

## MARINE DRIVE ACADEMY NEWS

479 Church Point Road  
P.O. Box 188 Sheet Harbour  
Phone: 902-885-2777  
Email: [mda@hrce.ca](mailto:mda@hrce.ca)

**Principal:** Mr. A. Verge

**Vice Principal:** Mrs. A. Smith

V5 Issue 2 November/December 2024

### **Demographic Update form**

The Demographic Update form will be reopening to families who have not yet completed. It will reopen from November 6<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>.

Note that the form is still accessed by families by logging into the PowerSchool Parent Portal.

Please remember to check yes/no to the **Consent for Publication of Student Personal Information and Student Work** as this will allow the school to publish pictures in the yearbook.

**NS Lunch Program** - [www.NSLunch.ca](http://www.NSLunch.ca), click "Order Now" and select Halifax Regional Centre for Education to order the first two weeks of lunches.

Setting up your account is easy. To log into the ordering system, you use your My NS Account or a student GNSPES account. You then create a diner profile for your student. To do this, you will need to input your student's school and homeroom/class.

Once the diner profile is complete, you will be able to choose between two daily lunch options, place your order and access the confidential payment system.

Information about [creating a My NS Account](#) is available online. If you are experiencing difficulties logging in or creating your My NS Account, you can reach the [My NS Account Helpdesk](#) on weekdays from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. at 1-844-322-9375, or at 1-844-322-9377 for anyone who is hearing impaired.

If you have a My NS Account but are having trouble with the ordering system, you can create a support request on [www.NSLunch.ca](http://www.NSLunch.ca) and your School Lunch Program Lead will respond.

### **Pop can Tabs**

Mrs. Boutilier's Grade 2 class will be collecting pop tabs to donate to the Sheet Harbour Lions club wheelchair initiative. If you have any donations, please send them in with your child and have your child place the donation in the box outside of Mrs. Boutilier's classroom. Any donation would be greatly appreciated.

### **Water Bottles**

Students are reminded to bring a water bottle to fill up at the coolers.



**MDA Spirit Wear** – order school clothing online at <https://pmsgsw.com/products/Marine-Drive-Academy-c156592252>

**Lost and Found:** There are already many misplaced items in our Lost and Found. Please label all clothing so they can be returned to students if they do become misplaced. Please have students check the Lost & Found table outside the office if they are missing clothing or other items.

### **P-12 Parent Teacher Information:**

Parent-Teacher Interviews will be held on **Thursday, December 5th** from 12:30-2:30 and 6:00-8:00.

Please have a list of teachers you would like to see before calling to book your appointment.

**Appointments will be booked from November 18th -December 4th 10:00AM-3:30PM.**

Interviews will be a maximum of 10 minutes, if you require more time, please, contact the subject or classroom teacher and book a time other than Parent-Teacher Day.

### **VIDEO SURVEILLANCE**



Marine Drive Academy uses a video surveillance system as part of our continued efforts to support a safe, positive and effective learning environment. We recognize that the images recorded by this video surveillance system are personal information and, as with all other personal information, we take steps to balance privacy rights with safety and security concerns. The school has the legal authority to collect this personal information under Section 24 of Nova Scotia's Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Only designated staff have access to our video surveillance equipment and such access is restricted as required by law. The system is used to enhance school safety and to deter or take action in response to unlawful behaviour.

## Parent Navigators

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Do you have questions about supports available for your child? Are you wondering where to turn? HRCE's Parent Navigators can guide you!

We know that navigating the many supports available to you and your family during the school years can be overwhelming. The role of the Parent Navigator is to help parents and guardians of HRCE students find and access services available in education, justice, health, community services and more.

HRCE's Parent Navigators have built strong relationships with community agencies throughout the region and have developed a deep understanding of the tools and resources out there for families.

They can help you find the support that you or your child may need to achieve success, inside and outside of school. They will help guide and connect you with the most appropriate services and resources. Reach out!

Contact Information:

### [Charlene Sparks](#)

902-464-2000 x4362

902-229-1705

### [Amelia Downey](#)

902-464-2000 x4361

902-219-0587

## Homework Hub

The **Homework Hub** will open for mathematics tutoring as of **Monday, September 9th** for **grades 4-12**. Tutoring is available during the following times:

- o **Grades 4-6:** Monday-Wednesday 5:30-7:30 pm (an additional hour per day over previous years)
- o **Grades 7-12:** Sunday-Thursday 5:30-9:30 pm

The EECD has produced web versions of promotional cards that can be shared on school websites, newsletters, and other communications with parents:

[NS Homework Hub 4-6](#)

[NS Homework Hub 7-12](#)



**Cold Weather Reminders:** As the weather continues to get colder, we remind you that our P-6 students will be going outside for fresh air and exercise during recess and lunch. Please ensure that your children are dressed appropriately for the weather and prepared to stay outside for approximately 30 minutes at lunch time. **Please ensure that all outerwear is labeled with child's name or initials, so it can be returned to the owner if found.** Please put extra pants, socks, and mittens in your child's backpack for wet/snow days! Once the snow comes, students who wish to play in the snow will require snow pants.

## Cancellation of School

By 5:30 a.m., staff will make recommendations to the Regional Executive Director of Education (or a designate), based on the information gathered and assessments of each area. The Regional Executive Director of Education makes the final decision based on this information. If it is safe to have students and staff on the roads and sidewalks, then schools will be open. If not, classes will be cancelled.

It is our goal to make the decision 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.

School cancellation announcements will be made as early as possible on local radio stations, the Halifax Regional Centre for Education's school cancellation line (464-4636), via Twitter at [http://twitter.com/HRCE\\_NS](http://twitter.com/HRCE_NS) and/or the HRCE website ([www.hrce.ca](http://www.hrce.ca)). Also, you may sign up for e-mail or text message notifications at <https://www.hrce.ca/families/cancellations/subscribe-notifications>. Occasionally, during bad weather, there are times when the buses will not be travelling on some roads in our school catchment area. If this should occur, please leave a message on the absence line so that your child(ren)'s attendance will be recorded accurately in PowerSchool.

### **Midday Closure**

If the weather deteriorates, the HRCE can decide to dismiss students early. In the event of an early dismissal, the decision will be communicated to all schools as close to 11:00 a.m. as possible.

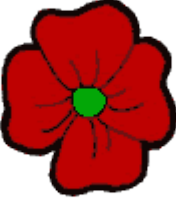


- Bused students will be picked up two hours earlier than their regular dismissal time; and
- Non-bused students will be dismissed at their regularly scheduled lunch hour.

In the event of an early dismissal, students in grades pre-primary to 6 will not be released from school unless parents/guardians or designates have been notified by the school.

If you have a child in junior high or high school, you should prepare and discuss a plan for what to do if schools close early.

Parents/guardians are reminded to ensure that your child(ren) are properly dressed for the weather conditions.

## ***Dates to Remember***

<b>November</b>	<b>December</b>	<b>January</b>
		
Nov 6 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> - Demographic Update form reopening	Dec 5 <sup>th</sup> – PD Day (am) Parent Teacher (pm) 12:30-2:30 6:00-8:00pm <b>NO Classes for PP-12</b>	Jan 2 <sup>nd</sup> – P.D. Day <b>NO CLASSES for PP-12</b>
Nov 8 <sup>th</sup> – Remembrance Day Observance at 10:50	Dec 11 <sup>th</sup> – Christmas Concert at 6pm	Jan 3 <sup>rd</sup> – First Day Back after Break
Nov 11 <sup>th</sup> – Remembrance Day – NO CLASSES	Dec 12 <sup>th</sup> – Snow date for Concert at 6pm	Jan 27 <sup>th</sup> -30 <sup>th</sup> - Exams
Nov 22 <sup>nd</sup> – Assess & Evaluation Day <b>NO CLASSES for PP-12</b> <b>(This is a change for Sr. High Students)</b>	Dec 17 <sup>th</sup> –Tree Lighting at 6pm School Activity from 7-8:30pm	
	Dec 20 <sup>th</sup> – Last day before Christmas Break	<b>FEB 3<sup>rd</sup> – Semester 2 begins</b>