



GBES FEBRUARY

newsletter

Hello GBES Families,

It has been a very snowy and fun-filled few weeks here at GBES. It's important that all students come dressed for the weather. Please ensure your child has appropriate winter clothing as well as a change of clothes in case they get wet. With all this snow, it is recommended for children to have waterproof gloves. Our supply of donated mittens has been depleted here at the school. If you are in need of support with winter clothing please contact the school.



Family Chocolate Bar Bingo

Join us for a kid friendly Bingo Night on Thursday, February 12th at GBES from 6:30-7:30 pm! Doors open at 6:00 pm. We will be playing 12 games and will have a canteen with hot dogs, chips and drinks available. This is a cash only event either at the door OR you can preorder for the bingo cards and canteen services. Forms will be sent home the first week of February for everyone! Please note all students/children must be accompanied by an adult. Do you have a friend or family member who doesn't go to our school? No problem, pre-order a bingo booklet and food for them as well!



IMPORTANT DATES:

- February is African Heritage Month
- February is Registration Month
- February 4: International Day of Play
- February 16: Heritage Day (no classes - all schools)
- February 17: Lunar New Year



February 4th is Global Day of Play

We are excited to share that our school will be participating in Global School Day of Play on Wednesday, February 4, 2026.

Global School Day of Play is an international event that encourages children to learn through unstructured, screen-free play. On this day, students will spend a significant portion of the school day engaging in creative play using open-ended materials such as building supplies, art materials, games, and imaginative props. The focus will be on collaboration, problem-solving, creativity, and joy.

What to expect:

- No formal lessons or academic instruction during play blocks
- Students will direct their own play and ideas
- Teachers will act as observers and facilitators
- All play will be screen-free



What students should bring:

- Comfortable clothing suitable for active play
- Optional: a small, labeled item for imaginative play (no electronics, toys with screens, or valuables)

Play is a vital part of child development and supports social skills, emotional well-being, creativity, and critical thinking. We are proud to take part in this meaningful global initiative.

For more information, check out the Global School Play Day website [here](#).



February is Registration Month:

Do you have or know a child who will be starting Pre Primary or Primary this fall? It's time to register!

Registration for the 2026-27 school year begins on Monday, February 2. To ensure we have the right staff and supports in place for September, it's important that we gather enrolment numbers now.

Tip: Before you begin, make sure you have the following documents in electronic form (image, PDF or Word document):

- Proof of identity/age with one of the following: birth certificate, passport, immigration papers, or legal adoption papers if you are new to the HRCE
- Proof of home address with one of the following: a recently dated official government or utility document with your current address that includes your name and date, such as water bill, power bill, internet bill, home fuel bill, a tax receipt, property assessment, a mortgage contract or a residential lease agreement

Visit the [HRCE website](https://www.hrce.ca) for more information and to enrol your child today through PowerSchool Enrollment!

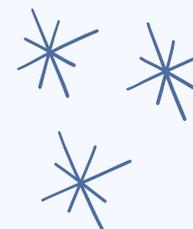
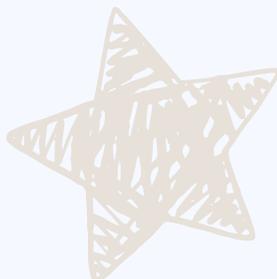
Don't have a child to register? Maybe you know someone who does! Please help us spread the word and pass this information on to friends, neighbours or relatives who will be looking to register for the fall.



February is African Heritage Month

African Heritage Month in Nova Scotia is a time to recognize and celebrate the rich history, vibrant culture, and lasting contributions of people of African descent in our province. This year's theme, "Strength in Unity - Moving Forward with Purpose, Prosperity, Power and Progress," reminds us of the importance of coming together as a community, learning from one another, and moving forward with shared purpose.

In our schools, African Heritage Month provides meaningful opportunities for students to explore African Nova Scotian histories and experiences, deepen their understanding of our shared past, and reflect on the values of respect, inclusion, and belonging. Through classroom learning, discussions, and activities connected to this year's theme, students are encouraged to appreciate diversity, build empathy, and recognize the strength that comes from unity. These experiences help foster welcoming school communities and inspire students to contribute positively to a more inclusive and equitable future for all.



Open Your Home to an International Student:

Have you considered opening your home to an international student?

HRCE's International Services welcomes students from all over the world who would like to attend schools in our region. Hosting a student in your home can be an enriching and rewarding experience. We're looking for warm and caring families like yours to provide them with a home away from home. Hosting an international student is a once-in-a-lifetime experience that gives your family the opportunity to bring the world home. For students, it's a way to learn about the Canadian way of life.



As a host, your family would be matched with a student who will attend your neighbourhood school and participate in your daily routines.

What you can expect:

- Host families receive a tax-free monthly stipend to help cover hosting expenses (\$825 current, \$875 effective September)
- Students stay for periods of three to 10 months
- Ongoing support is provided by an experienced Homestay Coordinator
- You will learn about and communicate with your student before their arrival



Learn more [here](#) or contact:

HRCE International Services

(902) 464-2000 ext. 2548

hostastudent@hrce.ca

Please share this message with anyone who may be interested.

Thank you! Gracias. Merci. Xie-Xie. Danke. Arigato. Grazie. Obrigado. Kamsa-Hamnida. Kawp-Kun-Ka.

Shukran. Teşekkür Ederim.

HRCE International Services



BECOME A HOST FAMILY

OPEN YOUR HOME AND HEART TO AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT

\$875
/month

PER STUDENT
(Tax Free)

\$975
/month

If you can
accommodate
a **vegetarian** or
lactose free diet

\$1075
/month

If you can
accommodate
a **vegan** or
celiac diet

* Effective in September 2025.

RECEIVE \$100 FOR EVERY SUCCESSFUL REFERRAL OF NEW HOST FAMILY

Share the name and contact details of an interested host. Once they are approved and actively hosting, you'll receive \$100.



Halifax
Regional Centre for Education

Learn More:
nsisp.ca/host

Email hostastudent@hrce.ca
or call **902-464-2000 ext. 2548**



February 16th is Heritage Day:

Nova Scotia Heritage Day is celebrated on Monday, February 16, and provides an opportunity for students and families to learn more about the people, stories, and events that have shaped our province. Each year, Heritage Day honours a notable Nova Scotian, and in 2026 we recognize Joseph William Comeau, an important Acadian poet, writer, and cultural leader.

Joseph William Comeau is remembered for his contributions to Acadian literature and for helping to preserve and promote Acadian language, identity, and culture in Nova Scotia. His work reflected the everyday lives, resilience, and traditions of Acadian communities, and his legacy continues to influence Acadian culture today. Heritage Day provides us with an opportunity to explore Nova Scotia's diverse history and to better understand how individuals from different backgrounds have contributed to our shared story. Learning about Joseph William Comeau helps students appreciate the richness of Acadian heritage and the importance of preserving culture, language, and community.



UPCOMING FREE EVENT!
Thriving Offline:
How Delaying Smartphones Can Help Kids Flourish



When: Tuesday, February 24th @ 6:30pm ADT
Where: St. Margaret's Bay Elementary, NS
(Virtual Zoom option available)
Register: [UnpluggedNSThrivingOffline.eventbrite.ca](https://unpluggedNSThrivingOffline.eventbrite.ca)
Connect with other parents in our supportive community!

un
plugged
Nova Scotia

Thriving Offline: How Delaying Smartphones Can Help Kids Flourish

Thriving Offline: How Delaying Smartphones Can Help Kids Flourish, a free community event hosted by Unplugged Canada at St. Margaret's Bay Elementary, is available both in person and virtually.

Designed for caregivers and educators, this session will explore how early smartphone and social media use impacts children's development and the latest research, practical strategies, safer alternatives, and age-appropriate boundaries to support healthy childhoods.

Join us! Thriving Offline: How Delaying Smartphones Can Help Kids Flourish

- Tuesday, February 24, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.
- St. Margaret's Bay Elementary - 24 Ridgewood Dr, Head of St Margaret's Bay, NS
- Please register for in-person or virtual [here](https://unpluggedNSThrivingOffline.eventbrite.ca).

