








# GORSEBROOK JUNIOR HIGH COMMUNITY MEMO

THIS WEEK AT GORSEBROOK: Jan 20<sup>th</sup> - Jan 24<sup>th</sup> 2024

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

## This is: Week 2

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>MONDAY</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Y Mind Group will meet in Room 214 at the lunch bell. Please bring your lunch with you.</li> <li>• GSA on Mondays at noon in room 109. All are welcome!</li> <li>• Chess and strategy games and math extra help Monday at lunch</li> <li>• Brass Instructor is coming Monday and Tuesday at lunch for all brass players in the building. This includes (trumpets, trombones, french horn and tuba).</li> <li>• Intramurals taking place in the gym at lunch, eat first! (12:00-12:55 pm)</li> <li>• Female-identifying basketball away game at Amrbrae Academy (4:00 pm).</li> <li>• Male-identifying basketball practice (3:00-5:00 pm).</li> <li>• Full-cast musical rehearsal after school (3:00-5:30 pm).</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><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>• French extra help in Room 211 at 12:10 pm with Mme. Sarita.</li> <li>• Guitar club at lunch with Mr. Brewer in room 105.</li> <li>• Brass Instructor is coming Monday and Tuesday at lunch for all brass players in the building. This includes (trumpets, trombones, french horn and tuba).</li> <li>• Badminton Club taking place in the gym. Open to anyone interested, from beginner to experienced. Bring your own gear if you have it, including indoor sneakers! Sign-up sheet is located outside of the gym.</li> <li>• The students who are working on the African Nova Scotian History Challenge are reminded to check with Madame Lutley on Tuesday during the first 20 minutes of lunch.</li> <li>• Male-identifying basketball home game against St. Agnes Jr (4:00 pm).</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>WEDNESDAY</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Female-identifying basketball practice before school (7:30-8:30 am).</li> <li>• Full-cast musical rehearsal before school (7:30-8:30 am).</li> <li>• Library opened @ lunch</li> <li>• Volunteers for Duke of Ed hours are welcome to help Mme. Jang in the shop (12:00pm)</li> <li>• EAL homework club on Wednesdays at lunch in Mme. Goold's room (101). Need some help with an assignment or a quiet place to do your work? Join us!</li> <li>• Intramurals taking place in the gym at lunch, eat first! (12:00-12:55 pm)</li> <li>• Film Club @ 12pm- Room 217</li> <li>• Violin with Mr. Jefferies in the band room 201 all of lunch.</li> <li>• SAC meeting in the boardroom at lunch (11:40 am)</li> <li>• Male-identifying basketball practice (3:00-5:00 pm).</li> <li>• Parent Meeting at 6:30pm in the library for the grade 9 trip and Duke of Ed program.</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>THURSDAY</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grade 9 band rehearsal will take place from 8:00-8:30 am in the band room.</li> <li>• Library opened @ lunch</li> <li>• Math extra help @ lunch in room 221</li> <li>• Extra Musical Choreography Practice - In the gym. Eat your lunch first (No food in the gym).</li> <li>• String Ensemble with Mr. Jefferies in the band room 201 all of lunch.</li> <li>• Junior Woodworking Club for anyone who has not yet completed grade 8 Tech at 12:00 pm. Eat your lunch first. Senior Woodworkers welcome with permission.</li> <li>• Male-identifying basketball away game at Halifax Grammar School (4:15 pm).</li> <li>• Female-identifying basketball practice (3:00-5:00 pm).</li> <li>• Kitchen Brigade Program for selected students will take place after school in the Foods Lab. (3:00-5:00 pm).</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>FRIDAY</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full-cast musical rehearsal before school (7:30-8:30 am).</li> <li>• Pizza day at lunch!</li> <li>• Intramurals taking place in the gym at lunch, eat first! (12:00-12:55 pm)</li> <li>• D&amp;D club on Fridays at noon in Room 101. New adventurers are always welcome!!</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> </ul>

### Upcoming Dates

Jan 22<sup>nd</sup> – SAC Meeting in boardroom (11:40 am)  
Jan 22<sup>nd</sup> – Parent Meeting at 6:30pm in the library for the grade 9 trip and duke of ed program.  
Jan 27<sup>th</sup> – Make-up Immunization Clinic (AM only)  
Feb 4<sup>th</sup> – PTA Meeting in boardroom (6:30 pm)  
Feb 6<sup>th</sup> – School Dance (6:00-8:00 pm)

## 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.
- We've noticed an increase in late arrivals during morning drop-off. As we move through the season, factors like weather and traffic can cause unexpected delays. To help ensure a smooth start to the day for everyone, we kindly remind families to allow a little extra time in the mornings to account for these challenges. Thank you for your cooperation in helping all students begin their day on the right foot!

### **Grade 7 Immunization Clinic – Make-Up Date**

Nova Scotia Health will be returning the morning of January 27th to hold a make-up immunization clinic for Grade 7 students who missed the first round of vaccines in December.

### **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).

## From HRCE

### **Important weather reminders**

Did you know? HRCE takes great care when making the decision to alter the regular operations of schools and school busses in the event of severe or inclement weather.

It is HRCE's goal to communicate any changes to the regular operations of schools and/or buses as close to 6:00 a.m. as possible. **A 6:00 a.m. announcement could be:**

- All schools are delayed in opening by two hours and bus pickups are delayed by two hours; or

- All schools are open, but some or all busses are not operating for the day; or
- Some schools (either individually or by family) are closed for the day; or
- All schools are closed for the day.

If weather deteriorates, or is forecasted to worsen throughout the morning, **an 11:00 a.m. announcement could be:**

- Bused students will be picked up two hours earlier than their regular dismissal time; and
- Non-bused students will be dismissed at their regularly scheduled lunch hour.

#### How will I find out?

- By email to the addresses in PowerSchool
- By text message, **if you have opted-in**. If you aren't sure if you have opted-in, text Y to the following number: **978338**
- On [our website](#)
- On [X \(formerly Twitter\)](#)
- On [Instagram](#)

It's important to always have a plan in place for childcare in the event of any cancellation.

For more information on how HRCE manages during inclement weather, visit [www.hrce.ca/families/cancellations](http://www.hrce.ca/families/cancellations).

## [Musical News](#)

### Seeking Program Sponsors

**DO YOU** own a business or know a business that has an advertising budget, and can support local community events? If so, please consider sponsoring the Gorsebrook Musical by purchasing ad space in the program that will be handed out at our production of 13 Jr. on **February 24 & 25, 2025**. Print will be in black and white, and copy will be due **January 31, 2025**.

The space we have available, and the cost is: Full page- \$150 ½ page- \$100 ¼ page-\$75

Don't miss your chance to have your ad seen by upwards of 500 local theater goers who will know your business supports community arts, education and, most importantly, kids. Email Terri at [oneill.theresa@gmail.com](mailto:oneill.theresa@gmail.com) to get in the program.

## [Duke of Edinburgh Payment Update](#)

We apologize for any confusion caused by the reopening of the first installment of the Duke of Edinburgh program fee on Schools Cash Online. This was done to accommodate students who missed the initial deadline; however, it was visible to all Grade 9 parents, including those who had already paid the first installment.

At this time, we have only collected fees for the *first* Duke of Edinburgh payment. If you paid a second time, that amount will be applied to your child's *second* installment.

Please watch for a new request when the second payment becomes due. Thank you for your understanding and continued support of this program!

## [Volunteer Opportunities](#)

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](mailto: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 Library](#)

If students currently have overdue library books they wish to have for longer, please let Ms. Maley know in the library. If students have library books they no longer wish to have please return them to either Ms. Maley or the library return bin in the office. Thank you!

## [From the English Department](#)

### **Readers Rumble - Now Virtual!**

Like to read (and rumble?) but don't have time to meet on Fridays at lunchtime? The Readers Rumble Club is now VIRTUAL (as well as in-person on Fridays)! Please check in with Ms. Earley in Room 215 to get a Google Classroom code and a reading list. The competition happens at Armbrae Academy this April - our club welcomes competitive and non-competitive readers.

## [From the Phys. Ed Department](#)

### **Attention Volleyball Team Members**

If you have not yet returned your jersey and shorts, please bring them to Mr. Katcher in Room 221 as soon as possible. Thank you!

## [From the Tech Ed. Department](#)

### **Donation Request**

Welcoming donations of clean, dry, non-treated dimensional lumber. Please contact Mme Jang to arrange pick-up or drop-off ([mjang@hrce.ca](mailto:mjang@hrce.ca))

## [From the Family Studies Department](#)

### **Textile Arts Donation Request**

Do you have any unused wooden picture or photo frames (8x10 or larger) lying around? We would love to upcycle them into looms for our Textile Arts projects! If you'd like to donate, please send them to Mme. Goold in Room 101. Thank you for supporting our creative endeavors!

## [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](https://www.instagram.com/gorsebrookjuniorhigh)

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