




BLT Sr. Elementary School

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



Principal's Message

We have officially hit the coldest months of the season! Please make sure you are dressing your child appropriately for the weather each day!

We are well into term 2 and are working extremely hard to support your child each and every day! I have enclosed some information in this month's newsletter about our school improvement plans and strategies to support student learning at BLT Sr. Elementary School.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to reach out!

Mr. Myra



February 2025

Dates to Remember:

February 11—Lockdown Drill

February 13—School Dance

February 17—Heritage Day—NO School

SAC Meeting TBD

What's happening this Month?

- February is Registration Month
 - African Heritage Month
- February 14 is Valentine's Day (more information to come!)
 - February 17 is Heritage Day (No classes)

Literacy Development for Your Child (Primary to Grade 6)

Are you curious about your child's literacy development? A new page of information on HRCE.ca helps to break down development for children from grades Primary to 6 as they learn to read and write.

Learn more [here](#).

February is Registration Month

Do you have a child who will be starting pre-primary or primary this fall? It's time to register!

Registration for the 2025-26 school year begins on February 3. To ensure we have the right staff and supports in place for September, it's important that we gather enrolment numbers now.

Tip: Before you begin, make sure you have the following documents in electronic form (image, PDF or Word document):

- Proof of identity/age with one of the following: birth certificate, passport, immigration papers, or legal adoption papers) if you are new to the HRCE;

Proof of home address (a recently dated official government or utility document with your current address that includes your name and date, such as water bill, power bill, internet bill, home fuel bill, a tax receipt, property assessment or a mortgage contract); and

Visit the [HRCE website](https://hrce.ca) for more information and to enrol your child today through PowerSchool Enrollment!

Don't have a child to register? Maybe you know someone who does! Please help us spread the word and pass this information on to friends, neighbours or relatives who will be looking to register for the fall.



Celebrate African Heritage Month 2025

African Heritage Month in Nova Scotia, celebrated each February, honours the contributions of African Nova Scotians.

This year’s theme, Legacy in Action: Celebrating Black Brilliance, highlights the achievements and resilience of African Nova Scotians, who have shaped the province's history for more than 400 years.

In schools, recognizing African Heritage Month is crucial for promoting cultural awareness and inclusion. It fosters understanding of the diverse cultural landscape of Nova Scotia, empowering African Nova Scotian students by reflecting their history and heritage in their classrooms. Highlighting their achievements serves as a source of inspiration.

African Heritage Month 2025 is an opportunity to educate, inspire, and celebrate the richness of African heritage in Nova Scotia every day.



Reminder: February 17 is Heritage Day

Heritage Day 2025 honours the late Nora Madeline Bernard. From Millbrook First Nation, she was a Mi'kmaq activist who fought for her community and First Nations people across Canada.

Ms. Bernard played a key role in getting justice, recognition, and compensation for survivors of the Canadian Indian Residential School system. As a survivor of the system herself, she founded and became president of the Shubenacadie Indian Residential School Association in 1987. She then started a class-action lawsuit for the survivors, which inspired others across the country to do the same, leading to the largest class-action lawsuit in Canadian history.



Student Success Planning at BLT Sr. Elementary School

Like other schools, BLT Sr. works with student evidence and teacher feedback to development goals and strategies to support students in the areas of literacy, numeracy, and well being through short cycle planning. Below is a quick snapshot of the things we are working on during term 2!

Literacy: Teachers use whole group and small group instruction to focus on supporting students in the following skills:

Grade 2-3 Teachers:

- Applying known strategies to solve unknown words
- Focus on hearing and recording sounds
- Development of oral language, particularly in French Immersion
- Supporting manipulation of phonological units (isolating, segmenting, and blending).

Grade 4-5 Teachers:

- Engagement with Text: the selection and interaction with a variety of texts based on interest, enjoyment, and information.
- Strategic Processing of Text: any one of many simultaneous and coordinated thinking activities that go on in a reader's head to monitor comprehension. Thinking is Reading!
- Responding to Text: using the background knowledge provided through instruction, combined with prior knowledge, to generate and answer questions, and summarize information

Mathematics: Teachers use whole group and small group instruction to focus on supporting students in the following skills:

Grade 2-5 Teachers:

- Implementation of a daily 30 minute block of learning focused on developing students computational fluency.
- Gather ongoing evidence of student understanding in relation to computational fluency.
- As teachers, work collaboratively to use the evidence gathered to identify trends to inform next steps for instruction.

Well Being: Whole School Initiative

- Building classroom communities through Social Emotional Learning activities and class discussions.
- Building authentic relationship with our students and their families
- Supporting students with problem solving and conflict resolution skills, this will be supported by our school counsellors.

If you have any questions about the work we are doing to support your children please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Safe Arrival

Parents/guardians of students who attend our school have the option to report their child's absence or late arrival in advance using a toll-free number, the PowerSchool Parent Portal or an app!

SchoolMessenger SafeArrival – an absence management system that improves student safety and makes it easy for families to inform their child's school if they will be away – powers all three of these options.

If your child will knowingly be late for school (typically due to an appointment) please indicate they will be absent for the full day, we then change their status once the student arrives at school.

If your child will be absent or late, please let us know by using one of the following methods:

1. **Toll-Free Number:** Call 1-833-582-6940 to report an absence using an automated system.
2. **PowerSchool Parent Portal:** Log into <https://sishrsb.ednet.ns.ca/public/> and access the SchoolMessenger website to report an absence.
3. **SchoolMessenger App:** Download the SchoolMessenger app for Android and iOS devices and sign up using your PowerSchool username (full email address).

For more information about reporting your child's absence and a list of frequently asked questions, visit: <https://www.hrce.ca/safearrival>

Breakfast program

A huge thank you to Loblaw (Atlantic Superstore) Lakeside Distribution Centre and David Keefe for their incredible continued support of our breakfast program. Additionally, the St. Margaret's Bay Lions Club and the St. Andrews Anglican Church has been a supporter of our school and breakfast program also.

Pick Up/Drop Off

While the morning routine is generally well executed we have two areas in need of improvement:

1. Students not immediately exiting a car after stopping in the orange drop off area (please remember that all hugs/kisses/conversations should be completed before arriving at school.) Students should have their book bags in their lap, readying to hop out. There is no need for parents to get out of the car.
2. Please follow the arrows to use the bus loop to get to the orange drop off area. Please do not do U turns or let someone out in a spot other than the orange drop off area.

As well we would like to remind families to not use the school's parking lot for drop offs or picks ups. Of course, if you have an Accessible Parking Permit you will be able to enter the parking area.

Morning arrivals

Student supervision is not available until 8:15 each morning. Please do not drop your child off prior to that as they will have to wait outside until the 8.15 bells rings to enter..

Volunteers at our school

Please remember that volunteers for our school require a Criminal Records Check (C R C) **with vulnerable sector check** and a Child Abuse Registry check. If you contact the school, we can get you the volunteer rate for the C R C on line or at the RCMP station.

School Lunches

Please remember to pack extra snacks with your child in the event they do not like the school lunch.

Lost & Found

Please remember to label all of your child's clothing along with water bottles and lunch bags as we have a lot of unclaimed items in our lost & found.

Water Bottles

Please remember to send your child with their water bottle and please label it.