



Halifax
Regional Centre for Education

OXFORD SCHOOL

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Jan Gillespie – Principal

Nancy Bradfield – Vice-Principal

KNIGHTS NEWS

September 2023

Administrators' Message

We'd like to take this opportunity to welcome new and returning students and their families. Schools in HRM continue to experience growth in their communities, and this is true for us at Oxford School. Over the past few days students have settled into their routines and there is lots of fantastic learning happening in classrooms.

On September 21st, we are holding our Open House - Curriculum Night/Ice Cream Social from 6:00-7:00 pm. Families can arrive at the school and make their way to classrooms where teachers will share information about their subject curriculum. Staff will have tickets to hand out for you to receive an ice cream treat from our Grade 9 helpers. The ice cream will be passed out on the school yard by the playground. If it is raining, we will have the ice cream set up in the gymnasium. We look forward to seeing you there!

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. Please visit our school website to view all of our staff with their contact information.

Safe Arrival

We continue to use School Messenger for communicating about your child(ren) being absent from school. Information has been shared about our 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. 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>

Volunteering at Oxford

IMPORTANT: Oxford is looking for Coaches, Assistant Coaches and Helpers for our Sports Teams this year. Please reach out right away to let us know you are interested.

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 October 26th and April 25th. The registration and forms for these will be completed online. Parents should have already received an email with instructions on how to complete this from Public Health. If you have not, please contact the school for support.

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 practicing 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

Thursday September 21st - Curriculum Night and Ice Cream Social (In Person) 6-7pm

Friday September 29th - Orange Shirt Day - Honoring Treaty Day and Truth and Reconciliation Day

Saturday September 30th - National Truth and Reconciliation Day

Monday October 2nd - National Truth and Reconciliation Day Observed (No School)