








# GORSEBROOK JUNIOR HIGH COMMUNITY MEMO

THIS WEEK AT GORSEBROOK: Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>- Dec 6<sup>th</sup> 2024

\*Please read below for the week's events and other school-related information

## This is: Week 2

<p><b>MONDAY</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Male-identifying basketball practice before school (7:30-8:30 am)</li> <li>• GSA at lunch in room 109</li> <li>• Mme Jang will be offering extra help and Chess club in Room 210 at lunch</li> <li>• Male-Identifying volleyball practice at lunch.</li> <li>• Partial cast musical rehearsal. Please see bulletin board for which members are called. (3pm-5:30pm)</li> <li>• Female-identifying basketball practice after school (3:00-5:00 pm)</li> </ul>
<p><b>TUESDAY</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Debate Club at lunch. Please come straight to room 222 at the bell and bring your lunch.</li> <li>• Guitar club at lunch with Mr. Brewer in room 105.</li> <li>• French extra help in room 211 at 12:10 pm.</li> <li>• Any students interested in participating in the 2025 African Nova Scotian History Challenge are to check in with Mme. Lutley in rm 209 at the beginning on lunch on Tuesdays. This is open to any student interested in African Nova Scotian History!</li> <li>• Male-identifying volleyball team Finals game @ Ecole Mer et Monde. (3:30 pm)</li> <li>• Female-identifying basketball practice after school (3:00-5:00 pm)</li> </ul>
<p><b>WEDNESDAY</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Male-identifying basketball practice before school (7:30-8:30 am)</li> <li>• Partial cast musical rehearsal before school. Please see bulletin board for which members are called. (7:30-8:30 am)</li> <li>• Library opened @ lunch</li> <li>• Film Club @ 12pm- Room 217</li> <li>• Violin with Mr. Jefferies in the band room 201 all of lunch.</li> <li>• Bake-sale at lunch in support of our Musical.</li> <li>• Parent-Teacher progress conferences <b>6:00-8:00 pm</b>. – <i>No appointment necessary.</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>THURSDAY</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Progress Conferences/ Teacher Professional Practice Day – No Classes</b></li> <li>• Parent-Teacher progress conferences <b>1:00-3:00 pm</b>. – <i>No appointment necessary.</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>FRIDAY</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Female-identifying basketball practice before school (7:30-8:30 am)</li> <li>• Partial cast musical rehearsal before school. Please see bulletin board for which members are called. (7:30-8:30 am)</li> <li>• Pizza day at lunch!</li> <li>• D&amp;D club at 12:00 pm in room 101.</li> <li>• EAL games and conversation club with Ms. Andrews at 12 pm in room 107. Eat your lunch first. All are welcome!</li> <li>• Readers Rumble in room 215 at 12:00pm with Ms. U and Ms. Earley. All readers welcome!</li> <li>• Male-identifying basketball practice after school (3:00-5:00 pm)</li> </ul>

### Upcoming Dates

- Dec 4<sup>th</sup> – Parent Teacher (6-8 pm)
- Dec 5<sup>th</sup> – Parent Teacher (1-3 pm)
- Dec 9<sup>th</sup> – Band Concert (6:30-7:30 pm)
- Dec 13<sup>th</sup> – Pancake breakfast for all students 8:00-8:45
- Dec 18<sup>th</sup> – Grade 7 Immunization Clinic (AM only)
- Dec 20<sup>th</sup> – Last day before Holiday break

## [Safe Arrival Reminder](#)

**Attendance:** Students are recorded as absent by their homeroom teachers if they aren't in their homeroom by 8:40 am.

**SAFE ARRIVAL:** To report your child(ren) absent or late, you can use any of the following methods:

→ **Toll-Free Number**

Parents/guardians can call 1-833-582-6940 to report:

- Future absences using an automated system (max 5 consecutive days) at a time.
- Excuse your child(ren) for a **full day (no half-day option)**. If they arrive late or after an appointment, their attendance will be updated in our system upon arrival.

→ **PowerSchool Parent/Student Portal**

Parents/guardians can log in to <https://sishrsb.ednet.ns.ca/public/> to access the School Messenger website to report future absences.

→ **School Messenger App**

Parents/guardians can download the School Messenger app for Android and iOS devices and use their username and password for the PowerSchool Portal.

\*All three methods are available 24 hours a day, 7 days per week. Absences can be reported any time before the start of school (9:10 am) on the day the student will be absent. Up to five consecutive absences can be recorded at once.

If your child will be absent for the afternoon only, please contact the main office at 902-421-6758 ext. 5451000. Feel free to leave a message for this absence. This information can also be found on the [hrce.ca](http://hrce.ca) website under For Families > General Information > Safe Arrival

**Please do not email teachers for attendance purposes.**

Thank you for your understanding 😊

## [From the Office](#)

- Please note: Gorsebrook is a scent-free school. Many students and staff have sensitivities. Please do not use spray deodorants/perfumes while at school.
- The weather is starting to get colder outside. Students will be going outside at lunch and need to dress appropriately for the weather. We plan to go outside up until it is -15 with windchill at which point we will reconsider.
- We've noticed some bikes and scooters left unlocked outside. Please remind your students to always lock their items securely, as the school is not responsible for any lost or stolen belongings. Thank you for your support

### **Student Attendance and Engagement Policy**

Throughout the year, you may receive an email regarding your child's attendance in specific courses. As part of our commitment to ensuring every student's success, GBJH is following the Provincial Student Attendance and Engagement Policy, which aims to support students by addressing absenteeism early. As per the policy, if your child has missed 10% or more of their attendance in any given course this year, you will receive this communication as a reminder of the importance of regular attendance.

We understand that students miss school for a variety of reasons, and this policy is not intended to penalize anyone. Instead, it is part of our effort to keep open lines of communication between school and home. Regular attendance is one of the strongest predictors of student success, and we want to partner with you to ensure that all students stay on track, engaged, and supported in their learning journey. If you have any questions or if there are specific circumstances, we should be aware of, please don't hesitate to reach out.

### **Parent-Teacher Conferences**

We invite you to attend our upcoming Parent-Teacher Conferences, which will take place in the gym on:

- *Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-8:00 pm*
- *Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-3:00 pm*

No appointments are necessary. Report cards will be distributed to families electronically on November 29<sup>th</sup>, giving you an opportunity to discuss your child's progress directly with their teachers.

We look forward to seeing you there!

### **Grade 9 Trip**

A reminder to parents/guardians of any grade 9 students who are interested in attending the end of year grade 9 trip to camp Brigadoon that the first payment of **\$100 is due by December 10<sup>th</sup>**. Payments can be made through [School Cash Online](#). You can view more information about the trip in [this letter](#) sent home to parents on November

19<sup>th</sup>. If you wish your child to attend but require financial support, please contact Mr. MacPhee at [mmacphee@hrce.ca](mailto:mmacphee@hrce.ca).

### **SchoolsPlus is here to support you**

SchoolsPlus is a confidential, free service available in every school in Nova Scotia. Our goal is to build positive relationships between families, schools, and communities. Parents, guardians and students (12+) can self-refer to SchoolsPlus 12 months a year! Just contact the SchoolsPlus Facilitator at your school. Call 902-464-2000, ext. 2331 or email [schoolsplus@hrce.ca](mailto:schoolsplus@hrce.ca).

### **Duke of Edinburgh Award Program**

We are thrilled to offer our Grade 9 students the chance to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh Award program this year! Students have already been registered for their Online Record Book (ORB).

#### **Next Steps for Parents:**

- Please provide your consent and submit the initial payment via School Cash Online before December 16th.

Stay tuned for details about an upcoming parent information session. In the meantime, visit [www.dukeofed.org](http://www.dukeofed.org) to learn more about this incredible program.

For any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to Mme. Jang or Ms. Conrad.

### **From the Math Department**

The EECD [Homework Hub](#) is a valuable mathematics resource for students in grades 7 to 12. Students can access live tutors on Sunday to Thursday evenings from 5:30 to 9:30 pm. These tutors are certified teachers who can tutor any mathematics course in both English and French. In addition to tutoring, students can access electronic textbooks, tutorial videos and practice problems any time of day. Please watch the following EECD video introduction to the homework hub: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QnORoA5E7i4>. If you have any questions regarding Homework Hub please contact your child's mathematics teacher.

### **From the Phys. Ed. Department**

#### **A Huge Thank You!**

We are incredibly grateful to everyone who donated sneakers for our sneaker bank! Thanks to your generosity, we now have a great range of sizes and, for the time being, no additional donations are needed. These extra shoes not only keep forgetful feet moving but are also available to support families who might need a little help keeping up with growing kids.

On the topic of footwear: *please ensure students bring indoor shoes to school*. With the field being quite muddy lately, many students are unintentionally bringing half the field inside with them! As we're currently in our fitness unit, which involves plenty of floor activities, it's no fun for anyone to roll around in the dirt. Let's keep our gym space clean and comfortable for everyone!

Thank you for your support!

### **From the Tech Ed. Department**

#### **Calling All Robotics Enthusiasts!**

A group of students has expressed interest in starting a Robotics Club at Gorsebrook Junior High. We are seeking a parent/guardian or community member who might be interested in facilitating this exciting opportunity for our students. If you have experience or a passion for robotics, engineering, or technology—and some time to spare during lunch hours or after school—please consider helping us make this club a reality!

For more information or to express your interest, please contact our Vice principal at [Kelsey.johnston@hrce.ca](mailto:Kelsey.johnston@hrce.ca).

### **From the English Department**

#### **Readers Rumble**

After taking home the bronze medal at last year's Agricola Street Books' Readers Rumble, Ms. Earley and Ms. Ugursal are ready and excited to invite all interested students to get reading again! The Readers Rumble Club will meet on Fridays at 12pm in Room 215. If you love to read all genres of young adult fiction and non-fiction, please join us! All are welcome

#### **The Great Canadian Mail Race**

701 English Language Arts students are participating in the Great Canadian Mail Race, a contest where learners send letters to "any grade 7 student" in middle schools across Canada - and see who gets a reply first! The winner will receive a small prize. Of course, we're hoping for a swift resolution to the Canada Post strike so we can get our letters in the mail!

## **From the Social Studies Department**

If you are visiting our school next week for Parent-teacher conferences, please take a moment to admire some of the beautiful posters created by grade 7 Social Studies students, in the hallway outside the main office!

## **Communication**

Please follow us on Twitter for updates on school life at GJH! [@GorsebrookJHS](https://twitter.com/GorsebrookJHS)  
Other updates and staff emails can be found on our webpage. <https://gbf.hrce.ca/>  
Gorsebrook is now on Instagram. Find us @gorsebrookjuniorhigh

Gorsebrook Jr. High has a Parent-led Facebook Group – You can find it by searching GJHS community.