



## Sackville Heights Junior High Newsletter December 2018

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SHJH Family of Schools: Millwood Bus Cluster: 1

VP: D. Ferguson Administrative Assistant: J. Knight



## It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year!

Winter is just around the corner and the students and staff at SHJH are excited that it is time to start spreading holiday cheer! This is a time that we celebrate friendships, embrace the spirit of giving and show extra kindness to others. We truly hope that all of our SHJH families enjoy a wonderful holiday filled with love and joy!

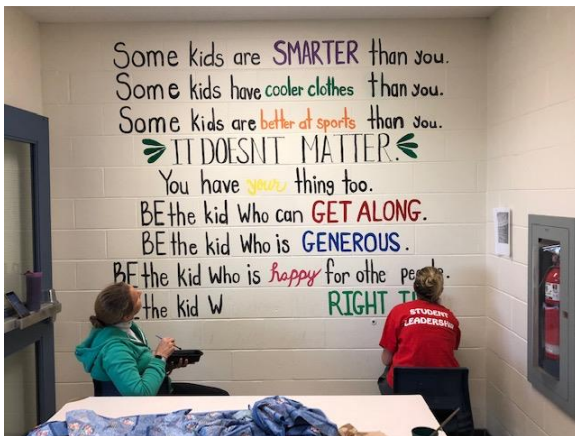
### **Important Dates to Remember:**

- Monday, December 3 – Online sign up for parent-teacher interviews goes live 9:00 a.m.
- Thursday, December 6 – Professional Development in a.m./Parent-Teacher Interviews 1-3 p.m. No classes for students all day.
- Monday, December 10 – Parent-Teacher Interviews 5:30-8:00 p.m.
- Friday, December 21 – Last day of classes before the break
- Thursday, January 3 – First day of classes after the break

Here are a few **important pieces** of information this month:

- Our school has some positive additions! A group of **teachers** spent a full Sunday in November **painting three new pieces of art on our school walls**. In the gym, they painted our Falcon logo with 'Home of the Falcons' around it, on the wall at the top of the stairs in the foyer they painted a positive message to students and in the cafeteria, they painted a large, beautiful set of white angel wings that members of our school community can

stand in front of to have a photo taken. 'Soaring' will soon be painted above them. Next time you visit our school, please take a moment to enjoy these paintings. Best of all....there are great plans for more! ***We are so grateful for our dedicated and amazing teachers!***



- Our SHJH **Me to WE** team will be selling **rafikis** everyday this week during both lunches. They have chosen 17 different styles and colors to choose from, providing a variety of choices. They will also be selling them during parent and teacher conferences on Thursday afternoon. Any parents who would like to purchase one for their child can do so anytime Thursday afternoon. Proceeds from the sales support job opportunities for the 'Mommias' in Kenya who make all of the rafikis. Each bracelet can be purchased for **\$12**. These would make wonderful Christmas gifts!!!
- **School Cancellations:** The Halifax Regional Centre for Education 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.hrsb.ns.ca](http://www.hrsb.ns.ca), on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/HRSB\\_Official](http://www.twitter.com/HRSB_Official), recorded on 464-INFO (4636) and communicated to all local radio stations. You can also receive notice of school and bus cancellations by e-mail or text message by following the link on the front page (left side) of the HRSB website. If you are interested in learning more on how decisions regarding closures and cancellations are made, visit <http://www.hrsb.ns.ca/content/id/1137.html> . **Sackville Heights Junior High is in the Millwood family of schools** in case schools are cancelled by feeder schools.

\*\*\*In the event of **early school closure** due to deteriorating weather conditions, Principals will be notified by 11:00 a.m. **All students at SHJH will be dismissed at the start of the first lunch at 11:20 a.m. Walking students should leave to walk home at 11:20. Buses will start to arrive at 11:40 a.m. (3 hours earlier than normal) and bus students will be kept inside until their bus arrives. To ensure student safety, bus students will not be permitted to dismiss early to walk home.**

**Important note:** With over 600 students and staff in the building, dismissal during inclement weather, and especially in the event of an early school closure, often causes disruption and chaos. Parents/guardians can help us reduce this by respecting the above dismissal times so that bus lanes are kept free from other vehicles and staff can focus on student safety until everyone has safely left. We appreciate your cooperation.

### **Counsellor's Corner:**

The Cobequid Youth Health Centre is excited to be opening a new teen drop-in centre at the Sackville Public Library. This teen-designed space, called "The Den" will be available for all youth aged 13-25 after school and into the evening several days a week and has comfortable lounging spaces, arcade games, study space and more. Check out their Facebook site and the library site for details including the opening date:

<https://www.halifax.ca/recreation/facilities-fields/rec-centres/sackville-youth-centre>

The SHJH Guidance website is up and running! You can find information about school guidance and counselling at our school and details about other supports available at school and in the community. There will also be resources to help students and parents deal with issues that are common to youth in the future. Please check back as material is added regularly. You can contact our guidance counselor directly for support or with questions at phone: 902-869-3804 or email: ldempster@hrce.ca.

### **Our regular messages...!**

- **Students are welcome to bring their own electronic devices to school; however, they are not permitted to use them to make calls or send/receive text message to anyone, including parents, during class time.** If students need to contact home for any reason, they should go to the main office where they can use their own device to call home if they wish or the main office phone. Thank you for your cooperation with this.
- All students are expected to **dress in a respectable and appropriate manner** during the school day at and at school events including dances. This includes 'crop tops'.
- Our **Breakfast Program** is available from 8:25 - 8:40 a.m. Mon, Wed. & Fri. We offer students grab n' go items such as yoghurt tubes, cheese sticks, cereal bars. **A huge thank you to our parent volunteers!! We appreciate you so much!!**
- **SHJH is a NUT/Scent Aware school.** We have a number of students and staff who have strong anaphylactic, life threatening allergies to peanuts and tree nuts as well as those severely affected by scents such as perfumes and body sprays. For this reason, students and visitors **MUST** refrain from wearing scented products at school, especially AXE, and should not bring foods containing nuts to school. Thank you for your cooperation!
- **Late Arrival:** Parents/guardians can report a student absence or late by dialing the **Late Arrival phone #: 902-869-3842** or by sending an **email to: [svjattendance@hrsb.ca](mailto:svjattendance@hrsb.ca)** Please do not report a student absence on the main office number.
- **Drop off and pick up student safety:** Parents/guardians dropping students off in the morning or picking students up after school are asked to **pull over at the curb outside of the designated bus areas** i.e. not in the area directly in front of the school. Vehicles should drive through the driveway with caution!
- **Building Security:** The front door will be locked at 9 a.m. and then after the lunchtime at 12:45 p.m. In order to gain entrance to the school during school hours, visitors need to push the button on the camera located at the front door of the school. Someone will then give you access to the building. **All visitors must report to the main office upon entering the school.**