



**ECOLE LEMARCHANT ST. THOMAS SCHOOL**  
1589 WALNUT ST, HALIFAX | 421-6769 | LMSTS@HRSB.CA

Principal: Moira Cavanaugh  
Vice Principal Monica Stoilov  
Admin Assistant: Mandy Smith



## **February News**

## **Les nouvelles de fevrier**

February highlights the half way point of the school year and provides us with a natural point of reflection for what has passed and what is to come. Here at LMST we are constantly learning from one another and striving to do our best. Our theme for February to March break is Friendship. What it means to be a good friend will be a focus for classroom discussions in the coming weeks. February is also African Heritage month and famous African Nova Scotian's and Canadians will be highlighted throughout the month. Our Battle of the Books team won their first game against Sacred Heart and will compete again this month. Congratulations!

Mme MacLean will continue working with me in the capacity of Vice Principal until we receive a further update in mid-late March.

In February we will be conducting safety drills. Please see attached letter.

## **Primary Registration for the 2018-2019 school year is February**

If you have a child that is turning 5 by December 31, 2018, visit your neighbourhood school to register. Guardianship information, proof of address and citizenship, as well as educational records and/or documents are required at the time of registration. Go to [hrsb.ca](http://hrsb.ca) for more information.

## **Primary French Immersion Information Session**

If you are interested in learning about French Immersion for your primary aged child, please join us for a parent/guardian information session on Tuesday, February 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm.

## Student Success Plan

Every school in Nova Scotia must have a student success plan or SSP. This plan consists of a literacy and math goal. A student success plan usually takes about 5 years to accomplish. We are in our first year of the plan. As a teaching staff, we have spent a considerable amount of time reflecting on where our strengths are and looking at areas for improvement or refinement. Based on data collected in classrooms, teachers have agreed that the following will be our goals.

**Literacy:** To improve student achievement in reading with a focus on deeper comprehension.

**Math:** To improve students' ability to problem solve and communicate their mathematical understanding

## Tattletales Coins for Books Campaign

The "Coins for Books" campaign has become an annual fundraiser for many schools in the Halifax Regional School Board. Each February, participating schools hold a coin drive. The funds raised are used towards purchasing books at Tattletales book store for the schools and the schools also receive a percentage of funds collected by other sources including regional publishers, the Halifax Regional School Board and the bookstore. In the past eight years, the campaign has placed over \$800,000 worth of books into local schools. Here at LMST, we will be doing a coin drive during the week of February 12-16. This coincides with our spirit week. All money raised will go directly to our school library.

## Spirit Week

To have fun during the winter months, and to help remember that we are having our Coins for Books fundraiser, we are having a school spirit week February 12-16.

- **Monday, February 12- Wear LMST gear/ jersey day**
- **Tuesday, February 13- Crazy Hat/Hair day** (no scented products please!)
- **Wednesday, February 14- Wear Red/Pink**
- **Thursday, February 15- Mix and/or match day.** This is your chance to either match everything or wear mismatched everything!
- **Friday, February 16- PJ day**

## School Advisory Council

Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 22 at 4:30 pm at the school. All parents/guardians are invited to attend. Minutes of our meetings are posted on our website.

## Home & School

### Volunteers needed for the new school garden committee

With the development of the new school, we have a wonderful opportunity to start a school garden project that will greatly enhance our school community.

The school garden will be in a fantastic, sunny location at the very front of the school, close to the new school cafeteria. In order to make it a success and establish it as part of our school curriculum and life, we need a dedicated group of parents to:

- plan the garden layout,
- fundraise to make it a reality,
- organize planting, growing and weeding so the kids can take ownership of their garden over the spring/summer of 2019, and
- assist teachers with incorporating the garden into their classroom activities.

This is a unique opportunity to be part of a really special feature of our new LMST and to work with your children, as well as all the other kids at school, to learn the art of gardening and growing healthy food.

The garden committee will act as a subcommittee of the Green Space Committee (GSC) and get support navigating the new school development from the GSC. If you are interested in helping make the school garden a success, please email [lmstgreenspace@gmail.com](mailto:lmstgreenspace@gmail.com). We are hoping to build a strong group of garden leaders! **The first garden committee meeting will be in early February 2018.**

### iWalk – Winter Walk to School Week

We will be once again celebrating walking to school during the week of February 20-23. As in October, we will take a poll to see how many students walked or wheeled to school and will celebrate our successes through the morning announcements.

### Parking Lot Safety

**The safety of students is our #1 priority.** With this in mind, vehicles are not permitted on the school grounds between 8:30 am and 9:10 am and between 2:30 pm and 3:10pm. The parking lot is not a drop off or pick-up zone. Thank you for your cooperation regarding these expectations.



### Important February Dates

February 6- Primary French Immersion Information session 6:30 pm

February 7- Grades 4-6 band, choir and string performance at Gorsebrook.

February 8- Snow date for performance

February 8- School Travel Planning meeting 1:45pm -2:45 pm. All invited to attend

February 12-16 [Coins for Books campaign](#)/[School Spirit week](#)

February 12- Wear LMST clothing or a favorite jersey.

February 13- Crazy Hat/hair day ( no scented products please)

February 14- Red/Pink day

February 15- Jersey day

February 16- PJ day

February 19- Mona Louise Parsons day- no school

February 20-23- iWalk – Winter walk to school week

February 26-28 - Drumming workshops in music class

February 28- [National Pink Shirt day](#) - Wear pink/red to support anti-bullying.