

Westmount Elementary March 2022 Newsletter



Westmount Elementary
6700 Edward Arab Ave,
Halifax, NS, B3L 2E2
Main office: 902-493-5164
Website: https://
wmt.hrce.ca/
Email: wmount@hrce.ca
Safe arrival: 902-493-5169

Principal: Teri McGinn

Vice Principal: Shauna Boudrean

Admin Assistant: Ann D'Eon

Upcoming Dates

- March 2-10: School clothing sale
- March 7-11: Spirit Week
- March 10-11: workshops for Grade P-6 Maritime Centre for African Dance
- March 9: SAC meeting 6:00pm
- March 14-18: March Break (no school for students)
- March 23: Assessment and Evaluation Day (no school for students)
- March 28: WSA meeting 6:00pm
- April 1: Autism Awareness Day recognized by wearing blue (World Autism Awareness Day is Saturday, April 2)



Celebrating African Heritage

Students and staff at Westmount Elementary engaged in important learning throughout the month as they celebrated the culture, legacy, achievements, and contributions of people of African descent – past and present. We will continue learning throughout the school year in meaningful ways.

A highlight this month was having guest speaker Steven Brown share his stories about the community of Africville where he lived as a child. To honour the history and importance of Africville, we will be

providing every family with a copy of the book, *Africville* by Shauntay Grant. We hope that families enjoy sharing this beautifully written story and learn more about Africville from the information provided through the story. We are hoping to send these home next week.

A huge thank you to our amazing Music teacher, Ms. Trites who created a virtual assembly to showcase student work and learning during African Heritage Month. A sampling of pictures of student work and displays are included in this newsletter.

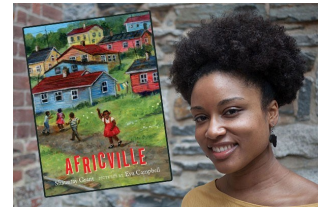


Photo credit: Shyronn Smardon



Bulletin Board displays created by 6Myette



Westmount Spirit Week

We are planning to end the winter season off with fun theme days! Students can choose to participate in the theme days listed below. If you have any questions, please contact the school.

Westmount Spirit Week March 7th - 11th				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Hoodie and Sweater Day	Plaid Day	Wear Blue or Westmount Clothing day	Sport and Jersey Day	Pajama Day
			African Drumming Presentation	African Drumming Presentation

Westmount School Clothing for Sale

Westmount school clothing order forms were sent home with students. Clothing orders can be made from March 2-10.

Online payment is the preferred method of payment. You can go to hrce.schoolcashonline.com. You can also pay by cash or cheque made payable to Westmount School

Association.

We are pleased to let our school community know that the Westmount School Association (WSA) is purchasing a Westmount t-shirt for every student in the school! *This is at no cost to families.* Please write your child's size in the t-shirt section and return the order form to your child's teacher.

All other items you select will require payment. Order forms must be returned by March 10.

The WSA generously funds school events and initiatives throughout the year. They are redirecting funds that would have been spent in these areas to purchase t-shirts. A huge thank you to our WSA!

School Advisory Council (SAC)

SACs play an important role in supporting student success at the school community level. It is a provincially recognized advisory body for the school and Regional Centre for Education on a range of issues related to the school and the school system.

Membership consists of parents/guardians, school staff, community members and school administration. We have two parent/guardian members reoffering and we

are currently looking for one more parent/guardian member.

We have two community members reoffering and are currently looking for one more community member. Community members:

- Must not be an employee of the HRCE.
- Must not have children registered at WES School.
- Must reside in the geographical area served by Westmount or provide a

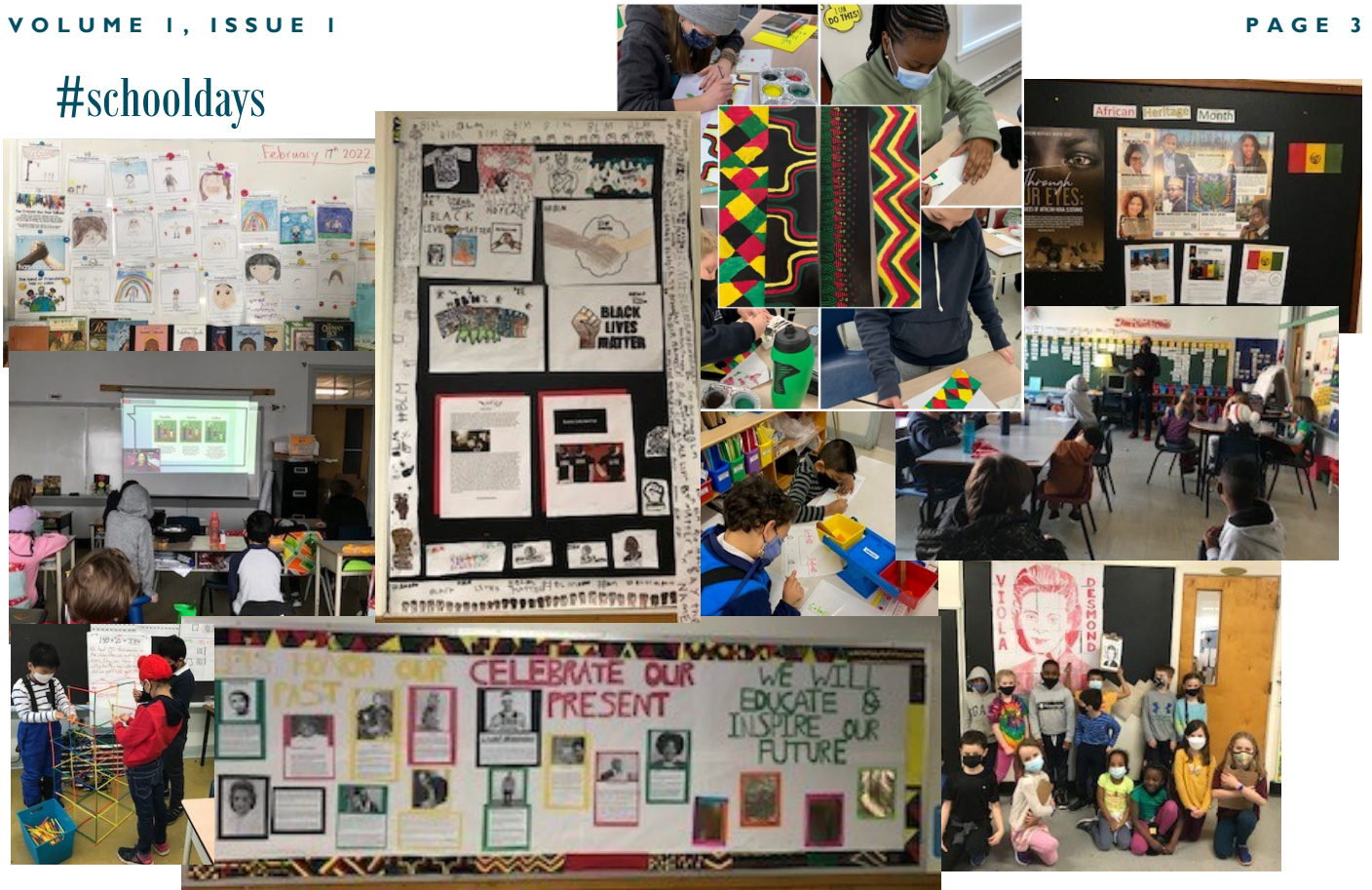
service to or within the geographical area served by Westmount Elementary.

Please spread the word that we are seeking members.

We meet monthly and have a virtual meeting scheduled for Wednesday, March 9 at 6:00pm.

If you would like more information, please visit our school website or contact school principal, Teri McGinn.

schooldays



Allergies

We have students and staff at Westmount Elementary who are allergic to specific foods. This includes life threatening allergies to peanuts and tree nuts (i.e. pecans, walnuts,

etc.). Students eat together in their classrooms so it is important that you check food labels before packing snacks and lunches.

Please send nut free food items. We want to ensure that all of our students and staff have a safe and healthy school environment.



Bell Schedule

- 8:20-Teachers on duty
- 8:30-First Bell
- 8:35-Classes Begin
- 10:05-10:20-Recess
- 11:35-12:35-Lunch
- 2:40-Dismissal

It is important that students arrive on time in order to participate in morning

routines and lessons. Arriving on time is also important for safe arrival procedures. If students arrive after 8:35 when teacher's have completed attendance procedures, they are late.

If your child will be arriving late or will be absent. Please

call the Safe Arrival line at 902-493-5169. In the message state:

- child's name
- grade
- teacher's name
- reason for being absent (i.e. sick, appointment)

Thank you for your attention to this matter!

Guidelines for school and/or bus cancellations due to inclement weather

Nova Scotia winter weather can change quickly and can be challenging to predict. This document outlines the steps we take when deciding whether to cancel school and/or bussing.

A 6:00 am announcement could be:

All schools are closed for the day

OR

Some schools (either individually or by family) are closed for the day

OR

All schools are open, but some or all busses are not operating for the day

OR

All schools are delayed in opening by 2 hours

If weather deteriorates, or is forecast to worsen throughout the morning

An 11:00 am announcement could be:

Bussed students will be picked up 2 hours earlier than their regular dismissal time

AND

Walking students will be dismissed at their regularly scheduled lunch hour

Remember:

Parents/guardians always have the right to keep their child home from school if they believe that the travelling conditions are unsuitable.

How does Halifax Regional Centre for Education (HRCE) decide on school and/or bus cancellations?

By 4:30 am, HRCE staff begin to gather information from:

- A contracted weather service that provides radar and satellite imagery, real-time road conditions and weather warnings;
- A meteorologist who provides forecast details, level and type of precipitation and impact on road conditions;
- HRCE's three transportation service providers, who provide updates on road conditions in their area;
- Municipal and provincial transportation staff; and
- Other local weather services, including Environment Canada and the Weather Network.

By 5:30 am, HRCE staff make recommendations to the Regional Executive Director (or designate), who then makes the final decision.

This decision is communicated by 6:00 am.

Where can cancellation information be found?

Website: www.hrce.ca

Twitter: @HRCE_NS

Phone: 902-464-INFO (4636)

Local media outlets

Subscribe to email/text notifications at www.hrce.ca



Halifax

Regional Centre for Education

Head Lice Reminders

It is important to do routine checks at home to help identify and prevent outbreaks of head lice. Head Lice can be a problem in all schools.

Head lice are spread by head-to-head contact or through

sharing hats, combs, etc. We encourage students not to share hats or combs/brushes.

Below is a link from Public Health to a pamphlet with some information that you may find helpful if you discov-

er your child has head lice.

<https://www.novascotia.ca/dhw/publications/public-health-education/07135-head-lice-pamphlet-en.pdf>