



# Joseph Giles Elementary School Newsletter



Where everyone lends a helping hand!

February 2020  
Volume 1, Issue 6

## Joseph Giles Elementary School

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## Important Dates to Note

### FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

#### February

- 01-29 - Primary/Pre-Primary Registration
- 3 - SAC Meeting 6pm
- 3 - PTO Meeting 7pm
- 10 - New Milk Order Begins
- 10 - Emera Oval School Trip
- 14 - Pancake Lunch for students
- 15-28 - Read-A-Thon
- 17 - Africville Day (no classes)
- 20 - PTO Bingo (6-8pm)
- 21 - Toonie for Wish Foundation Fundraiser
- 24 - Maritime Centre for African Dance

#### March

- 16-20 - March Break
- 25 - Assessment and Evaluation Day (no classes)
- 26 - Purple Shirt Day for Epilepsy

#### Message from Principal

Have you noticed the little bit of extra daylight? January tends to be a long and dark month. I always find February brings us more sunshine and the best of winter in Nova Scotia. Bundle up and get the family outdoors! The daylight and sunshine is important for both our physical and mental health throughout the winter months.

It is hard to believe, but we have reached the beginning of the second half of the school year. The beginning of February means that we are now accepting registration for Primary and Pre-Primary students for next year. Check out the section on Primary/Pre-Primary Registration in the newsletter.

February is proclaimed African Heritage Month. The 2020 African Heritage Month theme, The Ties that Bind: Faith, Family and Community, recognizes the essential traits that sustain the strength, resiliency and togetherness of the African Nova Scotian community.

These ties are the bedrock for the African Nova Scotian community which helped them support and stay connected to each other.

The theme aligns with the "Recognition" pillar of the United Nations International Decade for People of African Descent (DPAD). We must recognize the important contributions of people of African descent, while also acknowledging the long-standing prejudices and unfair treatment endured for generations.

Jimmy Hurley



#### Primary Registration

Primary Registration begins February 3<sup>rd</sup>. 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 officially register 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.**

#### Pre- Primary

We are pleased to announce that we have received official word that JGES will have Pre-Primary beginning in September.

Pre-Primary Registration begins February 3<sup>rd</sup>. Children who will be 4 years of age by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020 are eligible to start Pre-Primary. Staffing for Pre-Primary is based on the number of students who officially register 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.**

## Grade 7 Registration

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February is also registration month for students going to junior high September 2020. Students at JGES are assumed to attend Graham Creighton for grade 7. However, if you know that your child will not be attending Graham Creighton, please let us know as soon as possible by calling the office at 902-464-9152 or by e-mail [jges@hrce.ca](mailto:jges@hrce.ca). Registration Forms will go home this week with grade 6 students. Please update these forms and return to Joseph Giles as soon as possible.

Graham Creighton offers Late French Immersion. If your child wishes to take Late French Immersion, please mark this off on the Registration Form.

Students also have the opportunity to take Band. If your child chooses Band, this cannot be changed part way through the year, as class sizes are determined by the number of band students.

## Out of Area

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**Out of Area:** Those students who would like to register for JGES for the coming year, but are out of area, must register at their home schools. After doing this, parents may ask the home school for an 'out-of-area transfer' form. These forms can be accepted by Mr. Hurley on or after April 1<sup>st</sup> at 8:30 am, but not before. Parents will be notified of decisions regarding out-of-area requests in June.

## New Milk Order

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Monday, February 10<sup>th</sup> marks the first day of the new milk order. If you have not paid for the whole year or sent in your child's order form, your child will not receive milk on Monday, February 10<sup>th</sup>. If you would like your child to have milk and haven't sent in the order form/money yet, please send it into the office.

## Wishmaker School Program Fundraiser

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JGES will once again be holding our annual "Toonie Toss" to raise funds and support Children's Wish/Make-a-Wish. **Each year, one hundred children's wishes are granted locally in Nova Scotia. Each wish costs approximately \$10 000. This means \$1 000 000 worth of wishes are granted. That's a lot of money!**

Through the Wishmaker School Program, 20% of all funds raised support your school's programs and initiatives, 80% goes towards granting wishes for children.

The Children's Wishmaker School Program is built on the premise of 'kids helping kids'. It's a meaningful way for students to make a difference in another child's life.

**Next week an envelope will go home with your child's name/class on it. If you would like to give a donation, place a toonie or another donation in the**

**envelope and return to the school. Please return envelope by Friday, February 14<sup>th</sup>.**

When it's time for the Toonie Toss, teachers hand each student their envelope. In the gym, the students form a circle around a center target and try to throw their envelope as close to the target as possible (the target can be different & more difficult depending on the grade level). The student whose envelope is closest to the target wins a prize! One winner from each class will be chosen.

## Read-A-Thon

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The students enjoyed the Read-A-Thon so much last year that we decided to have another one this year. We will be holding the Read-a-thon in conjunction with Tattletales' Coins for Books Campaign during the last two weeks in February; beginning February 15<sup>th</sup> and ending on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Tattletales, along with local sponsors, match part of the money raised. Pledge Forms will go home on Thursday, February 14, 2020

## How can you help your child read?

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How You Can Help Your Child to Read:

- ❖ Learn new words and phrases
- ❖ Explore how language works
- ❖ Express feelings, opinions, and reactions
- ❖ Ask questions to clarify his or her thoughts and feelings
- ❖ Understand that his or her opinion is valued
- ❖ Learn to listen to others

Reading together every day is very important. Reading can take place anywhere and anytime. You can try reading some of the following with your child:

- ❖ Picture books and alphabet books
- ❖ Food labels and recipes
- ❖ Traffic and construction signs
- ❖ Newspapers and magazines
- ❖ Television guides and flyers
- ❖ Card, letters, e-mails, and Webpages

## Lockdown Drill

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The safety and security of our students and staff is a top priority for **Joseph Giles Elementary** and the Halifax Regional Centre for Education. We implement a number of measures as part of a comprehensive plan aimed at ensuring our school remains a safe place for our students to learn.

One of the procedures our school will be practicing is a lockdown drill. During a lockdown drill, classroom doors are secured and the students remain inside the room until instructed by the teacher to resume their activities. All exterior doors are locked and no one is permitted to enter or leave the building.

Students are kept inside the school and classrooms when circumstances make it safer to stay in the

classroom rather than evacuate. Just as we prepare our students to properly respond to a fire drill, they also need to be aware of the proper response during a lockdown drill. These drills should be treated with the same level of importance as fire drills.

Please be assured that staff at our school will spend time discussing the importance of this procedure with students prior to running a drill. We will also take time after the drill to remind them that it was only a practice and there was no danger. When possible, our School Liaison Officer may assist us in conducting the lockdown drills just as the Fire Department assists with evacuation drills from time to time.

Please take the time to speak with your son/daughter about this procedure and reinforce its importance. We practice these drills to ensure our school remains a safe place for teaching and learning.

Our second lockdown drill will take place the week of February 10-14. Please contact principal, Jimmy Hurley if you have any questions about lockdown drills.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

### 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.

### PTO

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Your PTO has been busy since Christmas getting ready for BINGO! You got it, another fun packed night full of terrific prize baskets! Win a family night out to the movies, everything you need for Family Games Night, or go home with a MacGyver Basket for all you DIY'ers!!! Over \$1600 in prizes to be won! Cards are \$20 each or 2 for \$30, and there will be a canteen, and a 50/50. February 20th, 6-8. See you there for a great night of FUN!

### Student Success Planning

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We are continuing to collect school-wide classroom data in the areas of reading, writing, and mathematics. In February, teachers will be assessing student writing using a rubric. Teachers will meet in their grade-level grouping to determine what the data is telling them about our students as a whole.

By scoring student writing using a rubric, teachers will be able to determine how best to support student learning.

### 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. Our weather conditions can change dramatically from morning to afternoon, so students should come prepared for these changes.

Please help your child/children dress appropriately with suitable footwear/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.



### Driveway/Parking Lot

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I want to thank you in advance for your cooperation in respecting the following traffic rules that are in place for your safety, our safety and the safety of your children. Together we can ensure that JGES is a safe place for everyone.

- ❖ Parents are asked to park/stop on the street when dropping their children off for school (If Gregory Drive is too busy, then I suggest you park on one of the side streets and take advantage of the many pathways that lead to the school. These paths are all short and accessible).
- ❖ Please do not stop on the opposite side of the road and have your child run across the street. There is no stopping on that side.
- ❖ Please do not pull over against the traffic flow to the wrong side of the road to drop your children off because neither children nor oncoming traffic are expecting cars to pull out facing the opposite direction.

There is no parking permitted in our parking lot until after 3:00 pm in the day. Although there may be spaces available, specialists and other HRSB employees require these spaces and they often arrive throughout the day.