



Cunard Junior High School Newsletter

January 2021



Greetings from the Office

From all of us at Cunard Junior High, we hope you had a wonderful and restful Holiday Break! Term 2 is now well under way and for those students who have not done as well as expected, there is still plenty of time to get enough work done to ensure they can achieve their full potential.

It is important that we continue to work together to make sure your children are focusing on their studies and working hard to the end of the school year. Remember, you can **check on your child's progress** by using your Parent Portal access to your child's **Power School**. Teachers are updating their gradebooks at least once a month so there should be evidence of work on a regular basis. In addition, our school website, <http://cun.hrce.ca> is another useful communication tool to help you keep track of school announcements and events.

If your child is going to be absent or late, please call our Safe Arrival line @ 902-421-2687. Additionally, if your child has an appointment during the school day, please contact the school to let us know. Students must always sign out at the main office before leaving the building during regular school hours.

We also ask you to continue to make sure your children are arriving to school on time and with a clean facemask each day. Children should arrive to school between 8:40-8:45 am as school begins at 8:50 am sharp. Lunch is from 11:50-12:45 pm and classes resume at 12:50pm.

Please note that **cell phone usage is not permitted during class time**. It would be greatly appreciated if this could be reinforced at home. As you know, they can be a great source of distraction when not being used for educational purposes. If students have cell phones, they are to stay in their backpacks, on silent, or powered off. Students who do not follow these expectations may lose their phones for the remainder of the day.

Just a reminder that **Cunard is a scent-free school**. Many students and staff have sensitivities. Please remind your children **not to use spray deodorants/perfumes** while at school. Parents, guardians and visitors who are coming to the school are reminded to call ahead or ring the doorbell. Someone will come assist you, **but you are unable to enter the building**. Further, in an effort to ensure we have accurate and updated information for all our students, we ask all parents and guardians to contact the main office if there are changes to home/cell phone numbers, home address, email address and health card expiry dates. Thank you in advance!

Lastly, please make sure your children are leaving for school **dressed appropriately for winter** (boots, mittens, hats and a coat) and are bringing a nutritious lunch each day if they are staying for lunch. Too many students are not bringing anything to eat and end up going hungry the rest of the day, often having less than productive afternoons. We thank you for your continued support!

Peter Wicha
Acting Principal

Andrew Stone
Vice Principal

School Closure Due to Inclement Weather

The Board serves a very large geographic area and weather conditions can vary considerably. Therefore, there will be times when schools may be closed in one area and operate in others or even have a delayed opening. **Since we are a feeder school for JL Ilsley High, we will be closed only when they are.** Please listen to your local radio or TV station for earliest decision on school closures. (CBC - 90.5 or 95.7) School closure information can also be found on the HRCE website: www.hrce.ca and closure

Important Dates

Jan 4 School Re-Opens
for Staff Only - PD

Jan 11 Students Return

**Gr 9 Course Selections
For Grade 10 begin**

information is posted by 6:00am each day. You can also subscribe for text and twitter alerts so apply for this service on the HRCE website.

Street and Sidewalk Safety message from HRPD



With winter here, we would ask that you take the time to discuss with your son or daughter the importance of personal safety when walking or playing outside. The Halifax Regional Police have some great traffic safety tips on their website at <http://www.halifax.ca/Police/Programs/trafficsafety.html> .

Guidance News -Grade 10 Course Selection and Orientation

It is that time of year for our grade 9 students to start preparing for their high school course selections! Next week, Ms. Chisholm will be visiting classrooms and sharing a presentation created by J.L. Ilsley High School.

December School Spirit Days - Door Decorating Contest

On the last day of school, we held a classroom decorating contest and while everyone had a great time the following home rooms were winners: **701 - 1st Place** (Pizza and Gym lunch); **702 - 2nd Place** (Ice Cream sandwich and gym period) and **901 - 3rd Place** (Gym period and lollipops)
Thanks to all staff and students for participating!



School Pizza Lunch

We will continue to be offering students a pizza lunch each Wednesday. **Cost-\$3.00/slice or 2 Slices for \$5.00; Water or Juice - \$1.00 and Chips - \$1.00 each. (Forms and money due to the office on Mondays)**

Intimate Images and Cyber-Protection

The rapid growth of smart phones, social media and the anonymity of the online world has created increasing opportunity for cyberbullying and the unwanted sharing of intimate images. The impacts of these behaviours can be devastating for victims. Supports are available. For more information please visit novascotia.ca/cyberscan . If you believe your child is a victim of cyberbullying, or that an intimate image of them was shared without their consent, call CyberScan at 902-424-6990 or toll free at 855-702-8324

Community Concern - Garbage

It was brought to our attention that over the holiday break, a local community family went for a walk at Cunard beach (behind our school) and they could not believe the amount of garbage they saw all around the sports field and the lake. Since their 8-year old daughter is always concerned about wildlife and the environment, she started collecting the garbage. (Mostly Halloween-treat-sized packages of chips, plastic bottles, etc.) . They collected a box of garbage and disposed of it all on their own. As we are all aware that waste, plastics in particular, is a huge problem in our environment, we want to encourage our parents and guardians in supporting us by reminding their children to take on the responsibility for our environment by reducing the amount of plastic wrapping and containers they bring to school. In addition, it will help if they take their waste from lunch and snacks home to get recycled and not be part of the litter problem in our school community. We thank you for your support.



Physical Education - Reminder



Students are reminded to wear their indoor gym footwear (sneakers) and participate to the best of their ability during their gym classes. Too many students are not wearing or changing into suitable gym gear (poor participation and hygiene) or proper footwear, (this causes damage to the gym floor -wet, outdoor dirt)