



École LeMarchant-St. Thomas School

Les nouvelles de fevrier 2026 February 2026 News Theme: Kindness



February is Registration Month

Do you have or know a child who will be starting Pre Primary or Primary this fall? It's time to register!

Registration for the 2026-27 school year begins on Monday, February 2. 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 with one of the following: 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, a mortgage contract or a residential lease agreement

Visit the [HRCE website](https://www.hrce.ca) 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.

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African Heritage Month in Nova Scotia is a time to recognize and celebrate the rich history, vibrant culture, and lasting contributions of people of African descent in our province. This year's theme, **"Strength in Unity – Moving Forward with Purpose, Prosperity, Power and Progress,"** reminds us of the importance of coming together as a community, learning from one another, and moving forward with shared purpose.

In our schools, African Heritage Month provides meaningful opportunities for students to explore African Nova Scotian histories and experiences, deepen their understanding of our shared past, and reflect on the values of respect, inclusion, and belonging. Through classroom learning, discussions, and activities connected to this year's theme, students are encouraged to appreciate diversity, build empathy, and recognize the strength that comes from unity. These experiences help foster welcoming school communities and inspire students to contribute positively to a more inclusive and equitable future for all.

February 16 is Heritage Day

Nova Scotia Heritage Day is celebrated on **Monday, February 16**, and provides an opportunity for students and families to learn more about the people, stories, and events that have shaped our province. Each year, Heritage Day honours a notable Nova Scotian, and in 2026 we recognize **Joseph William Comeau**, an important Acadian poet, writer, and cultural leader.

Joseph William Comeau is remembered for his contributions to Acadian literature and for helping to preserve and promote Acadian language, identity, and culture in Nova Scotia. His work reflected the everyday lives, resilience, and traditions of Acadian communities, and his legacy continues to influence Acadian culture today.

Heritage Day provides us with an opportunity to explore Nova Scotia's diverse history and to better understand how individuals from different backgrounds have contributed to our shared story. Learning about Joseph William Comeau helps students appreciate the richness of Acadian heritage and the importance of preserving culture, language, and community.

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Two Truths & AI

Two Truths & AI is a free, interactive activity from Common Sense Education that helps students learn how to tell the difference between real and AI-generated content. Through guided examples, students practice asking good questions and thinking critically about what they see online. This resource can also be a helpful way for parents and caregivers to build their own understanding of AI and media literacy alongside their children. Learn more [here](#).

LMST H&S

LMST Adult Social and Auction- Thank you!

A big THANK YOU to everyone who attended, donated, bid and volunteered! This well attended event was vibing and the results were thrilling...we raised close to \$10,000!!! All funds will be added to our playground fund that is focused on replacing our deteriorating burgundy play structure. In gratitude for their support, please keep in mind the following wonderful donors for your future spending:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aerobics First (Sports store)• Art Gallery of Nova Scotia• Aurora Aesthetics• Bishop's Cellar (Liquor store)• Bricks + Birches (Interior Design)• Brow Queen Esthetics• Cape Smokey (Ski Resort)• Cellar Events• Dalhousie Athletics• Discovery Centre• Duly Noted Gift Shop• East Coast Lifestyle Clothing• Edna Restaurant• EnGarden Spa• Fancy Nails (Nail Salon)• Inkwell Gift Shop• Jeremy Vaughn (Artist)• Jill + Jack Illustration• JUST CYCLE (Fitness Classes)• Knife For Hire (Private Chef)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Luma (medical aesthetic treatments)• Moore & Bloom (Gardening services)• Moore Suites (Suite rentals)• Morris East Restaurant• MOVE EAST (Fitness Classes)• Nova Pharmacy• Nurtured Children's Store• Oxford Tap Room• Patagonia Halifax (Clothing)• Pottery - Caitlin Lees• Ski Wentworth• Stillwell Brewing Co.• Superline Fuels (Home Heating Oil, Propane & Commercial Diesel)• The Fourth Pull Café• The Landings (Surgical & Aesthetics Centre)• The Trail Shop (Outdoor shop)• Timberdoodle (Folk Art)• Wildflower Clothing• Woozles (Children's Book Store)
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UPCOMING H&S EVENTS!

FREE FAMILY SKATE & BAKE SALE ON FAMILY DAY!

WHEN: Monday, FEB. 16 (Family Day!) Time TBA

WHERE? - Halifax Forum, 2901 Windsor Street

WHAT?- FREE Family Skate & Grade 6 Treat Sale (BRING CASH! Fundraiser for the Grade 6 year-end trip) – BRING YOUR OWN REUSABLE MUG FOR HOT CHOCOLATE/COFFEE!!!

WHO? ALL LMST COMMUNITY WELCOME! Parents/Guardians/Staff and Children!

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Bring your own skates and helmet. 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. Non-skating parents/caregivers can watch from behind the glass.
- Remember to BRING CASH if you would like to support our Grade 6 treat sale!

Stay tuned for more upcoming H&S *FUN*draising and Community events:

- H&S Monthly Meeting (February 17, 6pm @ LMST)- all welcome!
- Free Family Day Family Skate – Halifax Forum (Feb 16)
- Food Drive (March 2-6)
- Bingo (March 26)
- Morris East Pizza Contest (Spring)
- Spring Fair (May 30)- we need volunteers of various commitments, stay tuned for future school notices and on our Facebook page “LMST Home & School Association” or please join us at our monthly meetings 😊
- End of Year Ice cream/popsicle social (June 25)

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School Advisory Council (SAC)

The SAC is currently in the process of interviewing school photographers over the coming months. If you have any feedback regarding school photography, please feel free to email us at lmsts@hrce.ca

Our next SAC meeting is February 17 at 4:30 pm. All are welcome to attend.

Code of Conduct & Matrix of Expectations

In Spring 2025, the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development released an updated [Code of Conduct](#) as part of the provincial Safe Schools Strategy. As part of this initiative, all schools are developing a school-wide [Matrix of Expectations](#) to clearly outline positive and respectful behaviours.

We encourage families to take time to review the [Matrix](#) together and discuss how these expectations support a safe, inclusive, and respectful school community.

Thank you for your continued support.



Battle of the Books

Congratulations to the following students who have earned a place on LMST's Battle of the Books team this year.

- Clara, Elle, Ameya - grade 5
- Eva, Ching - grade 6

February 5th LMST vs Sacred Heart Sacred Heart

February 12 LMST vs Hydrostone Academy LMST

Bonne Chance LMST!!

New Updated School Lunches Are Coming!

Starting on Monday, January 26, the school lunch menu is getting a tasty refresh! Expect more fresh fruit, better side pairings, and some exciting new favourites like chicken fingers, quesadillas, egg roll bowls, and meatloaf! New items vary slightly by menu.

Give the new menu a try! The next ordering window opens on Friday, January 30 🍎 🥪

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UPCOMING FREE EVENT!

Thriving Offline:

How Delaying Smartphones Can Help Kids Flourish



When: Tuesday, February 24th @ 6:30pm ADT

Where: St. Margaret's Bay Elementary, NS

(Virtual Zoom option available)

Register: [UnpluggedNSThrivingOffline.eventbrite.ca](https://unpluggedns.org/thrivingoffline/eventbrite.ca)

Connect with other parents in our supportive community!

Thriving Offline: How Delaying Smartphones Can Help Kids Flourish

Thriving Offline: How Delaying Smartphones Can Help Kids Flourish, a free community event hosted by Unplugged Canada at St. Margaret's Bay Elementary, is available both in person and virtually.

Designed for caregivers and educators, this session will explore how early smartphone and social media use impacts children's development and the latest research, practical strategies, safer alternatives, and age-appropriate boundaries to support healthy childhoods.

Join us! Thriving Offline: How Delaying Smartphones Can Help Kids Flourish

- Tuesday, February 24, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.
- St. Margaret's Bay Elementary - 24 Ridgewood Dr, Head of St Margaret's Bay, NS
- Please register for in-person or virtual [here](https://unpluggedns.org/thrivingoffline/eventbrite.ca).



BECOME A HOST FAMILY

OPEN YOUR HOME AND HEART TO AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT

\$875
month

PER STUDENT
(Tax Free)

\$975
month

If you can
accommodate
a vegetarian or
lactose free diet

\$1075
month

If you can
accommodate
a vegan or
celiac diet

* Effective in September 2025

RECEIVE \$100 FOR EVERY SUCCESSFUL REFERRAL OF NEW HOST FAMILY
Share the name and contact details of an interested host. Once they are approved and actively hosting, you'll receive \$100.



Halifax
Regional Centre for Education

Learn More:

nsisp.ca/host

Email hostastudent@hrce.ca

or call 902-464-2000 ext. 2548



Open your home to an international student!

Have you considered opening your home to an international student?

HRCE's International Services welcomes students from all over the world who would like to attend schools in our region. Hosting a student in your home can be an enriching and rewarding experience. We're looking for warm and caring

families like yours to provide them with a home away from home.

Hosting an international student is a once-in-a-lifetime experience that gives your family the opportunity to bring the world home. For students, it's a way to learn about the Canadian way of life.

As a host, your family would be matched with a student who will attend your neighbourhood school and participate in your daily routines.

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What you can expect:

- Host families receive a tax-free monthly stipend to help cover hosting expenses (\$825 current, \$875 effective September)
- Students stay for periods of three to 10 months
- Ongoing support is provided by an experienced Homestay Coordinator
- You will learn about and communicate with your student before their arrival

Learn more here or contact:

HRCE International Services

(902) 464-2000 ext. 2548

hostastudent@hrce.ca



Important Dates

- February 16 Home and School free family skate at Halifax Forum
- February 17 School Advisory Council (SAC) meeting 4:30 pm –All welcome
- February 17 Home & School Association 6 pm – All welcome
- February 17- 20 Ecology Action iWalk to school and at school week.
- March 2-6 H&S Food and Sock Drive
- March 16-20 March Break- no school
- March 23 Term 3 begins
- March 27 Term 2 report cards released
- April 1 Parent/guardian- teacher conferences 5:30 -7:30 pm
- April 2 No school for students
- April 2 Parent/guardian-teacher conferences 1pm-4pm.
- April 10 Grades 4-6 Heritage Fair Open House 1:10 pm-2:45 pm

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