



Brookhouse News November 2016

Lest We Forget



School Bus Safety Reminder: It is illegal to pass a stopped school bus when its red stop lights are flashing!

HELPING CHILDREN & TEENS WITH ANXIETY

By Dr. Daniel Chorney

There will be a 50-min presentation + question/answer period for parents on Tuesday, Nov. 1, 6 p.m., at Ellenvale Junior High School, 88 Belle Vista Dr., Dartmouth. For more information please contact the school at 902-435-8420.

SCHOOL MILK PROGRAM

Brookhouse Elementary now has a new working milk fridge. The School Milk Program started today. Reimbursement cheques will be sent home with milk students in the near future. Thank you to everyone who helped in the search for the new fridge.

REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE – Nov. 10, 10:40 am



In memory of our veterans and in honour of all our members of the Canadian Armed Forces, all students in P-6 will attend a Remembrance Day Service in the gym on **Thursday, November 10**, 10:40 a.m., as a follow-up to

individual classroom discussions and activities.

During the assembly, we will be asking any of our students who belong to a service organization such as beavers, cubs, guides, cadets, etc., to wear his or her uniform. Those who are not in a service organization could wear red to show support for our military.

We invite any parents/grandparents who have been involved with our armed services or peace-keepers to join us for their special place of honour. As seating is limited, please call the school, 435-8318, to let us know if you will be coming.

Reminder: School Closed Friday, Nov. 11, for Remembrance Day

HOLIDAY CRAFT AND VENDOR MARKET

Thursday, November 10, 6 – 8:30 pm

The Brookhouse Home & School will be holding a Holiday Craft and Vendor Market at Brookhouse Elementary on the above noted date and time. This is in support of the Home & School and their commitment to many groups, programs, students and teachers at Brookhouse School.

Come visit the Market for gift giving ideas!

For Vendor and Crafter space information: Please email leannechristie5@hotmail.com to secure a table for this event – or call 902-489-0123.

ASSESSMENT & EVALUATION DAY
Monday, November 14 – No Students Present

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

Wed., November 16, 5:30 pm

HOME & SCHOOL MEETING

Wed., November 16, 6:30 pm

LOST AND FOUND

The Brookhouse Lost and Found is located in a large wooden box in the foyer at the front entrance of the school. It is not quite overflowing yet . . . but keeps growing by several items every day. ALL these items belong to someone in our school. Be sure to check the Lost and Found often so all those lost items can be returned.

Please consider labelling all hats, mitts, sweaters, jackets, etc., and they would have a much better chance of being returned.

BROOKHOUSE BREAKFAST PROGRAM

The School Breakfast Program at Brookhouse Elementary runs **three days each week on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays**. Many schools in HRM offer a breakfast program in recognition of the fact some students come to school without a nutritious breakfast. This can happen for a variety of reasons, including a late start to the day. All students are welcome to attend – registration forms are available at the school office.

Bagel Donations are always welcome for the Breakfast Program!



GUIDANCE COUNSELLOR'S CORNER

Teasing vs. Taunting

Teasing is a playful use of humour that brings people together and can lighten a mood. It can be part of healthy friendships. When a person uses humour to hurt or intimidate someone else, though, then it is taunting and can lead to problems. There are times when we all may be overly sensitive and overreact to an innocent comment; however, taunting is deliberately hurtful and an attempt to gain power over someone else. If both people don't find a comment funny, then it may have crossed the line from teasing to taunting.

Tone of voice, body language and the words themselves all affect the message being delivered. "I like your jacket", said sarcastically and with a smirk, means just the opposite. People use lines like, "What? I was just kidding" and "Can't you take a joke?" to try to cover what they are doing, which just increases the hurt. We need to help our kids learn the difference between playful teasing and unkind taunting, and to know which topics should be "off limits" for any kind of teasing. Try discussing different scenarios or acting them out together... and watch yourself to make sure you are modelling appropriate teasing.

INDOOR GYM SNEAKERS REMINDER

It is imperative that students have proper footwear in the gym to prevent injuries. (Boots, dress shoes, flats, etc., are not safe for participating in physical activity and students wearing these to the gym will not be permitted to participate.)



FORKS, SPOONS & STRAWS

Please remember to pack a spoon, fork and/or straw with your child(ren)'s snacks or lunches. The school does not supply these items.

BROOKHOUSE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CLOTHING BANK REQUEST

The BES clothing bank is in need of sweatpants/pants (particularly smaller sizes, for students in grades P-3). If you have some used smaller sized pants you are not using, please consider donating them. We also could use mittens/gloves and underwear.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT



Mark your December Calendar, the Brookhouse Christmas Concert will be held on **Thursday, December 15**, at Prince Andrew High Auditorium, Woodlawn Drive. More information will follow as it becomes available.

IMPORTANT REQUESTS/INFORMATION

☺ **To reinforce safety for students, ALL parent/guardians are asked when DROPPING OFF STUDENTS IN TIME FOR THE MORNING, LUNCH BELL OR PICKING UP STUDENTS AT DISMISSAL, please do so outside their assigned entrance door. THE MAIN ENTRANCE TO THE SCHOOL IS NOT AN ASSIGNED ENTRANCE DOOR. Your child will know where their entrance door is.**

*Reminder: **There is no supervision of students before 8:25 a.m.**

☺ **Parents/Guardians of EXCEL students** are reminded to use the assigned EXCEL entrance (not the front doors) to both drop off AND pick up their children.

☺ **Everyone** entering the school is required to sign in at the school office. This includes: ALL late students arriving after the bell; as well as ALL parents/guardians dropping off items (clothing, lunches, snacks, homework, etc.) during the school day, etc.

☺ **Volunteer/Visitor Tags:** If you have one of the Brookhouse School tags at home, please return it to the school office. All volunteers and visitors are required to wear a tag when in the school.

☺ **Lost & Found or Lots of Found!** There are many items in the Lost & Found. Be sure to ask your child(ren) to check if they are missing anything. We plan to have the items on display during Parent Teacher Interviews. Students are reminded to take all their belongings with them at the end of the day – shoes, hats, lunchboxes, etc.

☺ **Student Data Updates:** Please ensure your home, work and cell numbers are up-to-date in case of emergency school closure; or in the event we need to reach you due to the injury or illness of your child.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

The Halifax Regional School Board takes great care when making the decision to alter the normal operations of schools in the event of severe or inclement weather. Decisions on school closures and/or bus cancellations are posted on the board's website at www.hrsb.ns.ca, on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/HRSB_Official](https://twitter.com/HRSB_Official), recorded on 464-INFO (4636) and communicated to all local radio stations. You can also receive notice of school and bus cancellations by e-mail or text message by following the link on the front page (left side) of the HRSB website. If you are interested in learning more on how decisions regarding closures and cancellations are made, visit <http://www.hrsb.ns.ca/content/id/1137.html> Schools are sometimes closed by "**Family of Schools**". Brookhouse Elementary is part of the **Prince Andrew High School Family of Schools**.



NOVA SCOTIA'S ACTION PLAN ON EDUCATION

New year and new initiatives for students and teachers

As we head into year two of Nova Scotia's Action Plan for Education, there are many more exciting initiatives for students at all grade levels this school year.

This fall, students in grades primary to 3 will benefit from hands-on learning, including using floor robots to learn sequencing and programming. Students in grades 4-6 will benefit from Innovation and Exploration Kits that include Spheros and Makey Makey invention kits. Students in grades 7 to 12 will learn coding through events, such as the Hour of Code and STEAM Olympics, and courses, such as Computer Programming 12. Coding promotes problem solving, teamwork, critical thinking, creativity and innovation. These skills are not only related to learning math, science and the arts, but they are also directly linked to many careers, including computer programming and the marine industries.

With the province's first literacy strategy for students in all grades, there will be a greater focus on the teaching of reading and writing and the development of oral communication skills. Reading Recovery support has been increased for grade 1 students. Students in Grades 4 to 6 will have a renewed curriculum, with more time for literacy and math. Class caps are expanded to grades 4 to 6.

To help more students succeed in math, additional supports will be made available for both teachers and students. Career education outcomes will assist students as they begin thinking about their futures and the many possibilities ahead. To learn more about what is new this year, go to <http://novascotia.ca/educationactionplan/> to sign up for ongoing updates from the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

