








# GORSEBROOK JUNIOR HIGH COMMUNITY MEMO

THIS WEEK AT GORSEBROOK: Nov 25<sup>th</sup>- 29<sup>th</sup> 2024

[\\*Please read below for the week's events and other school-related information](#)

## This is: Week 1

<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>• Full cast musical rehearsal after school (3-5:30 pm)</li> <li>• Female-identifying quarterfinal volleyball game @ 4:00 – location TBD</li> <li>• Female-identifying basketball practice afterschool (3:15-5:00 pm)</li> </ul>
<p><b>TUESDAY</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gorsebrook is being used as a provincial election polling station. Please be prepared for additional traffic congestion. Gym classes have been relocated to classrooms for the day.</li> <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 quarterfinal volleyball game @ 4:00 – location TBD</li> </ul>
<p><b>WEDNESDAY</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full cast musical rehearsal before school (7:30-8:30 am)</li> <li>• School Advisory Council Meeting 11:40-12:40 in the board room</li> <li>• Library opened @ lunch</li> <li>• Male-identifying volleyball practice at lunch</li> <li>• Film Club @ 12pm- Room 217</li> <li>• Violin with Mr. Jefferies in the band room 201 all of lunch.</li> <li>• (TBD) Female-identifying semifinals volleyball game @ 4:00</li> </ul>
<p><b>THURSDAY</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Female-identifying volleyball practice before school (7:30-8:30 am)</li> <li>• Library opened @ lunch</li> <li>• Grade 9 band rehearsal will take place from 8:00-8:30 am in the band room.</li> <li>• Math extra help @ lunch in room 221</li> <li>• Male-identifying basketball practice at lunch (11:45-12:45)</li> <li>• String Ensemble with Mr. Jefferies in the band room 201 all of lunch.</li> <li>• Term 1 Tech Ed catch up at lunch with Mme. Jang</li> <li>• (TBD) Male-identifying semifinals volleyball game @ 4:00</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>• 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>• Term 1 Tech Ed catch up at lunch with Mme. Jang</li> <li>• Senior Woodworking Club for students who have already completed grade Tech in the shop. (With permission only from Mme. Jang)</li> <li>• Male-identifying basketball practice afterschool (3:15-5:00 pm)</li> <li>• Report cards sent home electronically at the end of the day</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

Our much-loved caretaker Mr. Steave is leaving the HRCE for another opportunity. Many of our students have great relationships with Mr. Steave and may want to take a moment to say goodbye and best wishes to him. His last day with HRCE is Friday Nov 29<sup>th</sup>. On behalf of the staff and students of Gorsebrook I want to extend our thanks to Mr. Steave's for his work, and all the extra's he has done for the school. You will certainly be missed, but we wish you all the best in your future. – Mr. MacPhee

### **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 [mmphee@hrce.ca](mailto:mmphee@hrce.ca).

## **Support Our PTA Coffee & Hot Chocolate Fundraiser!**

Warm up this season while supporting our school! From November 20–29<sup>th</sup>, purchase delicious coffee and hot chocolate to help fund PTA initiatives.

### **Java Blend Coffee Selection (340g bags, \$16 each):**

- Medium Roast (Breakfast Blend) – Smooth and balanced
- Dark Roast (French) – Bold and full-bodied
- Decaf (Sugar Cane) – Flavorful, minus the caffeine

*\*\*Choose whole bean or ground to suit your preference.*

### **Just Us! Hot Chocolate Selection (300g bags, \$14 each):**

- Classic Hot Chocolate – Rich and creamy
- Peppermint Hot Chocolate – Festive and refreshing
- Spicy Hot Chocolate – A cozy kick of warmth

Orders can be placed through [School Cash Online](#). Thank you for your support—every purchase helps enhance student programs and activities!

## **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 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

## [Communication](#)

Please follow us on Twitter for updates on school life at GJH! [@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.