



# Joseph Giles Elementary School Newsletter



Where everyone lends a helping hand!

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## Joseph Giles Elementary School

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## Important Dates to Note

### January

06 - First Day of School 2020

13 - PTO Meeting (7pm)

### February

01-29 – Primary Registration

17 - Africville Day (no classes)

20 – PTO Bingo (6PM-8PM)



## Message from Principal

A new year is upon us once again and on behalf of JGES staff, I would like to wish you and yours all the best in 2020.

A big thank you to the students, staff and everyone who worked on this year's concert. It was a huge success and the credit must go to Ms. Rodgeron, our music teacher, for her direction, time and talent. We must also thank Mr. Leblanc for his work with our grade 6 band students. They did a fabulous job! Of course, we also want to thank you, the parents/guardians and families of our students, for supporting the students and school once again.

We have several Auburn mentors working in our school this year. These students are using the accumulated volunteer hours for one of their courses and helping our students. These mentors are working in the gym with Mr. Hill

Jimmy Hurley

## School Cancellation

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.hrce.ca](http://www.hrce.ca), on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/HRCE\\_Official](https://twitter.com/HRCE_Official), recorded on 464-INFO (4636) and communicated to all local radio stations. You can also receive notice of school cancellations by e-mail or text message by following the link on the front page (left side) of the HRSB website.

We are in the Auburn Family of Schools. Please listen and or look for either the Family name or the individual name of the school in all announcements.

## Mid-Day School Closure

In the event of mid-day closure due to deteriorating weather, you will be informed on local radio stations as close to 11:00 a.m. as possible. School staff will contact parents (or the person you have previously indicated) via the phone number recorded in PowerSchool. Please be sure to complete the Emergency Evacuation Plan— sent home in September if you haven't already done so.

It is essential that we are able to reach you in the event of a school closure during the day. Please note that at the elementary level, we need to contact parents before we dismiss students. If the classroom teacher is unable to reach a parent or designate of a particular child, that child will remain at school until contact is made.

## Delayed Opening of Schools

On school days when conditions exist that it is not safe to open schools at regularly scheduled time but it is predicted that conditions will improve, a 2 hour delayed opening may be considered. This means that classes would begin at 10:30 AM.

Delayed openings would be considered when a severe weather event has concluded but snow clearing or other operations require additional time. Delayed opening may also be considered when the building is experiencing an issue (power, water) and additional time is required to prepare the facility for opening. In the event of a delayed opening the following will apply:

- **School opening will be delayed 2 hours**
- **Each school will alter morning schedules to best address their timetables**
- **Lunch times will not change**
- **Morning Excel will be cancelled and afternoon Excel program will operate as per usual**
- **Afternoon class schedules will not change**
- **Dismissal time will not change**



## Primary Registration

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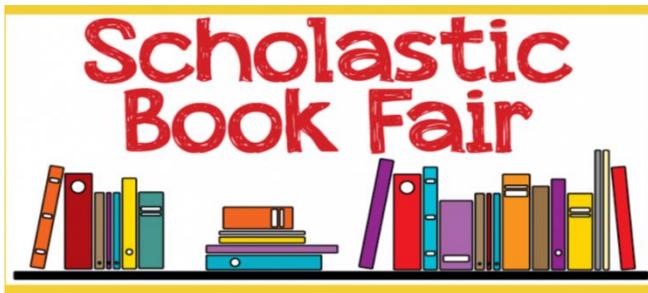
Primary Registration month begins the 1st day of February. Children who will be 5 years of age by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020 are eligible to start Grade Primary. Staffing for Grade Primary is based on the number of students who are officially registered at our school.

**Parents/guardians must present the child's proof of age, legal name (as listed on birth certificate, passport, immigration papers, legal name change certificate or adoption documents), proof of residency (such as a current utility bill), Nova Scotia Health Card (MSI) number and expiry date at the time of registration.**

## Book Fair

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A huge thank-you to Mrs. Chambers and her volunteers for organizing the book fair. It was a huge success. \$1234.00 in profits was made from the Book Fair. Your purchases enable us to buy more books to enhance our library selection, which gives students more choice.



## PTO

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PTO Year in Review (so far!)

We've had a busy fall and lead up to the Christmas Season. We wanted to share our good news! We had 5 fundraisers since the beginning of the school year and here's how we stand for profits!

Halloween Dance: \$1000

Pies: \$1739

Bagging for Bucks: \$626

Front Row Tickets: \$230

Santa Shop: \$1380

So all totaled, we've brought in nearly \$5000! That's AMAZING! It all goes back into our school to support class trips, technology, and classroom needs. Thank-you for your continued support.

Looking ahead, January is quiet as we plan for BINGO in February! It's always a great time, so save the date : February 20<sup>th</sup> (6PM-8PM)!

Your PTO

## Pre- Primary

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The provincial government continues to plan for the addition of pre-primary programs in schools and/or communities not currently available. Once we receive word about pre-primary programs, we will communicate this to the school community.



## School Advisory Council

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We are seeking more members for our SAC. Parents/Guardians and Community Members are needed for our Council. Please contact Mr. Hurley at 464-5192 or by email: [jhurley@hrce.ca](mailto:jhurley@hrce.ca). Sonja Bellefontaine is the SAC Chair.

## Student Success Planning

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Teachers have been busy collecting classroom data for first term in reading, writing, and math. One of our SSP goals for the next few years is in writing. "Researchers describe writing growth as a series of stages through which students develop. While these stages should not be viewed rigidly, they describe characteristics common to students at various stages of writing maturity. By keeping these characteristics in mind when they observe their students' writing, teachers can determine how best to support student learning." \*With this in mind, student writing samples are marked using a writing continuum or rubrics (gradient scoring tools), depending on the grade level. Teachers can meet in grade-level groupings or in larger groups (ie. as a staff) to determine what the data is telling them about our students as a whole.

## Weather

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We do our best to send students outside whenever possible to give them a break from the classroom and to provide time for them to run and play. Wind chill is a factor we always take into consideration when we decide whether to send students outside or not. We use the Environment Canada website to determine the wind chill factor and take into consideration any other factors (sun, directionality of the wind, type of activity, etc.) which may impact the 'feels like temperature' when making our decision.

Our weather conditions can also change dramatically from morning to afternoon, so students should come prepared for these changes. Please help your child/children dress appropriately with suitable footwear and outerwear. If your child is prone to getting wet, a change of pants in the backpack might also be a good idea, especially for younger students.

Additionally, it is often a good idea to pack a second pair of mittens or gloves in case the first pair gets wet.

