

# East St. Margaret's Elementary

## monthly newsletter



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**December 2025**

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### Principal's Message

Dear Families,

December is a time for reflection, joy, and connection, and we're excited to share the festive spirit with our school community. Progress Conferences are this week and provide a great opportunity to discuss student growth and achievements this term. I encourage all families to attend. Our Holiday Concert is a highlight of the season, and we look forward to celebrating the talents of our students. We also look forward to continued student learning and growth in the New Year! Thank you for your ongoing support. Wishing you all a restful and joyful holiday season!

Warmly,  
Wendi Tekamp

### Upcoming Events

#### **DECEMBER 4**

Term 1 Progress Conferences  
*NO SCHOOL*

#### **DECEMBER 10**

Holiday Concert - 9 AM & 6 PM  
Grand in Hand Draw

#### **DECEMBER 17**

Green Christmas

#### **DECEMBER 20 - JANUARY 4**

Holiday Break  
*NO SCHOOL*

#### **January 5, 2026**

First Day Back to School  
After Holiday Break

### Green Christmas - Dec. 17

What's a sale without inventory?! We are currently collecting items (home decor, housewares, toys, unopened beauty supplies, fashion accessories, tools, etc.) in the ESM office. If you're unable to drop off items during school hours, we will be accepting donations during the holiday concert on December 10.

#### **VOLUNTEERS**

Many hands make light work! If you're able to help out in any way please contact the ESM Office, and we will make sure you have everything you need to volunteer in the school.

## Planning for Inclement Weather

Did you know? HRCE takes great care when making the decision to alter the regular operations of schools and school buses in the event of severe or inclement weather.

It is HRCE's goal to communicate any changes to regular operations **as close to 6:00 AM as possible**.

If weather deteriorates, or is forecasted to worsen throughout the morning, **an 11:00 AM announcement will be made**.

### How will I find out?

- By email to the addresses on file in PowerSchool
- By text message, **if you've opted-in**. If you're unsure, text Y to **978338**
- On the [HRCE Website](#)
- On [Instagram](#)

It is important to always have a plan in place for childcare in the event of any cancellation. Please remember: As a parent or guardian, you always have the choice of whether or not to send your child to school.

For more information on how HRCE manages during inclement weather, [click here](#).

## Winter Clothing

It's beginning to look a lot like WINTER, which means we will be seeing colder temperatures, windier days, less sunshine, and yes...snow!!! At ESM, we are outside three times a day every day, so our students need to be dressed for the season. This means, all students should have coats, hats, mittens, boots, and snow pants to wear outside. An extra set of clothing, especially socks, in their backpacks is a good idea too!

If you need any winter outerwear for your student, please contact the ESM Office. We have a selection of coats, hats, and mittens, and we can source winter boots and snow pants if there is a need for those. We want to make sure all our students can enjoy the outdoors this winter!

## Educational Technology

We're excited to share a [new online resource](#) designed to help families understand how technology supports student learning in HRCE. This page provides an overview of how tools like Chromebooks and Google for Education are used in classrooms, what provincially approved online platforms students may access, and how student privacy is protected. You'll also find information about Nova Scotia's guidance on the provincial cell phone expectations, tips for supporting online safety and digital citizenship at home, and an introduction to how students are learning about AI in a thoughtful and responsible way. It also includes answers to common questions about screen time, passwords, communication during the school day and more.