until students start wearing boots – they already have enough to carry! We also encourage the students to **carry an extra set of clothes in their book bag** for those puddles that jump up at them! Having an extra set of clothes means you won't have to rush over to the school when this happens!!! 😊

Head Lice : This unfortunate situation occurs at least once in the life of an elementary student but it can sometimes be avoided by diligence at home. If you can check your child's head after each bath/shower, it is usually easier. It is recommended that you check above the ears and at the back of the head (the hot spots) first. If you do encounter this situation, we have all been through it and ask that you call the office so we can be aware and offer support. The policy is attached and under this policy, we are not permitted to notify families if there is a case of head lice in their child's classroom. We apologize for this but this is an HRCE policy we are expected to follow. (www.hrsb.ca/sites/default/files/hrsb/b.005-head-lice.pdf)

Hot Lunch: Due to Covid-19 restrictions and the extra work involved for Ms. MacInnis at the office, we are working out the possibility of returning to the on-line Healthy Hunger program as a lunch option for families. If this is something we are able to offer, you will hear in early October. More information to follow.

Checking In at the Office: If you are dropping off an item for your child please check in at the office and we will deliver the item to your child's class promptly. In an effort to maintain a distraction free work environment we are asking that parents/guardians do not enter the hallways. If you need to see your child we will certainly arrange for them to meet you at the office. Thank you for your support!

Parents please remember:

1. That our school is **Scent and Peanut Free**. Please do not send **peanut butter and other peanut/nut products** to school as we have children with significant allergies.
2. To call the office if your child is absent or late and send a note explaining your child's absence from school.
3. To check your child's registration form and correct any information necessary when they are sent home. Please alert us to any changes as the year progresses.
4. To have your child arrive on time. 😊

Important Upcoming Dates :

September 16th- Stand up against Bullying Day

September 17th - Terry Fox Walk

September 23rd- Curriculum Night/Ice Cream Social

September 24th - PD Day - No School

September 30th - Truth & Reconciliation Day -No School

October 1st-Mi'Kmaq History Month begins

October 1st- Orange Shirt Day