



# Feb 12-16 Week 1



## FAMILY FORECAST

Safety. Kindness. Patience. Making Connections

Hello JGES Families,

How much fun was last week's snow? The kids had a blast. We needed some time to clean up near the back of the school but it was ready by Wednesday am. We had 2 focuses: safety on the large banks and no snowballs. We also had to close some intricate tunnels that were unsafe. Overall, the students did great. They truly enjoyed the snow: they were sliding and playing on the large snow drifts.

I was into some classes seeing activities connected to African Heritage Month. There were many classes exploring and learning about the African Nova Scotian flag. See the graphic for more information. They have been posted around classrooms. Our daily quiz questions on the announcements are generating conversation in classrooms.

Take care everyone,  
Mr. Fry

### Important Dates:

**Feb 12:** SAC (6pm) and PTO (7pm) meetings

**Feb 19:** Heritage day (no school)

**March 7:** PTO Spring Bingo

**March 11-15:** March Break

**March 18:** Assessment & evaluation day - no classes

**March 29:** Good Friday - no classes

**June 28:** Last Day of School



### AFRICAN NOVA SCOTIAN FLAG

The **red** represents blood and sacrifice.  
The **gold** conveys cultural richness.  
The **green** symbolizes fertility and growth.  
The **black** stands for the people.

The **wave** in the bottom centre has a dual meaning, representing the ocean and movements as well as honouring the journey of African Nova Scotian ancestors through the middle passage during the slave trade.

On the left is half of a **stylized heart** (a version of the Sankofa symbol) with a yin and yang-like symbol embedded to represent heartbreak balanced with awareness.

The image is encompassed with an **incomplete circle** representing those things absent but yet to come.

**Red Means Stop! School Bus Safety Reminder** HRCE has recorded 691 school bus stop-arm violations in Halifax Regional Municipality since the beginning of the school year. This means that motorists have failed to stop for a bus when its red lights were flashing and the stop sign was extended. This poses a serious risk to children and families who may be crossing the road to enter or exit the bus. Drivers may also face a fine and demerit points if caught by police.

Drivers must slow down and prepare to stop in all directions when they see flashing lights – either amber or red in colour – on a school bus.



**Lockdown Drill** In February, we will be practicing in February a lockdown drill. This is the second lockdown drill of the school year. 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. Please contact the school if you have any questions about lockdown drill.

**Feedback on HRCE Website:** Now that HRCE's main [www.hrce.ca](http://www.hrce.ca) has been upgraded, we're ready to update our school websites to meet accessibility standards and to improve navigation. As we begin this work, we're looking for your input. Please take a few minutes to share your thoughts. We appreciate your time and effort! **To get started, [click here](#).**

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Monday 12	Tu Wednesday 13	Wednesday 14	Thursday 15	Friday 16
SAC meeting 6 PM PTO meeting 7 pm	Subway day	Valentine's Day	Pizza day	Lunch lady day Lockdown drill