

**“Hear Us Roar”
École Tantallon
Senior Elementary
Newsletter**

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March, 2017

It is certainly hard to believe that January and February have flown by so quickly. These two months always seem to have such a variety of weather that comes our way and there was no exception this year! We had almost Spring like weather followed by a day of minus 27! February was full of surprises as well! Thank you to our school community for all your support as we adjusted our school start and end times.

As we guide families across the cross walk each day and provide safe passage for those students on the buses, we are so appreciative of those families who use the “Kiss and Go” lane each day. You are so very mindful and attentive to my directions in this busy hub of traffic. Your patience and respect are keys to the safe delivery of our students each and every day. For everyone’s safety, please have your child exit through the doors on the school side rather than exiting on the driver side where they will be stepping into the way of passing cars and buses. Thank you.

We are asking parents who are picking up students after school, to please, park their cars and walk over to wait outside the main doors for the students to be dismissed. Our parking lot is extremely busy with cars and buses coming and going and the students in their excitement often race across the parking lot to the waiting car sometimes without looking and being mindful of the passing cars.

As the weather gets colder, please remember to label your child’s outer clothing including sweat tops, coats, snow pants, boots, hats and mittens. The students enjoy playing in the snow when it is here. Being properly dressed for those days (snow pants, boots, mittens, hats) allows them to do so that they can still enjoy their day comfortably in the classroom, too.

Practice “Lockdown Drill”: On **Monday, February 27th**, TES will be holding a practice lockdown drill during the morning. The safety and security of our students and staff is a top priority for TES and the Halifax Regional School Board. We have been implementing a number of measures as part of a comprehensive plan aimed at ensuring our school remains a safe place for our students to learn. One of the procedures our school will be practicing is a lockdown drill. During a lockdown drill, classroom doors are secured and the students remain inside the room until instructed by the teacher to resume their activities. All exterior doors are locked and no one is permitted to enter or leave the building. Students are kept inside the school and classrooms when circumstances make it safer to stay in the classroom rather than evacuate. Just as we prepare our students to properly respond to a fire drill, they also need to be aware of the proper response during a lockdown drill. These drills should be treated with the same level of importance as fire drills. Please be assured that staff at our school will spend time discussing the importance of this procedure with students prior to running a drill. We will also take time after the drill to remind them that it was only a practice and there was no danger.

Staffing: Mrs. Thibault, our guidance counselor, has gone on deferred leave for the remainder of the year. We would like to welcome Ms. Noylander who will be joining our staff in this position for the rest of the school year. Mrs. Burchell, grade 6, is also on a deferred leave for the rest of the year. Ms. Hasler will be teaching in this classroom for the remainder of the year. We welcome Ms. Hasler back to our school.

School Closure: From time to time, as we have already experienced this year, due to the severity of the weather, there is the possibility that school may be closed. Decisions are made by 6:00am and are announced on local radio stations. Our school would be classified in one of two groups:

- a) All schools in HRM
- b) The Sir John A Macdonald Family of Schools.

Should the children be in school and the weather worsens, the decision to cancel school is made around 11:15. It would also be well broadcast on all radio stations and on both HRSB and our school Website. The decision to cancel school is made by the Superintendent on the advice of the Assistant Superintendent. You can access a text message or e-mail to be sent to you if school is cancelled by visiting the HRSB website and signing up for this service.

It is extremely important that our records be kept up to date as all students' families must be contacted directly. **If any information regarding a student changes, i.e. home or work telephone numbers, babysitter's, please let us know. Thanks.**

Orientation Meeting for Grade 6 Parents: Five Bridges Junior High School will be holding a parent orientation meeting for all grade 6 parents at FBJH on Thursday, March 2nd from 6pm – 7pm.

Primary Registration: **If your child is 5 on or before December 31, 2017, please come to Tantallon Junior Elementary School and register for Primary for the 2017-18 school year.** Registration at TJES takes place from February 1st to 28th. Someone will be able to help you between 9am and 12pm, and 1 – 3pm. If you know of someone who might not get this message but has a school age child starting next year, please pass this information on to them.