

CRICHTON PARK CHRONICLE

February 2026

Website: crp.hrce.ca



WHAT IS HAPPENING AT CRICHTON PARK?

Dear Families,

We are excited to continue deepening our understanding of African Nova Scotian history and to celebrate the many successes of African Nova Scotian communities today. If you have any local knowledge, stories, or experiences you would be willing to share with us, we would love to hear from you!

We encourage and support regular attendance at school. If there are any factors impacting your child's attendance or any other aspect of school life, please communicate with your child's teacher and/or administration. We are here to help.

It is important that we have accurate addresses and phone numbers on file in PowerSchool. If there has been a change that impacts school catchment, please review the [Out-of-Area Request](#) information on the HRCE website. These requests are time-stamped, so please note when applications open:

<https://www.hrce.ca/families/student-registration/out-area-request>

Looking ahead to next year, if there is a [learning need](#) you would like considered for class placement, please email shawkes@hrce.ca by the end of April. This timing is important.

Stay warm!



Yours in education,
Suzanne Hawkes and Tracy MacDonald

UPCOMING DATES

February is African Heritage Month!

Feb. 4: Global Play Day

Feb. 4: HSA Meeting 6:00

Feb. 5: SAC Meeting 3:30

Feb. 12: HSA Event-Board Game Cafe

Feb. 14: Valentine's Day

Feb. 16: Heritage Day no school



<https://heritageday.novascotia.ca/>

February is Registration Month

Please share with any families you know who are starting Pre-Primary or Primary.

<https://www.hrce.ca/registration>



Friendly Reminders

- Dogs at School: Please keep dogs off school property when students are present including arrival and dismissal. Thank you for your cooperation.
- Office Protocol: Please check in at the office if entering the school for any reason during the school day.
- Parking lot: Staff parking only from 8am-4pm. Please use street parking for drop-offs and pick-ups, including Excel.
- Front of school: This is for accessible parking, deliveries and prearranged pick ups/drop offs only.
- Student Safety: Students may be out front during recess and lunch, so avoid driving and parking in front of the building.
- No Stopping Zone: The area in front of the school is a no stopping zone (refer to HRM signage).
- Address Updates: Inform the office of any changes to your address currently in PowerSchool.
- Serious allergies: These include sesame, peanuts and tree nuts. There are sensitivities to scents.



Physical Education

A **huge shout-out** to all of our Grade 6 students who participated in the Candy Cane Volleyball tournament at Woodlawn High School this December! You represented our school with great spirit and energy. Way to go!

Back Field Permission Forms:

A big thank you to the families who have already submitted the permission forms for our back fields. We are still missing a few; if you haven't had a chance to return yours or if you need a fresh copy sent home, please let me know.

Let it Snow!

Now that we have snow, we can get outside for sledding and snowshoeing with all of our students!

Stay Warm & Ready:

To ensure everyone stays safe and cozy, please remember to send your child(ren) with proper outdoor clothing every day. Having the right gear is essential not only for recess and lunch, but also for Physical Education and our Outdoor Classroom coverage time.

Winter Gear Checklist: Warm coat, snow pants, waterproof boots, hat, and insulated gloves/mittens! If you need help getting this gear, please let the school or myself (theresa.hudson@hrce.ca) know we can help your family be prepared for all weather if needed.

Keep Active,
Ms. Hudson



GREETINGS FROM THE HOME AND SCHOOL

THANKS SO MUCH TO EVERYONE THAT ATTENDED OUR CHOCOLATE BAR BINGO FUNDRAISER IN JANUARY! YOU HELPED US RAISE \$595, WHICH WILL HELP SUPPORT A FRENCH LANGUAGE PIZZA-MAKING PROJECT, AS WELL AS A FIELD TRIP FOR TWO CLASSES TO VISIT THE BEATY CENTRE FOR MARINE BIODIVERSITY AT DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY.

IN FEBRUARY, THE HSA WILL BE MEETING VIRTUALLY (NO IN PERSON MEETING) ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4TH AT 6PM. AND OUR NEXT COMMUNITY EVENT WILL BE A BOARD GAME CAFE EVENT, TAKING PLACE ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH! AS WITH PREVIOUS EVENTS, THE DOORS WILL OPEN FOR THIS EVENT AT 6PM.

THE HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION IS ALWAYS IN NEED OF VOLUNTEERS, ESPECIALLY FOR OUR SPRING FAIR FUNDRAISER COMING UP MAY 30TH. TO LEND A HAND WITH THE FAIR, PLEASE SEND AN EMAIL TO CRICHTONPARKHSA@GMAIL.COM.

THANK YOU!!



Important Message from School Advisory Council

February 2026 SAC Newsletter

The SAC met on January 8. We're happy to share updates from that meeting below.

SAC Budget

SACs determine spending priorities for provincial funds allocated each year (currently, \$5,000 plus \$1 for each student) to support student achievement and wellbeing.

Items purchased since September include:

- Learning table for the additional learning centre
 - Flexible seating (5 pieces)
- P-2 writers' workshop materials - writing trays/tables; variety of writing tools
- Decodable books (Syllasense), which support building strong writing skills
- Teacher resources for writing lessons, The Writing Revolution, Powerful Writing Structures,

SAC Priorities

SAC priorities are rooted in the school's Student Success Plan, which focuses on enhancing student achievement and well-being. For 2025-26, the SAC is focusing on two areas:

Well-being: intentionally cultivate safety, comfort and connection in our school

Writing: build effort, stamina and enjoyment of writing/composition

Much of the SACs work so far this year has been planning and setting ourselves up for success.

Initiatives to date have included:

- Developed templates for the agenda, priorities and budget.
- Communication via a handout sent home with students, about the positive behaviour matrix.
 - Teacher survey, asking them how SAC funds and initiatives can best support priorities.
 - Regular communication to the Home and School Association

SAC Innovation Fund

Do you have an innovative school project idea, particularly in the areas of well-being or writing?

If so, please share your idea with us! The SAC is gathering ideas to apply to the SAC Innovation Fund.

Successful projects are supported by a grant of up to \$10,000. List of projects that have been successful in the past, visit School Advisory Councils | Education and Early Childhood Development.

Upcoming Meetings

@3:30PM, virtual - meetings are virtual and open to everyone

February 5

March (no meeting)

April 16

May (no meeting)

June 4

Nancy Bray (Chair)

hrce-sac-crp@gnspec.ca

Counsellor's Corner

Brigadoon Village

Summer camp can be an incredibly meaningful experience for children. However, for many children with medical conditions or additional challenges, attending camp can be difficult due to health needs and safety concerns. Camp Brigadoon helps bridge that gap.

Camp Brigadoon is an overnight camp designed specifically for children with a variety of medical and support needs. These five-day camps provide a safe, inclusive environment where children can be themselves, build confidence, and connect with others who share similar experiences.

In addition to week-long summer camps for children, Brigadoon Village also offers year-round weekend family camps. As summer camp registration opens on February 2nd - and spots can fill quickly - I wanted to highlight the summer camp options. Please visit the Brigadoon Village website for camp dates and detailed registration information.

Camp Silly-Yak - Celiac Disease Camp Braveheart - Heart Conditions
Camp Lots-a-Wata - Kidney Disease Camp Trailblazers - Craniofacial Differences
Camp Watcha-Say - Deaf or Hard of Hearing Camp Join Together - Juvenile Arthritis
Camp Believe - Parent/Guardian Mental Illness Camp Solace - Family Bereavement
Camp Clots of Fun - Bleeding Disorders Camp Treasure Chest - Asthma, Anaphylaxis & Lung conditions
Camp Goodtimes - Living with or beyond Cancer Camp Guts and Glory - IBD & Ostomies
Camp Brainiac - Neurosurgery Conditions Camp Carpe Diem - Epilepsy
Camp See-Ya - Blind or Visually Impaired Camp-o-Sore-us - Chronic Pain
Camp Live-it-Up - Liver Conditions Camp Twist & Shout - Scoliosis

Summer Camp can be a wonderful experience for children. For many children with health conditions and other challenges, it can be difficult to access because of their medical requirements and safety concerns. This is where Camp Brigadoon comes in. It is an overnight camp for children with various needs. These 5 day camps give children a chance to be themselves and meet others with similar concerns.

There are year round weekend family camps as well as the week-long summer camps just for the children. I wanted to highlight the summer camps as registration begins February 1st and some fill up quickly. Here are the Summer Camps offered. See the website for dates and more information about registration.

Camp Silly-Yak - Celiac Disease
Camp Braveheart - Heart Conditions
Camp Lots-a-Wata - Kidney Disease
Camp Trailblazers - Craniofacial Differences
Camp Watcha-Say - Deaf or Hard of Hearing
Camp Join Together - Juvenile Arthritis
Camp Believe - Parent/Guardian Mental Illness
Camp Solace - Bereavement
Camp Clots of Fun - Bleeding Disorders
Camp Treasure Chest - Asthma and Anaphylaxis
Camp Goodtimes - Living with or beyond Cancer
Camp Guts and Glory - IBD & Ostomies
Camp Brainiac - Neurosurgical Conditions
Camp Carpe Diem - Epilepsy
Camp See-Ya - Visual Impairments



<https://brigadoonvillage.org/>