



Halifax
Regional Centre for Education

Rocky Lake Elementary
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January Newsletter, 2023

Dear Parent / Guardian,

The newest member of the Rocky Lake School community is me. To Rocky Lake Elementary I bring 34 years of experience in two provinces (Ontario and Nova Scotia) with three boards of education in nine schools. I have taught grades 4 to 9, high school science, learning centre and resource. I have been a vice-principal in two schools and a principal in four.

Thank you to our out going principal Susan Casey for setting things up at the school so wonderfully! We will be working closely together as Ms. Casey transitions out to set-up the new school and I transition in. Thank you to the staff and students of Rocky Lake for being so welcoming!

I have greatly enjoyed my first three days! I will be at Rocky Lake Elementary on January 25, 26 and 27th and then on February 1st, I will be here going forward.

Mr. MacNeil

The Months to Come...

We have some exciting events planned for the students of Rocky Lake Elementary as we move into the latter half of the school year! We are going to do something truly unique to celebrate Gaelic Month and Asian Heritage Month which are both in May. We have been approved for a grant to cover 30 hours of Bhangra Dancing instruction (through Perform) with Darshini Shah of Vibeat Dance Studio. Darshini will work with our music teacher Stephanie Hardy (thank you Ms. Hardy!) and the students will learn the dance as part of their music classes.

Initially, the students will Bhangra dance to the traditional music associated with this art form but will eventually perform this dance to traditional Scottish pipe music as well. We have hired a piper and hope to have the students perform the dance out on the field behind the school sometime in May. The inspiration for the project comes from the video “Bhangra to Bagpipe Tunes in the Yukon Wilderness” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=348aFAs037w>.



We also have Ms. MacEachen (Citadel High Gaelic teacher) scheduled to come into the school in May to help teachers cover the outcomes at the grades 5 and 6 levels related to the Gaels as well. They will have the opportunity to learn a little bit of Gaelic as part of these presentations. At one time, approximately 100,000 Scottish Gaelic speakers lived in Nova Scotia. The Gaels are one of the four groups who receive special focus in the Nova Scotian Public School Curriculum.

Schoolwide End of the Year Field Trip

We are excited to announce that Rocky Lake Elementary students are booked in to attend the 2023 Student Matinee Performance of the Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo. This will be a memorable way to end our time together! All chaperones must have police checks on file!!!



Police Checks

Chaperones will need a current Criminal Records check and a Child Abuse Register Search on file with Rocky Lake Elementary in order to chaperone any school fieldtrips. We are going to need lots of chaperones for the trip to the Tattoo so we are giving you LOTS of time to get these checks completed. For more information on how to get these checks completed, phone the main office at (902) 832-8907.

Reminders:

Dressing for the Weather

Now that we are into January, we will likely have to contend with snow and ice on a regular basis. We love to get our students outside so students should be dressed for cold weather. Warm jackets, scarves, mittens, snow pants and so forth help us enjoy the brisk cold winter air. Please ensure that your child has proper footwear for slippery conditions. Boots with good grips are needed for everyone to help prevent slips and falls.

Inclement Weather – School Cancellations

To find out if school is cancelled due to inclement weather:

- Check our HRCE's website at <https://www.hrce.ca/weather>
- Follow HRCE on Twitter at [Twitter.com/HRCE_NS](https://twitter.com/HRCE_NS)
- Call HRCE's information line at 902-464-INFO (4636)
- Listen to your radio (All local radio stations are informed)
- Sign up to receive e-mail or text message notification of cancellations <https://www.hrce.ca/notifications>

