

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



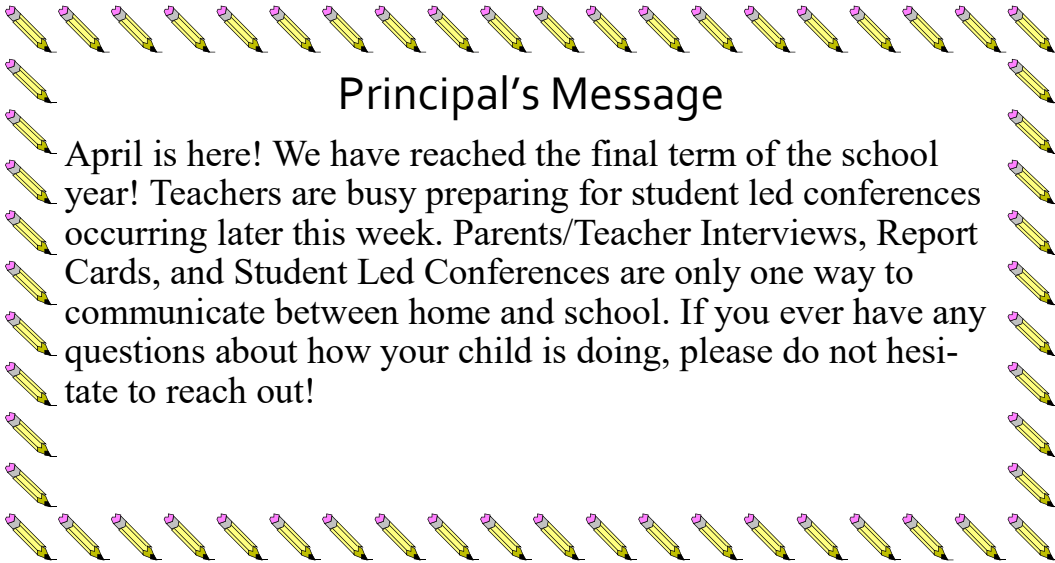
April 2025

April 2—World Autism Day

April 3—NO SCHOOL—Professional Development in AM and Progress Conferences 1-3pm and 6-8pm

April 18—Good Friday—NO SCHOOL

April 21—Easter Monday—NO SCHOOL



Mark these important HRCE dates on your calendar!

UPCOMING EVENTS	APRIL 3	NO CLASSES Progress Conferences & Professional Practice PP-12
	APRIL 18	NO CLASSES Good Friday
	APRIL 21	NO CLASSES Easter Monday
	APRIL 30	NO CLASSES Progress Conferences & Professional Practice PP-12

Halifax Regional Centre for Education

Transition Planning for Next Year—2nd NOTICE

We are continuing in the beginning stages of scheduling and planning for our next school year. Please note that most decisions about classroom configurations take place by the end of May. If you have any requests please make sure you contact Mr. Myra (cmyra@hrce.ca) or Ms. Quinn (quinnt@hrce.ca) before the end of May. Please note that we may not be able to accommodate all of your requests but it is helpful if we have this information while we are going through the class configuration process. If you have any questions about this process please contact the school and we would be happy to explain how this works.

World Autism Awareness Day

Recognizing and celebrating World Autism Awareness Day in our schools fosters inclusion, understanding, and support for those with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). On April 2 and every day, we strive to raise autism awareness among peers and educators, celebrate accomplishments and promote acceptance for those with ASD. Join us in creating a positive community where all students can thrive and learn about each other's diverse experiences.



Student Drop Off

If you are dropping a student off during the morning please do so in the area painted orange up to our orange barriers. Please have your child prepped and ready to hop out as soon as you pull up. Parents will not need to exit the car to help with a bag as this is part of a student's growing independence. Also please do not have your child exit your car in the bus area and walk through the buses. We always want them to be safe and that is why we have made our drop off area highly visible. This year the Junior School will use a crosswalk drop off location but we ask our parents to be patient until able to get to our orange zone.

Please do not park/stop in our very tight BLT Sr staff parking lot and especially our accessible parking spots unless you have a tag, we have parents who must use this for accessibility.

Parents can park in the bus loop between 9:00 am and 2:00 pm when the school busses are not here and walk to the office and pick up your child.

Safe Arrival

One of our greatest priorities is ensuring all students arrive to school safely each day. Parents/guardians of students who attend our school now have the option to report their child's absence 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 be absent, please let us know by using one of the following methods:

Toll-Free Number: Call 1-833-582-6940 to report an absence using an automated system.

PowerSchool Parent Portal: Log into <https://sishrsb.ednet.ns.ca/public/> and access the SchoolMessenger website to report an absence.

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>

Telephone Messages

Please be reminded that teachers will not be able to return any telephone messages until after the students have left, returning all messages within 48 hours. Also, our school is not able to give students last minute messages about any changes to their dismissal procedures for that day. Students are not to use cellular telephones while at school or even have them visible. We can always make arrangements to convey a student's message to their family during the day.

Classroom Events/Trips/Volunteering

A reminder for those considering volunteering for anything upcoming in their child's class that both the Criminal Records Check **with Vulnerable Sector Check** and Child Abuse Registry Check must be completed. If you did it at BLT junior, please contact them to send it to us or you can share your copy with us. We can also send you the link to get a reduced rate on MyBackcheck.com or we can provide a letter to receive a reduced rate on the Criminal Records Check, if done in person at the Tantallon RCMP. Please contact us with any questions.

NS Lunch Program – Please send extra snacks with your child in case they do not like their lunch, we do offer fruit at lunch time for students who are still hungry.

Water bottles Please remind your child to bring their water bottle to school every day so that they can use the water refilling stations and help to reduce plastic waste and its impact on landfills and oceans.

Measles prevention in Nova Scotia

We are sharing the following on behalf of Nova Scotia Public Health:

Measles cases are rising in Canada. Measles is a virus that spreads easily and can cause serious complications.

The best way to prevent measles is vaccination.

Nova Scotia offers free vaccines to eligible people. These can be given by primary care providers, pharmacists and Public Health.

Parents are encouraged to check their family's vaccine records and get the measles vaccine if missing doses.

Check your vaccine records at vaxrecordns.nshealth.ca.

Who should get vaccinated?

Anyone born in or after 1970 should get **two doses** of vaccine, typically given at 12 and 18 months. If missed, children and adults can catch up for free.

Adults born before 1970 are generally considered immune but can get a single dose if travelling.

Infants 6-12 months old can get a single dose if travelling but still require two doses after their first birthday to complete the series.

Find out more about measles vaccination: www.nshealth.ca/measles.

Provincial lunch program in action

Last month was Nutrition Month, and what better way to celebrate healthy eating than to shine a spotlight on the Nova Scotia School Lunch Program!

[Click here](#) to see how students at one HRCE school are using the program to dish out some serious leadership skills. It's a feast of learning and fun!

Supporting literacy at home

Did you know? Teachers use the [Six Pillars of Effective Reading Instruction \(Français\)](#) to support students' learning.

Reading is best learned when children get clear and structured support in key skills: listening, recognizing sounds in words, learning letter sounds, building vocabulary, reading smoothly and understanding what they read. These skills work together and when you strengthen one, it helps improve the others.

Good reading instruction includes learning how letters and words work and practicing reading in books. The goal is for children to understand what they read, enjoy reading and learn new things from books.

The links below may help you support your children with reading at home:

[Ideas for parents to help children to practice their reading and writing skills](#)

[10 Ideas to Raise A Reader](#)

Purple Tag Program reminder

Just a friendly reminder that children in Pre-Primary to Grade 2 who use school transportation must have a purple tag on the left side of their backpack. This is to ensure they are not left alone at a bus stop. If your child doesn't have a purple tag or needs a new one, please reach out to the main office. Children who use special needs transportation do not require a purple tag.

To learn more about the Purple Tag Program, watch [this short video](#) or visit HRCE's website [here](#) and click on *Purple Tag Program*.
