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## September, 2017 Newsletter



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### Inglis Street Elementary School

[www.ises.hrsb.ca](http://www.ises.hrsb.ca) T: 902.421.6767

#### September Dates to Remember:

- 14 - Stand Up Against Bullying Day - wear **pink**
- 28 - Picture day
- 28 - Curriculum Night
- 29 - Professional Development Day (no classes for students)

**Message from the principal** - Hello Inglis Street School families! I am so pleased to serve as your Principal at this wonderful school. Our administrative team, Mrs. Paula Little, Mrs. Dawn Townshend and I would like to welcome new families to Inglis Street School at the same time as we welcome back returning families. A welcome is also extended to our new staff members: Mrs. Kim Sampson (grade 2), Mrs. Nicole Sneath (grade 3), Ms. Brittany Sanford (grade 4), and Ms. Catriona Ryan (grade 6). At the end of October we welcome back Mrs. Adrienne Mitchell (Physical Education) from parental leave. Ms. Naomi Barnes will be her replacement until then. Mrs. Peggy Lugar will be a grade 3 teacher in the morning and has taken on the role as our second learning center teacher in the afternoon. Please know that we are here to support our students and families in any way we can. We strive to be approachable and accessible. If you have any questions or concerns that we may be able to help you with, please do not hesitate to contact us.

There is a lot of start-up info in this newsletter making this the longest newsletter of the year! Please note that only electronic copies will be sent home from here on in and if you need a printed copy please contact our office. We will post all newsletters on our website as well.

**Bell Time Changes/Dismissal Procedures** - This year, all students will be dismissed at 3:00pm. In addition, our lunch hour has been shortened and will now be from 12:00-12:55. Afternoon instruction will begin at 1:00pm. Because all students are being dismissed at the same time, we are noticing some congestion at dismissal time at our back doors. In an attempt to relieve some of this, we will be dismissing our students in grades 4-6 out the basement doors, coming out onto the cement pad where students line up in the morning. Students in grades primary-3 will continue being dismissed out the doors closest to Gorsebrook Junior High. We appreciate your cooperation with this change.

**Curriculum Night/Ice-cream Social** - Please join us for an information session with your child's teacher on September 28. We will have 2, 20 minute sessions in each class so that families who have more than 1 child at our school can join 2 sessions. The first session will be from 6:00-6:20 and the second session will go from 6:25-6:45. From 6:45-7:15, we invite you to join us for an ice-cream treat, (thanks to our PTA!) on the grass outside the back doors.

**Parent Teacher Association** - The PTA plays an important role in our school community by helping to provide wonderful opportunities and resources for our students. Please consider getting involved! We are currently looking for someone who would be willing to be a co-chair on our PTA. We meet regularly to plan family events and fundraising activities. If you are interested, please contact me at [shmacdonald@hrsbc.ca](mailto:shmacdonald@hrsbc.ca) as soon as possible so we can have our PTA up and running! Our PTA is already busy planning another school year full of fun activities for students and families to enjoy. On Thursday, September 28, following Curriculum Night, the PTA will be hosting our annual ice-cream social. This event provides a chance for students and families to enjoy a treat while getting together with friends, old and new. The first PTA meeting is Monday, September 18, at 7pm in the staff room. Everyone is welcome!

# Inglis Street Elementary School

Sherri MacDonald

[shmacdonald@hrrsb.ca](mailto:shmacdonald@hrrsb.ca)

**Safe Arrival** - Please call the Safe Arrival number 902-421-7646 or the main office line 902-421-6767, or send a note if your child is going to be absent or late. If sending an e-mail or a note, please remember to contact the main office as well.

**Student Safety** - All community members who enter the building are asked to sign in at the office and must wear a tag. The main entrance is locked after 9:15 am. After this time, visitors must use the security buzzer at the main doors to gain entry. All other doors are locked throughout the day.

**Caring School Community** - At Inglis Street School we believe students, parents and school staff have responsibilities for making sure our school is a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment that respects diversity and nurtures a sense of belonging and a positive sense of self. This year we are implementing a program called Caring School Communities (CSC). CSC strengthens students' connectedness to school—an important element for increasing academic motivation and achievement. We will be sharing more information as we implement this exciting curriculum that supports our students' social and emotional (SEL) skills and competencies.

**Updated Student Registration Forms** - Please ensure that your contact information is up-to-date. Forms were sent home today. In the event of school closure, we must call parents / guardians before releasing students. Information regarding school closure can be found at <http://www.hrrsb.ns.ca/> or by phoning 902-464-info (4636). Schools are sometimes cancelled based on the Family of Schools to which they belong. We are part of the Citadel High Family of Schools.

**Lunch Time** - Please return lunch information sheets as soon as possible so we know your child's daily lunch plans. Please provide your child with a note or call the school if they are registered for lunch but will be absent at lunch time. Another option for students is the YPHD program (YMCA Physical Healthy Development). For more information about this program please phone 902-422-9622 or email ([yphd@ymca.ca](mailto:yphd@ymca.ca)).

**Student Dismissal** - Parents / guardians are asked to pick up their children at the back doors closest to Gorsebrook Junior High each day. All students are released through these doors. It is important that students are picked up on-time as there is no supervision after dismissal.

**Bikes at School** - We are always happy to see active students and are pleased to have a bike rack near the Gorsebrook side doors for students to park their bikes. We do not want to keep bikes inside the building. If students bike to school they are requested to park and lock their bicycles at the rack. As well, this is not a play area and so please remind students they are not to climb the racks or touch the bicycles that are parked there.

**Stand-up Against Bullying Day** - On Thursday, September 14, students, staff and other community members are encouraged to wear **pink** in order to show support for Stand-up Against Bullying Day. To help send a strong message against bullying in Nova Scotia's schools, colleges and universities, the Province has proclaimed the second Thursday at the start of each school year as Stand Up Against Bullying Day.

**Terry Fox Run** - On Friday, September 22nd, Inglis Street will be taking part in our annual Terry Fox event in support of cancer research. Schools all across the country will be participating in the run/walk to raise money and to help make students aware of the efforts of a young Canadian who wanted to make a difference. We are asking that each student bring a toonie or a small donation on September 22. If you would like a pledge form to raise more donations they can be picked up at the office. Remember that \$0.85 of every dollar goes directly to cancer research of all types. If you wish to donate online, Income Tax Receipts will be issued by the Terry Fox Foundation directly to you by e-mail. Go to:

[http://www.terryfox.org/Donate/Donate\\_to\\_a\\_Participant\\_Team\\_or\\_Event.html](http://www.terryfox.org/Donate/Donate_to_a_Participant_Team_or_Event.html), click on "sponsor a student/school". Search "Inglis Street School" with the location "Nova Scotia. The event will take place at 1:30 pm starting with a short assembly followed by our walk/run on the field.

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**Picture Day** – Picture Day is on Thursday, September 28th. Please avoid making appointments on this day, if possible, so that students don't miss out on their class photos as we do whole class groups and not composites for each class.

**Milk and Hot Lunch Programs** – Our hot lunch programs will begin later on this month. Please return the milk forms this week if you are planning on participating in the milk program.

**Parking** – Please note the parking lot adjacent to our school is dedicated to our school staff and HRSB specialists. We have visitor tags available at the office if you are volunteering or spending time at the school.

**Twitter** – Just a reminder that HRSB is on Twitter! The account is managed by HRSB Communications and is used to share important information about the HRSB, school cancellations, great stories about our schools, etc. HRSB can be found at [twitter.com/HRSB\\_Official](https://twitter.com/HRSB_Official). You don't have to have a Twitter account to view what's been posted.

**School Advisory Council** – Inglis Street's School Advisory Council (SAC) will meet in the next few weeks. Please check the school website for the upcoming date. The SAC is comprised of three parents, three staff members and three school community members who work together in an advisory capacity to increase the quality of education being provided by the school. The purpose of the School Advisory Council is to ensure that all students receive the best possible learning opportunities by engaging all partners in an ongoing process of problem solving and shared decision making. We have one parent spot open. If anyone is interested in volunteering on this committee please let Mrs. Little or Ms. MacDonald know. All school community members are encouraged to attend SAC meetings. We will have six meetings this year and they will be announced in advance via our school newsletter and website.

**Lost and Found** – Please label your child's belongings as our Lost and Found quickly gets filled with items such as jackets, sweaters, hats, mittens, lunch containers and so forth.

**School Website** – Please visit our school website for updates throughout the year. You can find our school website at <http://www.ises.ednet.ns.ca/>.

**Communication** – our teachers and staff can be reached via email and their addresses are found on our school website. You may call our school line at 902-421-6767 to leave a message. Correspondence to staff via email/phone etc. will be answered within a 48 hour timeframe.

**Allergies** – We are a nut and scent aware school. We ask your cooperation in not sending products containing nuts to school as we have a number of students and staff members with life-threatening allergies. Please avoid wearing scented products as they may cause breathing problems for others. If your child has a **severe or life threatening allergy or medical condition**, a photograph of them and an alert will be posted in the office and staff room to ensure all staff members are informed. It is also important that you call the school to obtain the appropriate medical forms. This is important to ensure all staff is aware of any conditions or allergies so they can respond appropriately in the case of an emergency.

**Medication** – In order to dispense medication we need a parent or guardian to fill out an *Administration of Medication* form. This includes over the counter medications, puffers, Tylenol, allergy relief etc. These forms are available at the office. If your child requires an EpiPen, they **are required to** wear their Epi Pen on their person. If you want to send in a second EpiPen, it can be stored in our Learning Centre.

**Head Lice** Inglis Street School follows the HRSB's head lice policy. Students may return following the 1st treatment outlined by the Department of Health and Wellness. There is a pamphlet linked on our school's website that details how to prevent and treat lice.

<http://www.novascotia.ca/dhw/publications/public-health-education/07135-head-lice-pamphlet-en.pdf>. As well, you may call 8-1-1 at any time to speak with a registered nurse for more information and guidance, if required. All parents play a vital role in minimizing the occurrence of lice in our school. Doing daily/regular checks of your child's head is very important. Head lice are very common and anyone can get it.

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Tips to prevent lice:

- Talk with your child about taking and giving personal space (keepings heads off others, not sharing hair brushes and fasteners)
- Switch-out hats often.
- Keep hats in sleeve of coats.
- Wash and dry clothes as often as possible or high heat dry them.
- Use hair products that repel or tea tree oil in shampoo

**Police & Child Abuse Registry** - All volunteers (including chaperones for field trips) are required to have a police and Child Abuse Registry check completed. Parents / guardians can get a police check done through the Halifax Regional Police Department or through our <https://www.mybackcheck.com/Public/Login.aspx> account. If you wish to have a police check done through myBackCheck, please contact the school and we will send you an invitation by email. The cost is \$30 plus tax. Volunteers are also required to complete a Child Abuse Registry search. These are free and the form can be picked up at the main office.

