



6364 North St. Halifax, NS B3L 1P6
<https://oxf.hrce.ca>
oxford@hrce.ca
Phone: 902-421-6763
Safe Arrival Line: 1-833-582-6940



KNIGHTS NEWS

October 3rd, 2023

Administrators' Message

We would like to acknowledge Mi'kmaq Heritage Month and our continued focus on bringing Indigenous learning into our classrooms. We are incredibly fortunate for a second year, to experience Smudging Ceremonies on Thursday, September 28th. Harmony O'Leary (Indigenous Student Support Worker) and her junior leader team, lead us through an educational experience including prayer and the opportunity for personal smudging. Our students were respectful and very engaged! Thank you Ms. Harmony and team.

Our classes will continue to learn and expand on our understanding of Indigenous ways of knowing and learning, as well as, the historical importance of the many contributions of Indigenous peoples, past and present.

On Thursday, October 5th and Friday, October 6th, we will welcome Adams Photography into our building to capture our school photos. Elementary students' photos will take place on Thursday and Junior High will be on Friday.

This month, our grade 6 students will be writing the **Nova Scotia Assessment: Reading, Writing, and Mathematics/Mathématiques**. This assessment will be administered over 4 days in October. Our grade 6 students have been preparing for this assessment.

This assessment includes the following:

- reading and writing tasks that reflect the end of grade 5 curriculum outcome expectations
- reading passages in the narrative, information, poetry/song, and visual text genres
- reading comprehension questions in selected response format
- reading comprehension questions that are designed to provide a broad range of challenge, thereby providing more information about individual student performance
- one letter writing task, and one story writing task
- mathematics questions that reflect the end of grade 5 curriculum outcome expectations
- selected response (multiple choice) mathematics questions in all mathematics domains

Safe Arrival

We continue to use School Messenger for communicating about your child(ren) absences. Information has been shared with families about our safe arrival line 1-833-582-6940 and 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. We appreciate your efforts in using our new safe arrival system. If you are calling in for your child follow these steps: select 3 for student attendance; select which student you are calling for. Then you have one of three options: absent for the day, absent for tomorrow, or absent for 3 or more days. Then you will need to choose Awn - Absent with Notification, doing so tells us that you are aware that your child is not in school.

Covid-19 Checklist

We ask all of our families to complete the Covid-19 checklist for health each morning. If your child shows symptoms and the school contacts you, you will be required to connect with 811. We are encouraging families to keep children home if they are sick or have symptoms. Please see this site for further information.

<https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/symptoms-and-testing/>

Oxford School Advisory Council

Oxford SAC is looking for new members to join. We meet six times a year, with our first meeting being on **Wednesday October 4th @6:30pm** in the school library. If you are interested in joining, please email 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). They advise on a range of issues related to their local schools and the overall school system. For additional information regarding the importance of SAC, check out the EECD website. <http://www.ednet.ns.ca/SAC>

Parent Teacher Association

We continue to look for interested parents to join our PTA and help with fundraising at Oxford. If you are interested please contact us.

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 & 8 Immunizations

Public Health has sent an email to all parents requesting the forms for immunization to be filled out online this year. Please make sure to complete these forms as soon as possible. Immunizations at Oxford are on Oct 26th, 2023 and April 25th, 2024. If you are not able to access the form online, please contact the school at oxford@hrce.ca. 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 or 9 missed vaccinations due to Covid, they will be able to have them at the same time.

Important Dates

October Mi'kmaq Heritage Month

Monday October 2nd Day of Observation for Truth and Reconciliation (No School)

Wednesday October 4th SAC meeting 6:30-7:30 (Oxford Library)

Thursday/Friday October 5/6th School Photos

Monday October 9th Thanksgiving Day (No School)

Thursday October 12th BIJ/BBI - Junior High Students (AM)

Wednesday October 18th Bus Evacuation Drills (AM)

Thursday October 26th Grade 7 Vaccines (AM)

Friday October 27th NSTU Provincial Conference Day (No school for students)

Oxford Athletics

Terry Fox Run: Elementary students will be taking part in our Terry Fox run on Wednesday, October 4th. Students will be running during their afternoon Phys. Ed. classes. If students would like to bring a donation of \$1 or \$2, they can, we do have an online donation website as well if anyone is interested. We are looking forward to our run!

<https://schools.terryfox.ca/OxfordHalifaxNS>

Oxford is very lucky to have dedicated staff who volunteer countless hours to help organize teams and clubs over the year. It is a huge amount of work, but it is wonderful to see so many Oxford students succeeding in not only academics but extra-curricular opportunities as well! If there are **parents who are able or interested** to help coach or manage a team, please reach out to Mr. Bray or Mrs. Coates (brayg@hrce.ca, ecoates@hrce.ca). You will need a completed Criminal Record with Vulnerable Sector Check and Child Abuse Registry to volunteer.

Our **Junior High Soccer teams** are in the middle of their seasons, with wins, ties and close games! Huge thank you to parent volunteer Bill Perry and staff member Mr. Wicha for coaching our teams this Fall!

Junior High Cross Country is underway and Mr. Fortier and Mrs. Coates look to have our runners in fine form! Best of luck to these athletes during the season this Fall!

Elementary Running Club has started with runners from grade 3, 4, 5 and 6 coming together on Wednesdays at lunch (12:00 - 12:30) and Friday Morning's (8:15 - 8:40). If any parents are interested and available to help at either of those times, please reach out to Mr. Bray or Mrs. Coates (brayg@hrce.ca, ecoates@hrce.ca).

Junior High Volleyball is right around the corner. This season runs from late October until December. We are very happy to have Kevin Reade back this year to coach our girls team, but we are still searching for a head coach for our boys team.

Those students looking to try out for our **Female/Female Identifying Volleyball Team** please see dates below!

- Tuesday, October 10th at Lunch: **Grade 8 and 9 Tryout** (12:00-12:55)
- Tuesday, October 10th Afterschool: **Grade 7 Tryout** (3:00-4:30)
- Thursday October 12th at Lunch. **Grade 8 and 9 Tryout** (12:00-12:55).
- Thursday October 12th Afterschool: First Team Practice

For those looking to try out for the **Male/Male Identifying Volleyball Team**, there will be a tryout on:

- Wednesday October 11th** Afterschool (3:00-4:30)
- Friday, October 13th** at Lunch (12:00 - 12:55)

Basketball Tryouts start in December, and the season runs from January until March. Interested players should be listening closely to announcements and watching the bulletin board outside the gymnasium for sign-up sheets and more information!

For all Junior High Sports Information click on the link below.

<https://www.hrce.ca/about-our-schools/students/junior-high-sports>

Gerard Bray and Erin Coates

brayg@hrce.ca, ecoates@hrce.ca