



GORSEBROOK JUNIOR HIGH COMMUNITY MEMO

THIS WEEK AT GORSEBROOK: Dec 9th - Dec 13th 2024

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

This is: Week 1

<div>MONDAY</div> <div></div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">GSA at lunch in room 109Mme Jang will be offering extra help and Chess club in Room 210 at lunch.Intramurals will take place in the gym at lunch. All are welcome.Male and Female-identifying basketball teams competing in the Sackville High Kingfisher tournament.Full cast musical rehearsal after school 3-5:30 pm.Band concert in the evening, 6:30-7:30 pm.
<div>TUESDAY</div> <div></div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Debate Club at lunch. Please come straight to room 222 at the bell and bring your lunch.Guitar club at lunch with Mr. Brewer in room 105.French extra help in room 211 at 12:10 pm.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!Male and Female-identifying basketball teams competing in the Sackville High Kingfisher tournament.
<div>WEDNESDAY</div> <div></div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Partial cast musical rehearsal before school (7:30-8:30 am).Library opened @ lunchFilm Club @ 12pm- Room 217Violin with Mr. Jefferies in the band room 201 all of lunch.Male and Female-identifying basketball teams competing in the Sackville High Kingfisher tournament.
<div>THURSDAY</div> <div></div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Library opened @ lunchMath extra help @ lunch in room 221String Ensemble with Mr. Jefferies in the band room 201 all of lunch.Badminton Club will take place during lunch in the gym.
<div>FRIDAY</div> <div></div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Pancake breakfast for all students before school (8:00-8:45 am).Partial cast musical rehearsal before school (7:30-8:30 am).Female-identifying basketball practice before school. (7:30-8:30 am).Pizza day at lunch!D&D club at 12:00 pm in room 101.EAL games and conversation club with Ms. Andrews at 12 pm in room 107. Eat your lunch first. All are welcome!Readers Rumble in room 215 at 12:00pm with Ms. U and Ms. Earley. All readers welcome!

Upcoming Dates

Dec 9th – Band Concert (6:30-7:30 pm)
Dec 13th – Pancake breakfast for all students 8:00-8:45
Dec 18th – Grade 7 Immunization Clinic (AM only)
Dec 20th – Last day before Holiday break
Jan 3rd – First day back for students after 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 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
- Starting Monday, scooters will no longer be stored inside the school. **All scooters must now be locked up outside during the school day.** This change helps keep our hallways safe and organized for everyone. Please ensure you have a secure lock to keep your scooter safe. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation with this updated policy!

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 10th**. 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 19th. If you wish your child to attend but require financial support, please contact Mr. MacPhee at mmaphee@hrce.ca.

Upcoming Spirit Week!

Let's end 2024 with some school spirit! Spirit Week kicks off Monday, December 16, and we can't wait to see everyone join in on the fun. Here's what's coming:

- **Dec 16: Monochrome Monday:** Pick a colour and commit! Dress in shades of one colour from head to toe.
- **Dec 17: Timber Tuesday:** Flannel up and embrace your inner lumberjack—don't forget the plaid, boots and beards!
- **Dec 18: Bear Wear Wednesday:** Show off your school pride in Bear colours or merch.
- **Dec 19: PJ Thursday:** Time to lounge in style! Cozy up in your comfiest pajamas.
- **Dec 20: Ugly Sweater Friday:** Dig out your most ridiculous holiday sweater and wear it loud and proud, the uglier the better!

Let's make the last week of school in 2024 a memorable one!

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.

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 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.

Volunteer Opportunities

- Tuesday and Wednesday this week (Dec 10 & 11) Mme. Jang is looking for Duke of Ed Volunteers to help in the wood shop from 12 pm onwards.
- As an ongoing effort to support our Grade 9 students in meeting their community service requirements for their Duke of Edinburgh Award, we are inviting anyone who knows of any volunteer opportunities for students to fulfill their Duke of Edinburgh Award requirements, to please share the organization and/or contact person information with Nicole Conrad (nconrad@hrce.ca) at any time. She will help to connect students with the relevant coordinators. Your support is greatly appreciated.

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.

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

Ms. MacNeil Citizenship 9 Service Learning

As part of our commitment to fostering engaged citizenship, our grade 9 students will be working on a collaboratively designed service learning project that addresses a meaningful need within our school or broader community. Through this project, students will engage in evaluating the merit of a community need, reflecting on their personal skills, strengths, and interests, and using this self-awareness to plan and implement a service-learning project that will have a positive impact. As they carry out their plans, students will develop important citizenship skills, such as teamwork, leadership, and community involvement, which will be evaluated throughout the process. This initiative aims to inspire students to actively contribute to their communities, fostering a sense of responsibility, empathy, and social awareness.

Our students have begun brainstorming and developing innovative ideas for their service-learning projects. They are working collaboratively to create action plans that will support specific groups within our school or the broader community. Some of the exciting ideas they've developed include bake sales, educational awareness presentations, food and clothing drives, and donations to various causes. These initiatives are already underway, and we would greatly appreciate your support in helping these projects succeed. Whether through donations, participation, or spreading the word, your involvement will make a meaningful difference in supporting these efforts and the communities they aim to help.

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.