

February 2, 2024

Westmount Elementary website: <https://wmt.hrce.ca/>

Westmount Elementary email [wmount@hrce.ca](mailto:wmount@hrce.ca)

Westmount Elementary X (formerly Twitter): @WmountElem

Please see below for some reminders and information. Have a wonderful weekend!

### **Upcoming School Dates:**

- February is registration month for new Pre-primary and Primaries for 2024-2025 (details to follow)
- February 7-Basketball game vs Burton Ettinger @Westmount
- February 13-Basketball game vs SJAM @Studley Gym (Dalhousie)
- February 15-WSA event (details to follow)
- February 19-Heritage Day (no school)
- February 22-Basketball game vs Joe Howe @Westmount
- February 27-Grade P-3 concert (snow date February 28)
- February 29-Grade 4-6 (snow date March 1)

### **Raise a Reader**

Family Literacy Week provided us with an ideal opportunity to communicate with you, our students' families, about the importance of at-home reading and engaging with children in literacy-related activities.

To support you in your at-home reading journey, we are sharing a simple infographic with tips for families, as well as links to useful resources for caregivers.

### **February is Registration Month**

Do you have a child who will be starting pre-primary or primary this fall? It's time to register!

Registration for the 2024-25 school year begins on February 1. To ensure we have the right staff and supports in place for September, it's important that we gather enrolment numbers now.

**Tip:** Before you begin, make sure you have the following documents in electronic form (image, PDF or Word document):

- Proof of identity/age with one of the following: birth certificate, passport, immigration papers, or legal adoption papers) if you are new to the HRCE;
- Proof of home address (a recently dated official government or utility document with your current address that includes your name and date, such as water bill, power bill, internet bill, home fuel bill, a tax receipt, property assessment or a mortgage contract); and
- Nova Scotia Health Card or Canadian Province Health Card or, for non-citizens while in Canada, proof of Medical Insurance Information.

Visit the [HRCE website](#) for more information and to enrol your child today through PowerSchool Enrollment!

Don't have a child to register? Maybe you know someone who does! Please help us spread the word and pass this information on to friends, neighbours or relatives who will be looking to register for the fall.

### **Celebrate African Heritage Month 2024**

The theme for African Heritage Month 2024 is "Our Smiles, Our Joy, Our Resilience as African Nova Scotians." This month-long celebration is dedicated to recognizing and honoring the history and culture of people of African descent. The theme coincides with the final year of the United Nations' International Decade for People of African Descent (DPAD) 2015-2024, which aims to promote global cooperation in support of people of African descent, raise awareness, and acknowledge their full and equal participation in all aspects of society.

Nova Scotia is home to more than 50 historic African Nova Scotian communities with a rich, deep, and complex history that spans more than 400 years. African Heritage Month is an excellent opportunity to celebrate and showcase the

culture, accomplishments, and contributions of African Nova Scotians, both past and present.

The link to learn more about African Heritage Month in Nova Scotia can be found at [Celebrate African Heritage Month 2024 | African Nova Scotian Affairs - Government of Nova Scotia](#)

### **Nova Scotia Heritage Day-February 19, 2024**

In honor of **Nova Scotia Heritage Day, 2024**, the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development is pleased to provide the biographical profile "**William Hall: Nova Scotia Heritage Day Edition.**"

**William Hall** was a trailblazer. 2024 marks the **165th anniversary** of Hall being awarded the **Victoria Cross**, the military's highest decoration for valor. It is awarded only to those who have shown extreme bravery in battle. Hall was the **first Black person** and the **first Nova Scotian** to be awarded the Victoria Cross. His story is an essential part of the proud legacy of military service shared by many Nova Scotians.

The information found in the **biographical profile** provides opportunities for students to learn the story of how Hall went from a boy who dreamed of sailing to a decorated hero. Through learning his story, students can consider how he was shaped by his experiences growing up in Nova Scotia, and how through his actions, he continues to inspire others.

### **School Basketball Team**

The Westmount Elementary basketball team will have their next game Wednesday, February 7 at Westmount. There will be a canteen set up with chips (\$1) and Gatorade (\$2) for sale.

### **Strings Update (Grades 4-6)-repeated information**

Ms. Stryniak will be off until April and students will have strings classes once each week with Ms. Halliday. Halifax Regional Arts has (or will be) emailing each family. Please see below for the revised strings schedule:

<b>Westmount</b>	Susan Halliday	Gr 4 Violin group 1 (4Hasler and 4MacDonnell)	Wednesdays 9:35 – 10:05 am
	Susan Halliday	Gr 4 Violin group 2 (4Monroe)	Wednesdays 9:05 - 9:35 am
	Susan Halliday	Grade 5 Cello	Wednesdays 7:50 - 8:35 am
	Susan Halliday	Grade 6 Violin	Wednesdays 8:35 - 9:05 am

**Primary September 2024 French Immersion Information (repeated information and emailed to Pre-Primary families January 12)**

On Tuesday Jan. 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm, Ecole St. Catherine’s School will be hosting an information session for families interested in having their children enrolled in **Primary French Immersion** for September 2024. It will be an in-person session in the library at Ecole St. Catherine’s School, 3299 Connolly Street.

Thank you,

**Rosie Bona (she/her)**

Principal/Directrice of Ecole St. Catherine’s School  
 3299 Connolly Street  
 Halifax, NS  
 902-493-5143

**Monthly Themes (repeated information)**

Each month, we have a schoolwide theme that students focus on learning more about. This includes classroom activities, daily announcements, and a schoolwide assembly. The theme for January is: perseverance!

### **Visiting the School (repeated information)**

If you are visiting the school for any reason, please come to the main office doors (located on Edward Arab Ave). All doors are numbered, the office is located at door #1. Once you have entered the building through the main doors, you will check in at the main office to drop items off, request your child be called to the office for dismissal, check lost and found, or any other reason.

### **Concerts Grade P-3 and Grades 4-6 in February (date change for Grade 4-6 to February 29)**

Students will be preparing and performing in concerts in February this year! This allows more time for Grades P-3 to practice and prepare as they would start in October doe a December concert. Grades 4-6 have traditionally had a concert closer to Spring so there is no change for the older grades.

Grades P-3 will have their concert on February 27 with February 28 as the snow date. Grades 4-6 will have their concert on February 29 with March 1 as the snow date.

### **Water Bottles and Lost and Found (repeated information)**

We are asking each student to bring a water bottle to school daily. We have bottle fill stations and want to ensure students have access to water throughout the day. Thank you for your attention to this.

Please write your child's name in their clothing (they often do not recognize their own belongings). This will help us return items to students.