

BLT Sr. Elementary School

24 James Street, Timberlea, NS

902-876-3230

tjh@hrce.ca

Principal: **Craig Myra** Administrative Assistant: **Jillian Butler/Amber Collins-Grimmer** Vice Principal: **Tracey Quinn**



Principal's Message

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone back to school and wish everyone a happy New Year!

With winter in full swing now, I'd like to remind you to make sure your children are dressed appropriately for the weather every day as the students spend time outside during the morning and at lunchtime.

On a personal note, I will not be at school for the first couple weeks of the New Year dealing with a personal matter. Ms. Quinn, along with Ms. Healy, will be in the office during my absence.

If at any time you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me at 902-876-3230.

Craig Myra

January 2025

Dates to Remember:

January 3—First Day Back for Students!

January 13 — SAC (6:30pm) Meeting

February 1—Registration Month for 25-26 School Year

ALLERGIES

We have a number of students at BLT Sr. who are allergic to specific foods, especially nuts. Because all students will be eating together in their classrooms, we ask that you do not bring in items that contain nuts.

BLT Sr. continues to be a **Nut Aware School** – similar to many other elementary schools in the HRCE. Please send recess snacks and lunches that contain **only nut free products**.

Strongly scented products cause many children and adults to experience breathing problems, dizziness and/or headaches. Our school is a **Scent Aware School**. Please refrain from wearing strongly scented products when visiting the school.



Important weather reminders

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

It is HRCE's goal to communicate any changes to the regular operations of schools and/or buses as close to 6:00 a.m. as possible. **A 6:00 a.m. announcement could be:**

- All schools are delayed in opening by two hours and bus pickups are delayed by two hours; or
- All schools are open, but some or all busses are not operating for the day; or
- Some schools (either individually or by family) are closed for the day; or

All schools are closed for the day.

If weather deteriorates, or is forecasted to worsen throughout the morning, **an 11:00 a.m. announcement could be:**

- Bused students will be picked up two hours earlier than their regular dismissal time; and

Non-bused students will be dismissed at their regularly scheduled lunch hour.

How will I find out?

- By email to the addresses in PowerSchool
- By text message, **if you have opted-in**. If you aren't sure if you have opted-in, text Y to the following number: **978338**

On [our website](#)

On [X \(formerly Twitter\)](#)

On [Instagram](#)

It's important to always have a plan in place for childcare in the event of any cancellation.

For more information on how HRCE manages during inclement weather, visit www.hrce.ca/families/cancellations.

When is the decision made to cancel school because of weather?

It is our goal to make the decision as close to 6:00 a.m. as possible.
Learn more at hrce.ca/families/cancellations

 **Halifax**
Regional Centre for Education

International Holocaust Remembrance Day

International Holocaust Remembrance Day, observed on January 27, serves as a crucial reminder of the Holocaust.

Through survivor stories, students learn empathy, compassion, and the importance of standing against antisemitism and prejudice. By observing this day, we ensure future generations uphold human rights and dignity, fostering a culture of respect and inclusion.



Lunar New Year

Lunar New Year, also known as Chinese New Year or Spring Festival, will be celebrated on January 29.

It marks the beginning of the Year of the Snake, an animal sign that symbolizes wisdom, intuition, and renewal. It's a time for families to come together, honour their ancestors, and welcome the new year with hopes of prosperity and happiness.



Advanced Notice: We are having a Lockdown Drill in February!

As you are likely aware, our school practices lockdowns as part of our emergency planning/preparedness cycle. Staff and students are familiar with lockdowns, but we wish to increase your knowledge of our procedures.

It is important to understand that school staff will implement a lockdown and call police if/and when there is any reason to believe that imminent danger to students and staff may exist. At this stage, everyone in the school will move to a secure location, safe from harm. Police will respond to the school and no one will enter or leave, until the situation is resolved.

The first instinct of parents/guardians is to either phone the school directly or your child, or to come directly to the school. You are asked not to do any of these, but instead to understand and follow the procedures outlined in this letter.

Roadways need to be kept clear for responding emergency vehicles. Parents and others attempting to drive to the school can slow police and other emergency responders from getting to and securing the area as quickly as possible. Therefore, if you hear that a lockdown is occurring at your child's school, do not proceed to the school. Instead, you may go to your schools' designated Parent location, BLT Jr. Building (Primary Location) or St. Andrew's Church, 2553 St. Margaret's Bay Road (Secondary Location), to receive information which will be provided by police and school representatives. This location is selected as being far enough from the school to maximize your safety and that of others. Please be assured that every effort will be made to keep you informed as to what is happening during the event. Experience has shown that incorrect information often circulates during an event when it does not come directly from the police or school board. Please note that, for safety reasons, some situations may require that some information be withheld until the situation is resolved. (In lockdown situations you may also contact the Regional Centre by calling 902-464-2000.) After the lockdown, you may be asked to go to the school or to wait where you are until your child is brought to your location.

We also ask that you not attempt to phone your child. In a lockdown, everyone must remain quiet, and a ringing cell phone may draw undue attention to the secure location where your child and his/her classmates are.

Aside from lockdown procedures, your child's school may also implement a precautionary "Hold & Secure" if there is an unrelated emergency situation occurring outside the building or in the neighborhood that could potentially present a danger to the school. In this situation all doors to the school are locked and monitored to ensure no one enters or exits the school. Classes will generally continue but no one will be allowed to enter or leave the building until the situation is resolved. We also ask that you do NOT proceed to the school unless asked to do so by school board staff.

We encourage you to discuss school safety with your child and to address any concerns they may have and we welcome any questions you have about this or any other issue related to the safety and security of our school. BLT Sr. will be having a lock-down drill next month, February 13th in the morning, so we can practice this procedure just as we do with evacuation drills. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact the school at 902-479-4298.