



East St. Margaret's Elementary
School Newsletter
February 2020

Principal: Susan Casey

Follow us on Twitter: @estmschool

Dear Families,

We have wonderful news to share with you. Ms. Casey is scheduled to have her surgery this Thursday, February 6th. We all miss her dearly and are sending her our best wishes daily.

The month of January has just flown by. My time at ESM has been extraordinary. I am sure everyone must feel this way when given the chance to be part of this beautiful school community. The drive alone each morning is spectacular; and then to walk through the doors into ESM is such a great feeling. With wonderful families, eager students and a dedicated staff, ESM bursts with excited learning every day!

Thank you for your warm welcome and continued support. Please, contact me at any time.

Patty Hoskin

Important information for February:

COMMUNICATION BETWEEN HOME AND SCHOOL: Communication between home and school is extremely important. Calls and emails sent to staff members will be returned within two business days.

GRADE 7 FRENCH IMMERSION PARENT MEETING: There is a parent information meeting for students interesting in enrolling in the Late French Immersion program at Five Bridges Junior High on Thursday, February 6th at 6:00pm.

HOME AND SCHOOL VALENTINE'S DANCE: Thanks to our Home and School volunteers who have organized a special Valentine's Dance for Thursday, Feb. 13th from 6:00 - 7:30pm. More information will be coming your way!

ESM CLOTHING SALES: We have sent home an order form for purchasing ESM clothing. The sales will take place from February 3rd until February 14th. You can send in the order form to the classroom teacher. We accept cash or cheques made out to East St. Margaret's Elementary School. The expected date for orders to be returned to school is the first week of March.

COINS FOR BOOKS CAMPAIGN: During the month of February, we will be taking part in the "Coins for Books Campaign". We will be holding special spirit days throughout the month and all students are welcome to participate. If you would like to donate some "coins" during these days, all the money will be used to purchase new books for our school Library. TattleTales Book Store will match all money collected, dollar for dollar! The days have been highlighted on the calendar; the first one is Tuesday, February 4th - "Crazy Hair Day"; Feb. 7 - "Stuffie Day"; Feb. 12 - "Camo" or " Crazy Sock Day"; Feb. 14 - "Red Day"; Feb. 18 - "Crazy Hat Day"; Feb. 21 - "Jersey Day"; Feb. 26 - "Inside Out" or "Backwards Day"; Feb. 28 - "Super Hero" or "Costume Day".

LOCKDOWN DRILLS: We have a number of safety drills throughout the year: Fire Drills, Lockdown Drills, and Hold and Secure Drills. While it is unlikely we would need to actually do such activities, it is important to practice. We hold two lockdown drills during the school year; one in September and one in February. During a lockdown drill, classroom doors are secured and the students remain inside the room until instructed to resume their activities. Students are kept inside the classrooms when circumstances make it safer to stay in the classroom rather than evacuate.

We are unable to answer the doorbell during these drills.

We are sharing this information with you again as **we will be holding a Lockdown Drill during the week of February 10 - 14, 2020.**

The day of the drill, we will announce that the drill is coming and explain to the students that it is just a practice and that there is no danger or emergency.

Please, be assured that the staff at ESM will spend time discussing the importance of this practice with the students prior to drill. We will also take time after the drill to thank and remind them that it was only a practice.

FAMILY DAY: A reminder that Africville Day is being held on Monday, February 17th. There will be no school on this day.

FEBRUARY LEADERSHIP ASSEMBLY: Each month we come together as a whole school (Pre-primary to Grade 6) to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments and hard work of our students. We would like to invite our families and community members to come join us. For February, we will have our leadership assembly on **Friday, February 28th at 11:30am in the gym.**

ESM BREAKFAST PROGRAM VOLUNTEERS: We would like to thank our dedicated group of volunteers at ESM who come in to prepare a "grab and go" breakfast for our students. The breakfast program runs Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday each week. If you would be interested in volunteering to help with this program please contact Trish Cuvelier (coordinator) at PCuvelier@hrce.ca or call the school. Please note that this volunteer position requires you to have a criminal records check and child abuse registry check. A school letter can be provided to you for the criminal records check.

SENDING MONEY TO SCHOOL: If you are returning money to school for teachers, please put it in an envelope or plastic bag and write your child's name, grade and reason for the money on it.

VOLUNTEERS!

Volunteers are an important role of supporting students and events at the school. If you would like to help and volunteer at ESM please contact the office for further information regarding the paperwork required to volunteer (Criminal Records Check and Child Abuse Registry Form). Our swimming program is going to start the end of March and we will be looking for volunteers to help at the pool.

EARLY SCHOOL CLOSURE: It is important for us to have current information for your child's safety in the case of an early dismissal. If your contact information has changed since the beginning of the year, please contact Ms. McDaniel with your new information. Thank you.

CORONAVIRUS INFORMATION: The provincial government has created a webpage to share facts-based information about the coronavirus. This information can be found at www.novascotia.ca/coronavirus . We would encourage all families to take a moment to visit the webpage to learn more. Although the risk in Nova Scotia remains low at this time, it is flu season and health officials recommend the following routine prevention measures to stay healthy:

- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water or use alcohol-based hand rub when hands are not visibly soiled.
- Cough and sneeze into your elbow or a tissue. If using a tissue, immediately place it in a waste disposal and wash your hands.
- If possible, stay home when ill with acute respiratory symptoms; if this is not possible, limit close contact with others.
- Limit touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Don't share items that may have saliva on them such as drinking glasses and water bottles.
- Frequently clean surfaces like taps, doorknobs, and countertops.

PRE-PRIMARY AND PRIMARY REGISTRATION INFORMATION: Registration for the 2020-2021 school year begins Monday, February 3 until Friday, February 28, 2020. You can register at ESM Monday to Friday throughout the month of February from 8:20am - 3:30pm.

- In order to register your child for Grade Primary, they must be 5-years-old **on or before December 31** in the year they start Grade Primary. A student must be 4 years of age **on or before December 31** to register for Pre-Primary.
- Students will register for English programs at the school serving the area (neighbourhood) in which they reside. Students who live in an area of eligibility for Early French Immersion will register at the **French Immersion designated school** that serves their neighbourhood.

To register, parents/legal guardians must complete the following steps:

1. Complete the HRCE registration form. You can download the registration form ([Word](#) | [PDF](#)) or fill one out at the school.
2. Present the child's proof of age and legal name (as listed on birth certificate, passport, immigration papers, legal name change certificate or adoption documents).
3. Provide proof of residency/home address for the parents/legal guardian (such as a current utility bill (power, water, cable, internet) or the sales bill for your home).
4. Provide Nova Scotia Health Card (MSI) number and expiry date at the time of registration.

Our school website is: - <https://esm.hrce.ca/> (information regarding our school will be posted on our website).