



École LeMarchant-St. Thomas School



Les nouvelles de fevrier 2025 February 2025 News Theme: Kindness

We are kicking off February with so much to celebrate. This month, we have African Heritage Month, Valentine's Day, Acadian Quilt Week and the much-anticipated *Disney's Lion King JR.* school musical. It is going to be a busy month for our students.

Changes to Dismissal Plans

The school day is packed with learning therefore teachers may not always have time to check emails during the day. To help us keep everything running smoothly, we ask that you let us know about any changes to after-school plans as early as possible, **ideally with a day's notice**. Thank you for your cooperation, and we are looking forward to a wonderful February filled with learning and celebrations!

Staffing update

Heather Neatt, our learning support teacher is on a deferred leave beginning February 3. Congratulations and we will miss Mme Neatt. Welcome to Mme Coffin and Ms. Bethune. Both teachers will be sharing Mme Neatt's position for the remainder of the year.

February is African Heritage Month



African Heritage Month in Nova Scotia, celebrated each February, honours the contributions of African Nova Scotians.

This year's theme, Legacy in Action: Celebrating Black Brilliance, highlights the achievements and resilience of African Nova Scotians, who have shaped the province's history for more than 400 years.

In schools, recognizing African Heritage Month is crucial for promoting cultural awareness and inclusion. It fosters understanding of the diverse cultural landscape of Nova Scotia,

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empowering African Nova Scotian students by reflecting their history and heritage in their classrooms. Highlighting their achievements serves as a source of inspiration.

African Heritage Month 2025 is an opportunity to educate, inspire, and celebrate the richness of African heritage in Nova Scotia every day.

Students will learn about African Canadians who have made substantial contributions to Canadian culture. There will be African Heritage quotes/trivia on our morning announcements along with activities highlighted in individual classrooms.

Looking for ways to recognize and celebrate African Heritage Month?

- Attend events happening throughout the month at your local Halifax [Public Library](#).
- Visit local heritage sites, such as the [Black Cultural Centre](#), the [Africville Museum](#), and the [Black Loyalist Heritage Centre](#).



February is Primary Registration Month

*pre-primary as well

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

Do you have a child who will be starting pre-primary or primary this fall?

It's time to register!

Registration for the 2025-26 school year begins on February 3. 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)
- 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)

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Visit the [HRCE website](#) for more information and to enroll 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.

Acadian Quilt Week – February 3-7

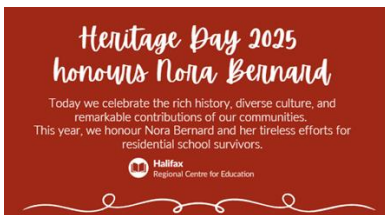


LMST received a French Cultural Connection Grant from the HRCE to support the school's Acadian culture learning journey led by staff member Amy Flett. Students will be creating a collaborative Acadian quilt to be hung in the main lobby with the support of artist Andrea Tsang

Jackson, HRCE fine arts specialist, Mary Legere and in consultation with Le Musée des Acadiens des Pubnicos.

This will support student learning before we build two Acadian inspired garden beds. (more information to come).

February 17 is Heritage Day



Heritage Day 2025 honours the late Nora Madeline Bernard. From Millbrook First Nation, she was a Mi'kmaq activist who fought for her community and First Nations people across Canada.



Ms. Bernard played a key role in getting justice, recognition, and compensation for survivors of the Canadian Indian Residential School system. As a survivor of the system herself, she founded and became president of the Shubenacadie Indian Residential School Association in 1987. She then started a class-action lawsuit for the

survivors, which inspired others across the country to do the same, leading to the largest class-action lawsuit in Canadian history.

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School Advisory Council (SAC)

Our next SAC meeting is February 18 at 4:30 pm. All welcome to attend.

The SAC had a budget of 5601.00. Funds have been spent on two art classes per class with artist Belle DeMont. The remainder has gone toward a science workshop for each class.

Home and School (H&S)

FUNDS USED IN JANUARY

Attendees at our January meeting voted to provide all 26 LMST classrooms with \$50 for Valentine's Day celebrations or to support other classroom activities.

COMMUNITY EVENT! FREE LMST FAMILY DAY SKATE & GRADE 6 BAKE SALE– FEB 17, 12:30-2PM, HALIFAX FORUM

WHAT: FREE Family Skate & Grade 6 Bake Sale (BRING CASH! Funds raised support the Grade 6 graduation field trip). BRING YOUR OWN REUSABLE MUG FOR HOT CHOCOLATE & COFFEE 😊

WHERE: Halifax Forum, 2901 Windsor Street

WHO: ALL ARE WELCOME! Parents, guardians, staff, students, siblings, and friends.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

- Bring your own equipment. Equipment is not provided (consider posting offers or requests on our Facebook page "LMST Buy, Sell Swap, Save!!!)
- Helmets are mandatory
- No hockey sticks or pucks allowed
- Parent/caregiver supervision is required, even if a parent/caregiver is not skating
- Remember to BRING CASH if you would like to support our Grade 6 treat sale!

FOOD DRIVE – FEB 24-28

We are running a food drive FEB 24-28. Items and/or cash (donation jar) will be collected outside the front door during morning drop off each day. Please see this link for the Feed NS wish list: www.feednovascotia.ca/donate/donate-food .

We will need **ONE VOLUNTEER EACH MORNING** to oversee collections (ONLY 8:25am-8:55am), count the number of items collected and report the number to Jody to announce to students. Items can then be dropped off at any Feed Nova Scotia drop box in the city or similar charity (All

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grocery stores have a bin). If interested, please sign up via this link: <https://volunteersignup.org/TCJPK> We appreciate your time! Thank you!

UPCOMING EVENTS! STAY TUNED!

Stay tuned for more upcoming H&S FUNdraising and Community events:

- Family Skate – Halifax Forum (Feb 17)
- Food Drive (Feb 24-28)
- Bingo (Mar 27)
- Adult Event (April 25)
- Morris East Pizza Contest (Spring)
- Spring Fair (May 31) * please note this is a date change
- End of Year Ice cream/popsicle social (June 19)

Our next H&S meeting is February 18 at 6:00 pm. All welcome to attend.



Disney's Lion King JR.

LMST & Show Sponsor Moore Suites present *Disney's Lion King JR* on **Wednesday, February 26 & Thursday February 27 at 6:30pm!**

Many of our Grade 5 & 6 students have been practicing since October to bring the animals of Pride Rock to our stage and we're so excited to finally share all their hard work.

Tickets: Student (16 & under) \$5, Adults \$15, Family (2 Adults & 2 Students) \$30. Purchasing details will be sent home through School Cash and will go on sale starting February 10.

*****Raffle Draw***** We will be raffling off 2 Family Ticket packages which include 4 front row seats before each performance! Tickets will be \$5 each or 3 for \$10, sold onsite and cash only. Simba, Nala and all their friends look forward to seeing you there!

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Winter Walk to/at School week

We are encouraging students and families to make the most of winter by highlighting the week of Feb 24-28 and joining in on the Ecology Action Center's winter i-Walk. Mr. Smith and Ms. LeBlanc will also have students participate in physical education classes. Along with the health benefits, walking at least part way to school helps to reduce traffic congestion.

Red Means Stop! School Bus Safety Reminder



HRCE has recorded many school bus stop-arm violations in Halifax Regional Municipality since the beginning of the school year. This means that motorists have failed to stop for a bus when its red lights were flashing, and the stop sign was extended. This poses a serious risk to children and families who may be crossing the road to enter or exit the bus. Drivers may also face a fine and demerit points if caught by police.

Help us spread the word to remind drivers (including cyclists) that it is illegal to drive past a school bus when they see its red lights flashing and stop-arm extended.

Drivers must slow down and prepare to stop in all directions when they see flashing lights – either amber or red in colour – on a school bus. This means the bus is planning to stop or may have already.

Here are some safety tips from Safety Services Nova Scotia to keep in mind when waiting for or exiting the bus:

- Stand back from the edge of the road.
- Line up in single file when you see the bus coming.
- Wait for the bus to come to a complete stop.
- Walk, never run.

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- Make sure the bus driver sees you if you are crossing the road. Take 10 giant steps in front of the bus before crossing.
- Wait for the bus driver to signal that it is okay to cross.
- Always look both ways before crossing the road and listen for traffic.
- Never cross the road from behind the bus.

Please ensure your children are using the crosswalks where there are crosswalk guards.



Important Dates

February 3-7	Acadian Quilt week at LMST
February 10	<i>Disney's Lion King JR</i> tickets go on sale through school cash online
February 12	LMST Battle of the Books team competes at LMST
February 17	Family/Heritage Day – no school
February 18	School Advisory Council meeting 4:30 pm All welcome
February 18	Home & School meeting 6:00 pm All welcome
February 24-28	H&S Food Drive
February 26	Battle of the book's competition at Armbrae Academy
February 26	LMST musical <i>Disney's Lion King JR</i> 6:30 pm
February 27	LMST musical <i>Disney's Lion King JR</i> 6:30 pm
March 7	Assessment and Evaluation day- no school for students
March 10-14	March break
March 27	H & S Family Bingo night 6 pm at LMST
March 28	Reports released
April 2	Parent/guardian-teacher interviews 5:30 pm-7:30 pm
April 3	Parent/guardian – teacher interviews 1 pm-4pm

For a complete listing of staff at LMST please check out our website

<https://lmt.hrce.ca/staff-directory>

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