

Wednesday, September 20, 2023

Good evening Families,

I wanted to share with you that today we had a fire alarm in the morning, which resulted in the school having to evacuate. The students and staff demonstrated again that they can exit the building quickly and safely. All students were accounted for and once the building was deemed clear, we re-entered the building and continued on with the day.

Curriculum Night: Tomorrow we will be having our first ever curriculum night from 6:00-7:00 pm. We encourage families to walk if the weather is nice. Parking for families will be in the family parking lot by the field and full size basketball court. The event tomorrow is informal and relaxed. We would like our families to come and walk through the building and see the learning spaces your children get to be in each day.

School Pictures: Nova Scotia School Pictures has asked the school to share the following information with families: [23-24 Instruction Letter to Parents to Pre-Register and Order Online.pdf](#) If you have any questions or issues, please reach out to NSSP. The school photos are handled by the company and not at the school level.

School Communication: Please know that I check my email at the end of every day and respond within 2-3 days of an email. If you have reached out and not had a response from me, it means I did not receive your email. If you have a matter that you would like to bring forward please reach out to your child's teacher, or Phillip MacEachern, Vice Principal for grades 4-8 students or Courtney Smith, Vice Principal for grades Primary to 3.

Medical plans: Our learning support staff are working through the medical information found in Power School. Some families have received the paperwork to complete for medical plans, others will receive paperwork in the next week of so. We are going through our files methodically so that we do not miss anyone.

Morning drop off and afternoon pick up: I would like to extend our thanks to those families who have supported us by following the procedures we have in place. It is concerning to us that some drivers are choosing not to follow our procedures, as this puts the safety of all students at risk. It is not our intention to cause families any inconvenience, rather, we are trying to keep everyone safe. Please do not drive your child(ren) to their coloured doors around the school or around to the back of our school through the lower parking lot. There is no road from that parking lot to the back, cars that do this are traveling on a walking path. We have notified our community police of our safety concerns and they will be assisting the school in keeping our campus safe. Please- let's work together as a community for all of our students and staff!

Junior High Students and Families:

Within HRCE we have been using Google Workspace for Education (GNSPES) for a number of years. Google Workspace for Education is a set of education productivity tools from Google including Gmail, Calendar, Docs, Classroom, and more. Students use their GNSPES accounts to complete assignments, communicate with their teachers, sign into their Chromebooks, and learn 21st century digital citizenship skills.

In the fall of 2021, Google changed how students can access videos on YouTube and only allowed students to watch videos that were shared by their teachers. As this is somewhat limiting to a student's learning, all schools with students in grades 7-12 sent notice to families indicating the opportunity to change the settings and make YouTube available to these students. Making this change in the settings allows students who are logged into GNSPES the ability to search and view YouTube videos that have been moderated (aligned with content rating 13+).

Google has a restricted YouTube experience for students in GNSPES. Students are not able to create channels, upload content, view or add comments, watch or create live stream events or participate in live chat amongst other things. (Full list of restrictions here <https://support.google.com/a/answer/10651918#zippy=%2Cyoutube>)

If you give consent for your child to access YouTube with GNSPES while at school, there is no further action required.

If you **DO NOT** wish your child(ren) to be able to access YouTube to support their learning, or if you would like to change the access that your child had to YouTube last year, please contact your child(ren)'s school principal with their name and GNSPES username by **October 6th, 2023**.

Lockers: We will begin distributing lockers tomorrow to students who have submitted the google form sent out in the Monday Memo. We wanted to clarify to families that we are NOT taking money at this point for the locker and lock rental.