



MARINE DRIVE ACADEMY NEWS

479 Church Point Road

P.O. Box 188 Sheet Harbour

Phone: 902-885-2777

Email: mda@hrce.ca

Website: <https://mda.hrce.ca>

SCENT/PEANUT/NUT SAFE SCHOOL

Principal: Mr. Verge

Vice Principal: Mrs. A. Smith

V6 Issue 5 May/June 2026

March Break Theatre Camp

Over March break our school had the great opportunity to host a three-day theatre camp for students in grades



7-12. This program was held by Halifax Theatre for Young People and Perform! Nova Scotia.

Students engaged in active workshops around acting, writing and performing. Over the course of the program students learned many skills to improve their abilities on stage and behind the scenes. Students were able to explore many different parts of acting through games that focused on movement, vocal technique, improvisation and collaboration. They learned how to connect with their audience and with other actors to truly bring a

performance to life.

The main goal for the program was to create something to show the students' families on the final day, and everyone collaborated to produce a short play. The play was a comedy about the values of friendship, with many fun and memorable moments. The students put their best efforts into writing, arranging and performing their creation, implementing new ideas as they continued to learn. The students really enjoyed working on this project and had a lot of fun writing and rehearsing it.

The program was generally very well received, and several students have expressed interest in having further opportunities for theatre at our school. The leaders for this program did a fantastic job getting students to engage and making sure everyone was included in activities and performances. Overall, it was a complete success and a great experience for students to explore performing arts and build confidence in their own abilities. We would love to see more opportunities for students to build and develop these skills and interests going forward.

Elizabeth Levy, Grade 11

Note: Many thanks go out to MDA SAC, Ms. Walsh, Robyn Murphy, and NSH Health Promoters Molly Ryan, Liane Khoury and Jillian Griffin. With their support Theatre Camp was a huge success!!

Sincerely, Darlene Rasmussen Youth Health Centre Coordinator



2025-26 Yearbook

Yearbooks are on sale from April 20-May 15. The preferred method of payment is school cash online. Please visit <https://hrce.schoolcashonline.com>. If you do not have an account, please register for one. Purchase yearbooks online using credit card and echeck. To receive email notifications please click “My Account – Manage email notifications”.

If paying by cash or cheque (payable to Marine Drive Academy) please send payment to the school with the order form that was emailed to parents/guardians on April 20th.

Orders are due by May 15th – no exceptions.

PEER SUPPORT GROUP- THURSDAYS 10-11:30 AM STARTING APRIL 16TH

Located in the Sheet Harbour library
program room
Register beforehand or drop in!

Contact Julia for more information
782-446-1645 wellness@wellbeinghub.ca

Caregiving in a Neurodiverse Household

The Well-Being HUB, in collaboration with SchoolsPlus and the Sheet Harbour Public Library, offers a safe, inclusive, and confidential peer support group intentionally designed with neurodivergence support in mind. Join us to share triumphs, learn from, and lean on one another as we support our loved ones and ourselves.





May 15 is Black Excellence Day

Black Excellence Day 2026 in Nova Scotia is an opportunity for schools to reflect on the learning and exploration of Black people and culture over the past year. It recognizes, celebrates, and supports learning from the achievements, contributions, and leadership of Black individuals and communities. More than a single-day celebration, Black Excellence is the recognition of meaningful steps toward strengthening inclusive learning environments where all students see themselves reflected in curriculum materials, through the stories we tell and the histories we honour.

The purpose of celebrating Black Excellence in our schools and classrooms is to affirm student's identities, build confidence, and inspire futures by highlighting the role Black people have made in education, science, arts, leadership, and community advocacy. It reflects and celebrates thoughtful conversations in schools about equity, representation, and the ongoing work to remove systemic barriers.

This moment of reflection also invites educators and school communities to consider how Black Excellence is represented within their own classrooms and learning spaces. For some, this may affirm intentional work already underway; for others, it may serve as an opportunity to begin or deepen this practice. Black Excellence Day reminds us that this work is ongoing, and that there is always time to plan, reflect, and be deliberate in ensuring all students see themselves meaningfully reflected in our schools.

We welcome everyone to wear a black shirt, if you're able, on May 15 to show your support for Black Excellence Day!

Unplugged Webinar on Smartphones, Social Media and More

Unplugged Canada is hosting a LIVE webinar on May 6 every parent and caregiver needs to hear. We're talking about smartphones, social media, the research — and most importantly, what we can do about it.

Hosted by Kirsten Sweet, educator and National Program Director with Unplugged Canada with Tania Johnson, Co-founder of the Institute of Child Psychology and Dr. Michele Locke, Clinical Psychologist, learn about the impact of smartphones and social media on youth and how the Unplugged Canada Pledge and our resources can spark meaningful conversations in your home, school, and community.

We'll also introduce two new initiatives: the National School Champion Program and Operation Landline — a summer campaign helping families delay smartphones and reconnect in simpler, more intentional ways.

Come ready to learn, connect, and be part of the movement. Register [here](#).

Screen Free Summer: Digital Diet Guidance

As summer approaches, many families are thinking about screen time. This article introduces the idea of a “digital diet,” encouraging a focus on the quality and purpose of screen use rather than just limiting it. It offers practical ways to help children build healthier, more balanced habits with technology. Read more [here](#).

Nova Scotia Quality of Life Survey

Engage Nova Scotia is seeking more youth voices in their Nova Scotia Quality of Life Survey to ensure this critical demographic is properly represented in reporting. To ensure youth voices are heard, Engage Nova Scotia is asking parents to encourage youth and young adults in their household, who are age 16 and older, to complete the survey.

Take the survey now!

Please email Engage Nova Scotia at survey@engagenovascotia.ca to take the Nova Scotia Quality of Life Survey. By sharing your story – your day-to-day experiences from affordability and sense of belonging in community to close personal connections and your level of trust in institutions – you can help reveal the full story of your community’s well-being.

You can also learn more at engagenovascotia.ca.

Engage Nova Scotia is a non-profit, independent organization that works with partners to advance the quality of life of all Nova Scotia residents. They believe everyone should be included to share their story, seed their future, and influence change to improve their own well-being and the well-being of their communities. Engage works closely with local municipalities and organizations across the province.

Access Awareness Week - May 31 to June 6

Access Awareness Week in Nova Scotia, taking place May 31–June 6, 2026, is an opportunity to recognize the importance of accessibility, inclusion, and the leadership of people with disabilities. This year’s theme, “Disability Justice: Stronger Together, First Voice Leading Change for Collective Action,” emphasizes the importance of centering lived experience and working collaboratively to create meaningful, lasting change.

In schools, this week is a powerful reminder that inclusion is everyone’s responsibility. Classrooms are where understanding begins — through learning, conversation, and action. By listening to diverse voices, removing barriers, and fostering accessible learning environments, educators and students help build school communities where all learners feel valued and supported.

Friendly Reminders

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, 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.

Main Office





The Administrative Assistant, Mrs. Levy, is away from her desk from 11:00am to 12:00pm. If you call the school and leave a message during this time, please be aware, it will not be retrieved until after 12:00pm.

Reporting an Absence for PP-12 Students: For students' safety, it is very important that you contact the school if your student is absent or late for any reason. Please call 902-885-2777 and extension 1 to report an absence. **Leave your name, the student's name (first & last) and the reason for the absence.** Leaving a message will avoid the school calling home. The absence line is available 24/7.

Morning Drop-Off Time: There is no supervision at the school **until 8:10** therefore, students **cannot be dropped off at school before the staff are available**. Please do not drop students off prior to 8:10 as it poses a safety risk for students. Please take the first driveway to your left and park in the student pick up/drop off loop.



Online clothing order: You can purchase school clothing at <https://pmsgsw.com/Your-Ecommerce-Store-c114165318>

Dates to Remember	
May	June
	
May 7 th – Gr. 6 Transition Meeting at 6:30pm	 June 21 st -
May 10 th 	June 21 st – National Indigenous Peoples Day
May 14 th – PP-6 Fluoride Varnish Program	June 23-25 – Exams
May 15 th – Black Excellence Day – Wear Black	June 29 th – Assessment & Evaluation Day – No Classes for PP-12 students Graduation at 9:30am Invitation only
May 18 th – Victoria Day – NO CLASSES	June 30 – Last Day of School 😊
May 28 th – Spring Concert at 6:30pm	