MARINE DRIVE ACADEMY NEWS

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Elementary soccer intramurals champions!



A BiG Thank You to Holy Trinity/St. Andrew ACW for their generous donation of $200 towards our Breakfast Program.

Youth Health Centre (YHC)

Hi Marine Drive Academy community! My name is Ashley Harding, and I'm the new Youth Health Centre Coordinator here at MDA.

The Youth Health Centre is a welcoming space where students can connect, ask questions, access support, and learn about topics related to their health and well-being. Whether you have a question, need someone to talk to, want to take part in an activity, or simply need a place to relax and recharge, you're welcome here!

Some of the regular activities you can look forward to during the high school lunch period include:

- Mondays: Mindful Monday — a quiet space to relax, read, colour, or try simple mindfulness activities. Take a break and enjoy some time for yourself! *(Twice a month)*
- Tuesdays: Jack.org — activities focused on youth mental health.
- Wednesdays: Creative Wednesday — drop in to get creative, try different crafts, make buttons, and do something fun. No experience needed! *(Once a month to start)*
- Thursdays: GSA — a welcoming space to connect, build friendships, and celebrate inclusion. *(Weekly)*

- Fridays: YHC drop-in opportunities — stop by to chat, ask questions, or spend some time in the space.

Throughout the year, the YHC will also offer opportunities to explore topics such as healthy relationships, sexual health, mental health, and overall well-being through activities, events, and other initiatives.

Please watch for school announcements or check the calendar on the top floor near the breakfast program for updates, as the schedule may occasionally change due to meetings or training.

You don't need to have a concern or be involved in a program to visit! Students are encouraged to stop by, introduce themselves, and say hello. The YHC is a place to connect, take a break, have fun, ask questions, and access support when you need it.

I look forward to connecting with and supporting you all this school year! 😊

Ashley Harding
Youth Health Centre Coordinator

November 8th is Indigenous Veterans Day

On November 8, we recognize Indigenous Veterans Day and honour the First Nations, Inuit and Métis people who have served and continue to serve in the Canadian Armed Forces. Indigenous veterans have made significant contributions to Canada's military history, serving with courage and dedication while often facing discrimination and barriers to recognition when they returned home.

This day is an opportunity to learn about their stories, recognize their sacrifices and reflect on the importance of ensuring their contributions are remembered and honoured.

We encourage families to take a moment to learn about Indigenous veterans and share their stories with the next generation. Learn more here.

Happy Diwali

Diwali, also known as the Festival of Lights, is celebrated by millions of people around the world, including Hindus, Sikhs, Jains and some Buddhists. The celebration carries different meanings across traditions, but often centres on themes of light overcoming darkness, good overcoming evil, and hope, renewal and new beginnings.

Celebrations may include lighting diyas (small oil lamps), decorating homes, sharing special foods, exchanging gifts and gathering with family and friends. Diwali is an opportunity to learn about the diverse traditions and cultures represented in our school communities and to celebrate the many ways people find meaning, connection and joy.

We wish all those celebrating a happy Diwali!

P-12 Parent Teacher Information:

Parent-Teacher Interviews will be held on **Thursday, December 3rd from 6:00-8:00pm and Friday, December 4th 12:30-2:30.**

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 2nd 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.

Christmas Dinner

The students and staff will be treated to a Christmas Dinner on **Tuesday, December 15th**. Please send lunch with your student(s) if they are not participating in the Christmas Dinner.

Grad Reminders

- Please keep Ms. Walsh in the loop about:
  - where you have applied (school and program name)
  - where you have been accepted (school and program name)
  - plans for next year
  - if you need help with applications
  - any scholarship, bursary or award that you want included in the grad program

- Check Ms. Walsh's website and the MDA Grad Google Classroom regularly for scholarship and bursary applications.

- Even though you can't apply for student loans until May, there are things you can do now to make sure there are no delays processing your applications:
  - get a bank account in your name
  - get your Social Insurance Number (SIN)
  - complete income tax returns on time (student, parent/guardian, stepparent)
  - gather custody/separation/divorce agreements (if applicable)
  - gather disability documentation from doctor or psychologist (if applicable)
  - visit https://novascotia.ca/studentassistance/Apply/New/GettingReady.asp for more information

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.

Volunteering

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.

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:

- A completed Child Abuse Register search, which can be found **here**
- 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 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 the School Principal.

For more information, please read our **Volunteer Handbook**.

SchoolCash Online

Our school will post items for purchase (ex: yearbook) relevant to your child. You can make all purchases and payments from your phone, tablet or computer. This is the preferred method for payment.

To get started, we ask all families to register for SchoolCash Online as soon as possible. It's free and takes less than two minutes. You will receive an email once items are posted for purchase. (To receive email notifications please click "My Account – Manage email notifications")

Visit https://hrce.schoolcashonline.com/ and click *Register* to get started.

Need support? Connect with the SchoolCash Online help desk at schoolcashonline.com/Home/Support

We hope that *SchoolCash Online* makes paying school-related fees more convenient!

Donations

- A general donation link can now be found on the homepage of your school's website. All donations submitted online are subject to a **transaction fee of 4.6% of the donation amount, plus an additional $0.12 which will be paid by the school.** This means that when you donate $20, the school will receive $19.01.
    - For example, the donation is for $20:
        - To reverse calculate, first remove the flat fee of $0.12, which makes it $19.88
        - Then calculate the base cost by dividing the remaining amount by 1.046: $19.88 ÷ 1.046 = $19.01, base cost
        - For the fee calculation, take the base cost multiply by the 4.6% fee: $19.01 × 4.6% = 87 cents fee
        - Add the base cost, flat fee and the transactional fee back together to get the original receipt amount:
          $19.01 + $0.12 + $0.87 = $20.00
- An electronic tax receipt will automatically be emailed to you.

Students walking after school: For the safety of all our students, we ask **ALL** 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 station.

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.

How to raise a concern

Did you know that there's a protocol in place to help families contact schools or the HRCE office when you have concerns about your student's education or well-being?

- All concerns should first be shared with your child's teacher.
- If your concern is not resolved, you should then contact the principal.
- If your concern remains unresolved, you can reach out to HRCE's Family Navigators who can provide information about a wide range of support and resources.
- If your matter continues to be unresolved, you can then initiate a formal review process in which the matter will be investigated by the appropriate HRCE Directors.
- The final step is for your concern to be passed on to the Regional Executive Director.

Click here to learn more.



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

It is HRCE's goal to communicate any changes to the regular operations of schools and/or buses 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.

If weather deteriorates, or is forecasted to worsen throughout the morning, an 11:00 a.m. announcement could be:

- Bussed students will be picked up two hours earlier than their regular dismissal time; and

- Non-bussed students will be dismissed at their regularly scheduled lunch hour.

How will I find out?

- By email to the addresses in PowerSchool
- By text message, if you have opted-in. If you aren't sure if you have opted-in, text Y to the following number: 978338
- On the HRCE website
- On Instagram

It's important to always have a plan in place for childcare in the event of any cancellation. Please remember: As a parent or guardian you always have the choice of whether or not to send your child to school.

For more information on how HRCE manages during inclement weather, visit hrce.ca/families/cancellations.

Unexpected Early Closure Arrangements

- In the event of an early school closure, Marine Drive Academy will follow the Halifax Regional Centre for Education Cancellations Policy:

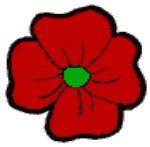
Students in Grades PP-6	**Students in Grades 7-12**
In the event of an early dismissal, students in grades pre-primary to six will not be released from school unless parents/guardians or designates have been notified by the school. (https://www.hrce.ca/families/cancellations) **A Marine Drive Academy staff member will call the people whose names and telephone numbers are provided by parents and guardians in the *CONTACTS* section of the Registration/Demographic Form until someone is reached for dismissal instructions.**	*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.* (https://www.hrce.ca/families/cancellations) **There will be no phone call home.**

Free screening of "Your Attention Please"

Join Unplugged Canada's Nova Scotia Chapter for a FREE screening of the documentary "Your Attention Please" on December 3, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the White Spruce Room at Keshen Goodman Library.

Parents, caregivers and educators are invited to watch this thought-provoking documentary about the impact of technology on our attention, and come together for a discussion on how we navigate this with youth in our own community. Please register in advance as tickets are limited.

Event: FREE screening of Your Attention Please
Date: December 3, 2026
Time: 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Location: White Spruce Room, Keshen Goodman Library
Cost: FREE
Register: https://yourattentionpleaseNS.eventbrite.ca

Dates to Remember		
November 	***December*** 	***January*** 
Nov 4th - Take Your Kids to Work Day	Dec 3rd - Parent Teacher Interviews - 6:00-8:00pm	Jan 4th - First Day back After Break
Nov 5th - Grad Information Mtg at 6:30 in room 317	Dec 4th - P.D. Day (am) Parent Teacher (pm) 12:30-2:30pm NO CLASSES	Jan 26-29 - Exams
Nov 6th - Gr. 9-12 AARAO 1:30-2:30 in the gym	Dec 10th - Christmas Concert at 6:30pm	**February 2nd – Semester 2 Begins – High School**
Nov 8th - Indigenous Veterans Day	Dec 15th - Christmas Dinner for Students and Staff & Snow Date for Christmas Concert	
Nov 10th - Remembrance Day Observance - 10:50	Dec 18th - Last Day before Holiday Break	
Nov 11th - Remembrance Day - NO CLASSES	Dec 21st - P.D. Day - NO CLASSES	
Nov 13-19 - Transgender Awareness Week		
Nov 16-19 - Report Cards (high school)		
Nov 20th - Assess & Evaluation Day - Gr. PP-12 NO CLASSES		

Term 1 Ends		
Nov 23-30 - Report Cards (P-9)		