



## MARINE DRIVE ACADEMY NEWS

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**V6 Issue 4** March/April 2026

**LungNSPEI** will be visiting our school on March 11th, 2026, hosting Youth Vaping Awareness Days to all grade seven classes. Sessions are presented by a Dalhousie Health Promotion student volunteer.

The goals of these sessions are to:

- Increase knowledge of the health and social harms associated with vaping
- Increase student's ability to make informed decisions about using vaping products

Youth Vaping Awareness Days sessions run about an hour long per class and consist of the following various resources and activities:

- Video presentation on health and social harms of vaping products
- Real stories for local youth
- Animation video highlighting the connection between vape use and mental health.
- Guided discussion
- Bingo game to test the students' knowledge.

**Students walking after school:** For the safety of our students, we asked any students who are walking after school to please wait in the cafeteria until buses leave.

**Water Bottles:** Students are reminded to bring a water bottle to fill up at the water stations.

**P-12 Parent-Teacher Interviews** will be held on April 29<sup>th</sup> 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 appointments. Appointments will be booked from **April 13<sup>th</sup>-April 28<sup>th</sup> 10:00AM-3:00PM.**

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.

## Graduation and Post-Secondary Updates from Ms. Walsh

Grade 12 students and parents, the final semester of high school has started, and you are one step closer to graduation. It's an exciting time with lots of news coming your way from the post-secondary institutions to which you have applied. As they do not send your news to the school, please remember to keep me updated. You can email [twalsh@hrce.ca](mailto:twalsh@hrce.ca), call 902-885-2777 ext.4, or drop by my office.

- If you have been accepted or have news about your application, please let me know your status, the school and the program.
- If you have made a decision about where you will be attending, please let me know the school and the program.
- Don't forget that some schools have separate applications for scholarships, bursaries and awards. Check the websites of the schools to which you have applied.
- If you receive an award, scholarship or bursary and would like to have it included in the graduation program, please let me know:
  - the name of the award
  - the school or organization giving you the award
  - the amount of the award.

Award, scholarship, and bursary applications are updated on my website as I receive them. Please check <https://sites.google.com/a/gnspes.ca/tracy-walsh/> regularly and check the MDA Grads Google Classroom to stay up to date.

HRCE Finance Dept will issue a T4 for any bursaries students receive at graduation totaling **over \$500**. This is a requirement from Canada Revenue Agency, therefore, graduating students who receive bursaries totaling **over \$500** at graduation are asked to contact Mrs. Levy with their Social Insurance Number.



Thank  
You

- To Mrs. Julie Gillis and Mrs. Donna Levy who each donated \$100 to the annual Tattletales fundraiser for school libraries. The money raised with this campaign is increased by a percentage with funds donated by publishers and Tattletales bookstore and is the only fundraiser. It is important to us to not raise money through student participation which makes this donation appreciated. Thank you, Julie & Donna, for your generosity and recognition of the importance of having high interest books for students to read!
- We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to Mrs. Ellen Murphy for her incredibly thoughtful donation of mittens to our school.

### **Non-Teaching Substitutes**

The Halifax Regional Centre for Education maintains substitute lists for non-teaching positions to provide short term coverage to schools when permanent staff are away. Substitutes are placed in day-to-day assignments on an as needed basis.

Do you or someone you know have experience as an administrative assistant/secretary and would like to have your name added to the substitute list, please visit <https://www.hrce.ca/employment>.

We are also looking for lunch monitors to monitor Gr. P-6 students at lunchtime (11:25-12:25) if interested please call Mrs. Levy.

### **March 21 is International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination**

Today we recognize International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination to build awareness, empathy, and respect among students of all backgrounds. The United Nations established this day in 1966 to call for a global commitment to ending racial discrimination in all its forms.

By learning about the impacts of discrimination and celebrating diversity, children gain social skills and knowledge to be inclusive both within school and home community. Families are our students first educators and through your continuous conversation valuing equity and the elimination of racism, we will continue our shared goal of a society where racism no longer exist.

### **March 21 is World Down Syndrome Day**

World Down Syndrome Day, celebrated each year on March 21, gives us the chance to recognize those with Down syndrome and the awesome contributions they make to our school communities. It's an opportunity for families, students, and staff to strengthen inclusion, acceptance, and belonging. By celebrating differences and promoting understanding, our schools help create welcoming environments where every child feels valued and supported.

On this day, many schools encourage students and staff to wear mismatched socks as a colourful symbol of diversity and solidarity. Activities such as assemblies, classroom discussions, and creative projects highlight the abilities of individuals with Down syndrome, fostering empathy and friendship throughout the school. These efforts ensure that everyone has a voice and a place in our communities, reinforcing the importance of respect and kindness.

### **March is Nutrition Month: Make the Most of the Nova Scotia School Lunch Program**

March is celebrated across Canada as Nutrition Month, a perfect opportunity for families to focus on building healthy eating habits together. Nutrition Month allows us to explore sustainable eating patterns, food literacy, and learning about the benefits of balance and variety in everyday meals. By highlighting the connection between nutrition and long-term health, Nutrition Month empowers everyone to build habits that benefit both individuals and the planet.

Use Nutrition Month as a reminder to take advantage of the [Nova Scotia School Lunch Program!](#) With nutritious, balanced meals prepared daily, the program ensures students have the energy and focus they need to succeed in the classroom and beyond. The School Lunch Program is designed to provide accessible, affordable, and appealing meals that feature a variety of foods from all food groups, following Canada's Food Guide. By participating, families can help their children develop lifelong healthy habits while making mornings a little less hectic.

Together, we can make small changes that lead to healthier futures for our families and communities.

## **Responding to Technology-Facilitated Harms Among Young People**

Unplugged Canada is hosting a free community event at the Canada Games Centre on Thursday March 5 at 7 p.m., available both in person and virtually. Join to learn from Dr. Alexa Dodge, Assistant Professor of Criminology at Saint Mary's University and a leading Canadian researcher on technology-facilitated sexual violence.

This session will explore cyberbullying, the sharing of intimate images, and other online harms youth face, along with research on the support and responses young people need when problems arise online. This presentation will be valuable for any caregiver or adult supporting young people as they navigate the challenges of their digital social lives.

Thursday, March 5, 2026, at 7 p.m.

Canada Games Centre Boardroom - 26 Thomas Raddall Drive, Halifax

Please register for in-person or virtual [here](#).

## **Safer Internet Day 2026: Navigating the Internet Safely**

As our kids and teens spend more time exploring, creating, and learning online, it's natural to wonder how we can best support them — especially with emerging technologies like artificial intelligence becoming part of their digital world. On Safer Internet Day 2026, Google shared helpful updates and tools designed to make it easier for families to guide, protect, and empower young people as they navigate the Internet safely. Learn more [here](#).



## **BECOME A HOST FAMILY**

OPEN YOUR HOME AND HEART TO AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT

**\$875**  
/month

PER STUDENT  
(Tax Free)

**\$975**  
/month

If you can  
accommodate  
a **vegetarian** or  
**lactose free diet**

**\$1075**  
/month

If you can  
accommodate  
a **vegan** or  
**celiac diet**

\* Effective in September 2025.

**RECEIVE \$100 FOR EVERY SUCCESSFUL REFERRAL OF NEW HOST FAMILY**

*Share the name and contact details of an interested host. Once they are approved and actively hosting, you'll receive \$100.*



**Halifax**  
Regional Centre for Education

Learn More:  
[nsisp.ca/host](https://nsisp.ca/host)

Email [hostastudent@hrce.ca](mailto:hostastudent@hrce.ca)  
or call **902-464-2000 ext. 2548**



**Head Lice Prevention Information:** The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD), has committed to following the recommendations of health care professionals and supporting school communities in the treatment and prevention of head lice.

The department's focus on the treatment and prevention of head lice is an effort to support student attendance and full participation at school. In accordance with these principles and healthcare standards, students with head lice should be treated at home and continue to attend school as usual. The confidentiality, privacy, dignity, and best interests of students and their families will be respected at all times.

"No-nit" or "no head lice" policies that keep children away from school are not effective. Head lice are common among students: they do not spread disease and cases of head lice are often misdiagnosed.

Additional information on how to prevent, find, and treat head lice is available at <https://www.nshealth.ca/sites/default/files/documents/pamphlets/07135.pdf>

### **Volunteers make a difference!**

HRCE values the many roles that volunteers play in our schools.

Parents, guardians, family members and community members who give of their time provide students with enriched learning experiences. As a volunteer, you will also discover the many rewards of helping students achieve their personal best.

Volunteers perform many different tasks in our schools. Some of the more common experiences include:

- Field trips or special events
- Fundraising
- Classroom or resource room support
- Site plan committees
- Library support
- Hot lunch program and canteens
- Safe arrival program
- Reading programs
- Assisting with playground supervision
- Assisting teachers with teaching materials
- Coaching
- School beautification
- Tutoring
- Communications (telephone committees/newsletters/flyers)
- Health programs
- Chaperoning

### **Student safety is paramount**

We recognize our responsibility to ensure that all students attending our schools are protected by taking reasonable precautions to screen volunteers who may be working with students without direct supervision of staff. In accordance with Nova Scotia's Provincial [Volunteer Background Check Policy](#), prior to volunteering with the Halifax Regional Centre for Education, all volunteers will provide:

1. A completed Child Abuse Register search, which can be found [here](#). As of June 2025, digital confirmations are available for Child Abuse Register checks. For more information, click [here](#).

2. A certified and true copy of a Criminal Records Check with Vulnerable Sector Check available [here](#), from your local Police or RCMP detachment or through online organizations endorsed by Nova Scotia law enforcement agencies

Please note: the Child Abuse Register Search and Criminal Records Check with Vulnerable Sector Check must be issued in the three months preceding volunteering and updated every three years.

**Interested in helping out?** We would love to have you!

Please connect with your local School Principal.

For more information, please read our [Volunteer Handbook](#).

## **Dates to Remember**

<b>March</b>	<b>April</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>June</b>
			
March 13 <sup>th</sup> – Assess Day – No Classes for PP-12 students	April 2 <sup>nd</sup> – PD Day – No Classes for PP-12 students	May 7 <sup>th</sup> – Gr. 6 Transition Meeting at 6:30pm	June 21 <sup>st</sup> - 
March 11 <sup>th</sup> – Gr. 7 Vaping Presentation	April 3 <sup>rd</sup> – Good Friday – No Classes	May 10 <sup>th</sup> 	June 21 <sup>st</sup> – National Indigenous Peoples Day
March 16 <sup>th</sup> -20 – MARCH BREAK		May 14 <sup>th</sup> – PP-6 Fluoride Varnish Program	June 23-25 – Exams
	April 6 – Easter Monday – No Classes	May 15 <sup>th</sup> – Black Excellence Day	June 29 <sup>th</sup> – Assessment & Evaluation Day – No Classes for PP-12 students  <b>Graduation at 9:30am Invitation only</b>
	April 7 <sup>th</sup> – Gr. 7 Immunization	May 18 <sup>th</sup> – Victoria Day – NO CLASSES	June 30 – Last Day of School 
	April 29 – AM PD Day PM Parent-Teacher 12:30-2:30 6:00-8:00pm No Classes for PP-12	May 28 <sup>th</sup> – Spring Concert at 6:30pm	