



DUNCAN MACMILLAN HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

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January/February 2020

Principal's Message:

Welcome to the 2020 portion of this school year and thank you to those who have volunteered in different roles to date. We greatly appreciate and value your support. On behalf of the students and staff, I sincerely thank Poppy Jo Currie and Ingrid MacDonald for the generous donation of potatoes for our Christmas dinner as well as the monetary donations provided by Brian and Deborah MacAulay and Doug Parlee. Many thanks to Ms. MacAulay who was able to secure a monetary donation from Dexter Construction. Huge thanks and shout out to Jeannie Hubley, Lisa Hubley and Marlene Rutledge for “quarterbacking” the turkey dinner this year at DMHS and for giving so generously of their time and working so hard to organize, purchase items and prepare the turkey dinner for everyone on December 19. Thank you! We are also thankful for and acknowledge the time donated by Pastor Brewer, Constable Greenland, Mrs. Hutt, Corporal Plamondon, Mrs. Parks, and Mr. and Mrs. Ronaghan who helped in preparing, serving and cleaning up from the dinner. The meal was wonderful and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

On the curriculum and learning page, we were fortunate this past semester to have the students of grades primary to grade 3 engage in learning winter safety via the local transportation department. In addition, our students in grades 4 to grade 9 engaged in a session on inclusivity and positivity with Quincy Mack, a presenter from Toronto, who was both informative and entertaining. Our senior high O2 students had the opportunity to attend a problem solving session as they attempted to solve clues to find their way out of an escape room. We also provided an engaging session with Savy Simon an aboriginal motivational speaker who worked with students in grades primary to grade 12 focusing on positivity, choices and the power of kindness.

In addition to the learning opportunities above, our grade 9 French program students, under the leadership of Madame Yon, have been engaged in a partnership with the Harbourview Nursing Home in which students provide companionship and engage in activities with the seniors on Thursday afternoons. The feedback from students is very positive as they work to demonstrate the outcomes of the French social studies program. Prior to the Christmas break the students of the junior high French program also enjoyed a trip to New Glasgow where they watched a French film sponsored by the Canadian Parents for French. Many thanks Madame Yon for providing our students with experiences which extend their classroom learning.

Coupled with the all that is outlined above, our grade 6 standardized tests results revealed growth. Our students exceeded the results of the average of all of the students in the Halifax Regional Centre for Education in the two areas as outlined below:

Level of Question	DMHS	HRCE
Level 3 and above	80%	73.1%

Level 4	30%	14.8%
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Improving our results in math and literacy will continue to be our focus at DMHS and as we navigate the remainder of the school year we will be examining our actions and the impact on learning. If we are asking students to “do” something we will ask the questions, “What will they learn by doing it?” and “How will we know they learned it?” We will be focused on action for impact on learning!

Savvy Simon, Motivational Speaking Presentation

On December 5th students and staff at DMHS welcomed special guest Savvy Simon (<http://www.savvyunltd.com/>). Savvy is a Mi'kmaq motivational speaker. Today she shared her message of Positivity, Motivational Self Talk, The Free Hug Movement and Mi'kmaq Culture. Students learned several Mi'kmaq words like Kwe (Hi), Welta'si (I am happy) and Wela'lin (Thank you) among others. Students also participated in several types of Mi'kmaq dance, like The Round Dance while listening to Savvy's assistance drum and sing. Special thanks to Graclyn Howe for presenting Savvy with a traditional ceremonial tobacco tie.





Presentation on Positivity and Inclusion by NBA All-Star entertainer Q-MACK

On December 11th the Grade 4 to 9 students and staff had the opportunity to be entertained by NBA All-Star, Q-Mack. Q-Mack spoke of positivity and Inclusion and kept everyone engaged with his array of physical tricks.



Sammy the Snow Plow

On Friday, December 13th, we had a visit from Mr. David Josey, who is a safety officer for the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal, and Sammy Snowplow. He spoke to the classes from Pre Primary through grade 3. The students learned how to play and enjoy winter safely and got to see Sammy up close.



Thank You

- To Mr. Troy Strang and Ms. Lisa Bilyk of Foodland for their generous donation of \$250 of free groceries for our Breakfast Program and enabling the school to purchase items at cost.
- To Liscombe Lodge for their generous donation of \$1,003.00 towards the Breakfast Program.
- To everyone who supported and gave donations for the Grad penny auction on December 7th.
- To those students who sold Christmas Basket Tickets and to those who supported this fundraiser.
- A sincere thank you to Mr. Doug Parlee, Mr. & Mrs. Brian & Deborah MacAulay, Dexter Construction Company Ltd. for their monetary donations, Foodland for donating 3 turkeys, and Mrs. Ingrid MacDonald for donating potatoes. Thank you to all!

Congratulations to the winners of the Christmas Baskets:

Mya MacDonald - Christmas Dinner Basket

Craig Westhaver - Bounty of the Sea

Michael Glawson - Pamper Me Basket

Congratulations:

Bailey Muir and Jenna Hubley each received a prize for top Christmas Basket ticket sales and a random draw was made for students who sold tickets and the winners were: Avery McInnis, Layla Henley, Brody Fraser & Lydia Josey. Congratulations to all the winners.



Cold Weather Reminders:

We try very hard to get the students outside whenever possible. It makes a big difference in their day if they've had some physical activity and fresh air. With this in mind and now that the cold weather has arrived, we would like to remind everyone to please ensure your son/daughter is dressed for the season. Please check the weather on a daily basis and encourage your son/daughter to come to school with clothing appropriate for the day (warm jacket, hat, mittens, boots, raincoat, etc.). Layering is a good idea. Please put student's names on each piece of clothing, they can easily get lost at school. We already have many Lost and Found items collected. Feel free to stop by the school and search through our Lost and Found boxes.



Guidelines for school and/or bus cancellations due to inclement weather:

The Halifax Regional Centre for Education takes great care when making the decision to cancel schools and/or busses in the event of severe or inclement weather. Decisions on school closures and/or bus cancellations are posted on the board's website at www.hrce.ca, on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/HRCE_NS](https://twitter.com/HRCE_NS), recorded at 902-464-INFO (4636) and communicated to all local radio stations. Families can also receive notice of school and bus cancellations by e-mail or text message by following the link on the front page (left side) of the HRCE website. The weather in Nova Scotia is unpredictable so it's always a good idea for families to have a back-up plan for child care when school is cancelled. To learn more about the process on how decisions regarding closures and cancellations are made, visit: <https://www.hrce.ca/about-our-schools/parents/inclement-weather>.

A 6 am announcement could be:

All schools are closed for the day

OR

Some schools (either individually or by family) are closed for the day

OR

All schools are open, but some or all busses are not operating for the day

OR

All schools are delayed in opening by 2 hours - → **(Please note that DMHS cafeteria will be CLOSED for the day)**

Mid-day School Closure: Please note that the decision to close schools is a HRCE decision and is not made by individual schools. We must wait to hear from Halifax Regional Centre for Education that a decision to close schools early has been made (by 11 AM). At that point, we will begin notifying all P-6 parents **and will not put a student on the bus unless a parent/guardian (or designate) has been contacted.**

The school receives notification of school closures at the same time as the email and text messages are sent. We would appreciate it if parents would not call the school to ask if school has been cancelled, as the volume of calls asking this question adds to an already busy day in the office area. Please only call if there is a change in where your child is to go that day. Please ensure that instructions regarding school closure and early dismissal are up to date with the office. Thank you for your cooperation in ensuring that all goes smoothly and students arrive home safely in the case of inclement weather.

Students Being Picked up Early from School: We have a sign-out binder in the main office for any parents or guardians wishing to take children home early in the day due to appointments or illnesses. Please remember to sign this binder before leaving so we know students are safely in your care. We would also ask that students not be taken out of classes early, if at all possible.

Registration for 2020-2021: Registration for new Grade Primary and Pre-Primary students will take place from February 3rd to February 28th inclusive. **Parents/guardians must present the child’s birth certificate, proof of residence and health card at the time of registration.** Please pass this information along to any neighbors, relatives, friends, etc. who have children turning four (pre-primary) and five (primary) years old before December 31, 2020.



DMHS EXAM SCHEDULE – January 27 - 30, 2020

	Monday, January 27	Tuesday, January 28	Wednesday, January 29	Thursday, January 30
AM	ENG 9 - Rm. 232 MAT 12 - Rm 227 GGS 12 - Rm. 228 MAT 10 - Rm. 229	MATH 9 - Rm. 232 ECM 11 - Rm 228 PHY 11 - Rm. 230 ENG 12 - Rm. 231	CHE 11 - Rm. 230 ACS 11 - Rm. 228	Sr. High Exam Make-Up Day Only those students with a medical excuse provided by a specialist will be eligible to write their make-up exam.

PM	MAT 11 - Rm. 227 Study Hall in library	Study Hall in library	Study Hall in library	Sr. High Exam Make-Up Day Only those students with a medical excuse provided by a specialist will be eligible to write their make-up exam.

**** Please note: All online exams will be written on Thursday, January 23rd.****

GRADE 9 STUDENTS:

Grade 9 English exam: January 27 - 8:40-10:40

Grade 9 Math exam: January 28 - 8:40-10:40

Grade 9 students will remain in the classroom for the full 2 hours. **Students are not permitted to leave the designated classroom until the end of the exam time.** Students will resume regular classes following the scheduled exams.

SENIOR HIGH STUDENTS:

8:40-11:40 – Writing of morning exam

12:40 – 2:40 – Study Hall

Senior High students are permitted to leave after 1 hour and 30 min.*

*** Only those Senior High students, who have returned their signed permission slips, will be allowed to leave the exam room and/or school property. The notice must be signed and returned to Mrs. Levy by Monday, January 13, 2020.**

January 6, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Senior high students (Gr. 10, 11, 12) will be writing exams from January 27-30. There will be no classes for senior students during scheduled exam days. Senior high students are expected to attend only during their scheduled exam times. Students must remain in the exam room for a minimum of an hour and a half, and only those senior high students who have returned their signed permission forms will be permitted to leave the exam room and/or leave the school property, as requested by the parents/guardians. Students who have permission to leave forms on file and choose to sign out must leave the school property and are responsible to find transportation home (students will not be permitted on Stock buses). A study hall will be available for students who have permission to sign out following their exams but are not leaving the school. Students are asked to return textbooks and/or Chromebooks to Mrs. Gillis or Ms. Graham in the library on the day of their exams. Backpacks and electronics (cell phones, iPads, etc) are not permitted in the classrooms during exams.

Permission forms are to be submitted to Mrs. Levy by Monday January 13, 2020

_____ Cut off and return _____

Duncan MacMillan High School

PERMISSION TO LEAVE PROPERTY FOLLOWING EXAMS

I give permission for my child/grandchild _____

(name of student)

to leave school property immediately following the completion of his/her exam(s). Students who leave school property following their exam(s) are responsible for finding transportation home (students will not be permitted on Stock buses).

SIGNED: _____

(Parent/Guardian Signature)

Date: _____

Scent/Peanut/Nut Safe School

Head Lice Prevention Information: The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD), in partnership with regional centres for education (RCEs) and the Conseil scolaire acadien provincial (CSAP), has committed to following the recommendations of health care professionals and supporting school communities in the treatment and prevention of head lice.

The department's focus on the treatment and prevention of head lice is an effort to support student attendance and full participation at school. In accordance with these principles and healthcare standards, students with head lice should be treated at home and continue to attend school as usual. The confidentiality, privacy, dignity, and best interests of students and their families will be respected at all times.

"No-nit" or "no head lice" policies that keep children away from school are not effective. Head lice are common among students: they do not spread disease and cases of head lice are often misdiagnosed.

A school-wide notice will be sent home to all parents/guardians when school staff suspect a case of head lice.

What Are Head Lice?

Head lice are tiny insects and parasites that live on the human body and are most often attached to clean hair. Their eggs, also called nits, stick to the hair shaft, very close to the scalp. Head lice are spread most easily through direct head-to-head contact or through personal items used on the head or in the hair (e.g., hats, combs, brushes, ponytail holders). EECD recognizes that the discovery of head lice on your child(ren) can result your family feeling discomfort and embarrassment. Head lice are a common condition that can affect anyone.

Treatment and Prevention

Nova Scotia Public Health recommends two head lice treatments (visit the link at the end of these guidelines for more information) to completely break the head lice cycle. The second treatment should be used 7 to 10 days after the first or as directed by the product.

The first treatment kills live head lice. Some lice may hatch after it but they are adolescent nits and cannot lay eggs. Combing your child(ren)'s hair and removing nits is a daily requirement. The second treatment kills the adolescent nits and breaks the head lice cycle.

Please note, the following guidelines are helpful in preventing the spread of head lice:

- Notify your principal and your child(ren)'s classroom teacher if your child(ren) has or have head lice and keep the school informed about head lice issues as they arise.
- Check your child(ren)'s head(s) and hair regularly, including:

- once a week as part of your routine
- after every sleepover
- any time they have had contact with someone with lice
- Keep long hair tied back or braided.
- Teach your child(ren) not to share personal items that have touched their head, such as
 - brushes
 - combs
 - barrettes
 - headbands
 - hair elastics
 - towels
 - hats
 - helmets
 - toques
 - scarves
 - pencils
 - crayons
- Teach your child(ren) to put their hats and scarves in their coat sleeves or backpacks when they take them off.

Assistance in Treating Head Lice

Parents/guardians who are experiencing difficulties in addressing head lice issues at home should notify their child(ren)'s principal(s) of the situation. Principals may assist families in accessing the specific supports that they require, such as additional information and means of obtaining head lice treatments. The confidentiality, privacy, dignity, and best interests of students and their families will be respected at all times.

Additional information on how to prevent, find, and treat head lice is available at www.novascotia.ca/dhw/publications/public-health-education/07135-head-lice-pamphlet-en.pdf.

If your child was born in 2011, did you receive this letter?

Si votre enfant est né en 2011,
avez-vous reçu cette lettre?



Lost your letter? Haven't had a chance to complete the survey?

Call 1-844-996-0694 with any questions or to complete the survey by phone. Your participation in our survey is important.

Vous avez perdu votre lettre? Vous n'avez pas eu l'occasion de remplir le sondage? Appelez le 1-844-996-0694 si vous avez des questions ou pour remplir le sondage par téléphone. Votre participation à notre sondage est importante.



Public Health
Agency of Canada

Agence de la santé
publique du Canada

Public Health would like to recognize and thank the Immunization Partnership Fund for funding for this project.
La Santé publique tient à remercier le Fonds de partenariat d'immunisation pour le financement qu'il a accordé à ce projet.

Dates to Remember

<i>January</i>	<i>February</i>	<i>March</i>
		
6 th – School Reopens	3rd-28th - Registration Month	16th-20th - March Break NO CLASSES
23 rd – NS Virtual Exams	3rd - Semester 2 Begins - High School	25th - Assessment & Evaluation Day - Gr. P-9 NO CLASSES
27 th -30 th – High School Exams	4th - PTA Meeting at 6:00PM Curriculum Night for Sr. High 6:00-8:00pm	31st - SAC Meeting at 6pm
28 th – SAC at 6:00pm	7th - Sr. High Report Cards home	
31st - Assessment & Evaluation Day Sr. High - NO CLASSES	11th - School Dance from 6:00- 8:00pm	
	14th - 	
	17th - Africville Day - NO CLASSES	
	25th - SAC Meeting at 6pm	