



**Halifax**  
Regional Centre for Education

## OXFORD SCHOOL

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Jan Gillespie – Principal

Nancy Bradfield – Vice-Principal

## KNIGHTS NEWSLETTER

Sept 12th, 2022

### Administrators' Message

Welcome to all our staff, students, and new families to Oxford School for the 2022-2023 school year! We are excited to get back to a more normal year of learning. Covid19 is still present in our communities so we ask if your child(ren) experiences symptoms or is sick, please keep them home to recover. We would like to welcome back our returning staff and send a huge Oxford welcome to our new teachers - Mr. Cherrett, Ms. Buchan, Ms. Abi Daoud, Ms. Albuquerque, Ms. Kerr, Mr. Henwood, Ms. Leon, and Mr. Knechtel. Our new support staff are Ms. Lange, Ms. MacDonald, Ms. St George, Mr. Keigan and our new Administrative assistant Ms. Bennett!

Ms. Bradfield will be away for a few weeks on medical leave. We would like to welcome Peter Wicha, a retired HRCE principal, who is coming as the acting Vice Principal to help out during this time.

Our students have settled into the first few days with ease and excitement.

Although restrictions are easing, we are currently keeping visitors to a minimum.

If you are dropping items off to your child, please ring the doorbell upon arrival and Ms. Bennett will answer through the intercom and ask how she can help you. Access to the building is limited to staff, including HRCE staff, and operations. We would be happy to deliver forgotten items to your child, so we will meet you at the door. If picking your child up early, please call ahead. When you arrive please ring the doorbell to let Ms. Bennett know that you have arrived at the school and we will then page your child and have them meet you outside.

This month we are returning to our inperson Curriculum Night/Ice Cream Social. This will happen on Thursday, September 22nd, from 6:30-7:30 pm. Families can arrive at the school and make their way to classrooms where teachers will have handouts and/or presentations with curriculum information. Teachers/staff will have tickets to give families for grabbing an ice cream from our Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and helpers. The ice cream will be served on the school yard by the playground. If it is raining we will have the ice cream set up in the Gym. We look forward to seeing you.

Communication is key! We encourage you to reach out to our staff if you have any concerns or just want to share information that will help your child succeed. Our website has all the information you need and is updated regularly.

A few things to note: We are no longer having a 15 min homeroom check in each morning for Jr high students. When they arrive at 9am they will begin academic classes right away. They will be given a 5-10 min break in the middle of the morning.

### **Safe Arrival**

We are using a new format for communicating about your child(ren) being absent from school. Information has been shared about our new safe arrival line 1-833-582-6940 or via the website: <https://sishrsb.ednet.ns.ca/public/>. You can also download the App called SchoolMessenger (Blue Icon). You will need your portal username, or email address you provided to the school.

### **Covid-19 Checklist**

We ask all our families to complete the Covid-19 checklist for health each morning. Please check the latest information on protecting ourselves and others.

<https://www.nshealth.ca/protecting-myself-and-others>

### **Oxford School Advisory Council**

Oxford SAC is looking for new members to join, specifically community members and parents. We meet six times a year, the meeting platform will be decided soon!. If you are interested in joining, please email [oxford@hrce.ca](mailto:oxford@hrce.ca). The goal of our SAC is to work together to make meaningful decisions for the school and students. SACs are advisory bodies to individual school principals, Regional Centres for Education (RCEs), and the Conseil scolaire acadien provincial (CSAP) on a range of issues related to their local schools and the overall school system. Please come out and join us. All are welcome. Please check out the EECD website on the importance of SAC. <http://www.ednet.ns.ca/SAC>

### **Parent Teacher Association**

The Oxford Parent Teacher Association is looking for new members! If special events, fundraisers and school improvements interest you, please email the school at: [oxford@hrce.ca](mailto:oxford@hrce.ca) and we will be in touch with more information. Our first meeting is being held on Wednesday Sept 14th at 6:30pm. If you would like to join, please let us know. Thank you!

### **Volunteering at Oxford this Year!**

**IMPORTANT:** Oxford is looking for Coaches, Assistant Coaches and Helpers for our Sports Teams this year. Starting with us looking for a **Boys Soccer Coach**, which will be needed prior to September 13<sup>th</sup> to ensure we can have a team! Please reach out right away to let us know you are interested.

If you are going to volunteer to coach this year at Oxford or as a chaperone you must send the below information to the office so we have it on file!

## **Student safety is paramount**

We recognize our responsibility to ensure that all students attending our schools are protected by taking reasonable precautions to screen volunteers who may be working with students without direct supervision of staff. In accordance with HRCE's Student Protection Policy, prior to volunteering with the Halifax Regional School Board, all volunteers will provide:

1. A completed Child Abuse Register - Request for Search Form, which can be found [here](#)

2. A certified and true copy of a Criminal Records Check with Vulnerable Sector Check available [here](#), from your local Police or RCMP detachment or through online organizations endorsed by Nova Scotia law enforcement agencies

Please note: the Child Abuse Register Search and Criminal Records Check must be issued in the three months preceding volunteering and updated every three years.

### **Nut-Free & Scent Sensitive School**

We have several students and staff who have life threatening allergies to peanuts and nut products. Please respect their health and well-being by sending your child with snacks and lunches that do not contain nuts. Additionally, some of our students and staff have medical conditions that can be worsened by scented products.

### **Grade 7 Immunizations**

This year the dates for Immunizations are on Dec 7th/22 and June 2nd/23, Forms for the Grade 7 students will be sent home this coming week.. Please ensure you sign these and send them back to your child's homeroom teacher as soon as possible. Students will receive immunizations for: *Meningitis, Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis (whooping cough), Hepatitis B and Human Papillomavirus (HPV-9)*. If any students in grade 8 missed them due to covid, they will be added to the group to have them completed during these times.

### **Emergency Plans at Oxford**

The safety and security of our students and staff is a top priority for Oxford School and the Halifax Regional Centre 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 during September is a **Hold and Secure** drill. During a hold and secure drill, classroom doors are secured and the students remain inside the room and continue with their activities. All exterior doors are locked and no one is permitted to enter or leave the building.

Our school will also practice a **Lockdown Drill**. During a lockdown drill, classroom doors are secured and the students remain inside the room positioned for safety 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.

Our school will practice evacuation drills in response to the fire alarm 3 times during the fall and 3 times during the spring. All of these drills require our students to follow directions and need to be treated with great importance. Please be assured that staff at our school will spend time discussing the importance of these procedures with students prior to running these various drills. Staff will also take time after the drills to remind students that it was only a practice and there was no danger. Please take the time to speak with your child(ren) about these procedures and reinforce their importance. We practice these drills to ensure our school remains a safe place for teaching and learning

### **Important Dates**

**Wednesday Sept 14th** - PTA meeting (Virtual 6:30-7:30pm)

**Thursday Sept 22nd** - Curriculum Night and Ice Cream Social (In Person!!)  
6:30-7:30pm

**Friday Sept 30th** - National Truth and Reconciliation Day (no school)