



# École Rockingham School

## January 2021 Newsletter

### *Principal's Note*

#### **Happy 2021!**

We're thankful to get back together after the break. The staff members at École Rockingham School worked enthusiastically and tirelessly last week. We explored new resources for classrooms and for technology. We worked on how to connect even more deeply with our students and their families and in turn, support their learning.

It's important to remind you that our practice at Rockingham is to go outside whenever possible, be it at recess, lunch or to meet play-based outcomes. Please help your children by sending them all they need to take advantage of the winter wonderland, (winter gear, snow pants, layers, hats and mittens/gloves). It is also helpful to send an extra set of clothing should the snow or water or an accident find their way to their inner layer.

We welcomed some new families and a couple of staff members to our school community in the past week and are excited about growing together. We welcomed Ms. Billard a new EPA and Ms. Theriault who co-teaches with Mrs. Buck. Earlier in November, we hired an additional, part time administrative assistant to support our growing numbers. You may have met or heard her on the phone: Ms. Temitayo Awokunle. We also said farewell to Nancy Smith, who retired in december. I know you join me in wishing her well.

Over the past months, together, we have already proven that we can learn during the pandemic; we just needed to adjust. We look forward to continuing that success with your support.

B. Toner

#### **Peanut Smart**

Please remember that we are a peanut smart school. We have several students who are deathly allergic to nuts and tree nuts. Please avoid sending anything with nuts in your child's snack or lunch. Thank you.

#### **Covid-19 Reminders and Updates**

Our school community has been supportive and diligent in following the protocols laid out by Public Health. Please remember that all students from grades 4-6 require a mask when inside. It would be helpful for you to pack an extra one in their backpack in case one gets lost. Students of all ages require a mask when using the school bus. Our classes have assigned play areas and doors for outside. Please discuss with your children the importance of remaining in their cohorts at school.

Water bottles should be full when the students arrive at school. We have water available but it helps when they arrive with it already full.

Unfortunately, parents and non-staff are still not permitted in the school during school hours. If you need to pick up a child early, contact us by phone and ring the front door

bell when you arrive. Give yourself some extra time during this pandemic to account for the safety practices.

### **Safe Arrival Email**

École Rockingham School now has a Safe Arrival email. You can email us if you know your child will be late or absent that day. [rocksafearrival@gnspes.ca](mailto:rocksafearrival@gnspes.ca) is the address. Our phone line is still available too at 902-457-8990

Using one of these methods, we can contact students that are unaccounted for efficiently.

### **Survey**

École Rockingham School is entering the Delmore "Buddy" Daye Learning Institute African Nova Scotian History Challenge. In order to successfully participate in this project, we would like to collect more detailed information about our students of African Heritage through the use of an optional parent survey.

Parents of students who already self-identified as of African Heritage on their school registration forms will receive an email with a Google Form today. If your child is of African heritage and did not receive the electronic survey, please contact Mr O'Brien at [dobrien@gnspes.ca](mailto:dobrien@gnspes.ca) and he will send you the survey as well.