








# GORSEBROOK JUNIOR HIGH COMMUNITY MEMO

THIS WEEK AT GORSEBROOK: April 21<sup>st</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> 2025

[\\*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"><li>Easter Monday – No School</li></ul>
<div>TUESDAY</div> <div></div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Male-identifying football tournament all day @ BMO Soccer Centre</li><li>Track &amp; Field Practice <b>Sprints/Middle Distance</b> @ 11:45 am. We will meet on the outdoor basketball courts. Please wear sneakers and appropriate clothing for the weather.</li><li>Badminton Club in the gym at 12:00. All welcome!</li><li>French extra-help at 12:00 pm in room 211 with Mme. Sarita.</li><li>Guitar Club at lunch with Mr. Brewer in room 105.</li><li>Karaoke Club at 12 pm in the band room with Ms. O'Brien. (*Only on Tuesday this week due to the holiday)</li><li>Female-identifying football practice outside after school, dress accordingly. (3:00-4:15 pm.)</li></ul>
<div>WEDNESDAY</div> <div></div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Library opened @ lunch</li><li>Film Club @ 12pm- Room 217</li><li>Track &amp; Field Practice <b>Shotput</b> @ 11:45 am. We will meet on the outdoor basketball courts. Please wear sneakers and appropriate clothing for the weather.</li><li>Duke of Ed students looking for hours welcome to help in the Shop with Mme. Jang.</li><li>Violin with Mr. Jefferies in the band room 201 all of lunch.</li><li>Rugby practice after school (3:00-5:00 pm).</li></ul>
<div>THURSDAY</div> <div></div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Grade 8 band rehearsal will take place from <b>7:30</b>-8:30 am in the band room.</li><li>Library opened @ lunch</li><li>Track &amp; Field Practice <b>Sprints/Middle Distance</b> @ 11:45 am. We will meet on the outdoor basketball courts. Please wear sneakers and appropriate clothing for the weather.</li><li>Math extra help @ lunch in room 221</li><li>String Ensemble with Mr. Jefferies in the band room 201 during lunch.</li><li>Kitchen Brigade Program for selected students will take place after school in the Foods Lab. (3:00-5:00 pm).</li><li>Female-identifying football practice outside after school, dress accordingly. (3:00-4:15 pm.)</li></ul>
<div>FRIDAY</div> <div></div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Rugby Tournament</li><li>Pizza day at lunch!</li><li>D&amp;D club on Fridays at noon in Room 101. New adventurers are always welcome!!</li><li>Games and conversation club with Ms. Andrews at 12 pm in room 107. Eat your lunch first. All are welcome!</li><li>Track &amp; Field Practice <b>High Jump</b> @ 11:45 am. We will meet on the outdoor basketball courts. Please wear sneakers and appropriate clothing for the weather.</li><li>French Club at 12:00 pm in room 211 with Mme. Sarita.</li><li>Duke of Ed students looking for hours welcome to help in the Shop with Mme. Jang</li></ul>

**Upcoming Dates**

April 21<sup>st</sup> – Easter Monday (*No School*)  
April 25<sup>th</sup> – Grade 9 O2 Applications Due  
April 30<sup>th</sup> – Teacher Professional Practice Day (*No School*)

## [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.
- **Reminder:** As the weather warms up, we know more students may choose to scoot/bike to school. Please remember that scooters are **not permitted to be stored inside the building**. All scooters must be locked outside on the bike rack during school hours. Thanks for helping us keep our hallways safe and clear!

### **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).

## [Grade 9 Important Information](#)

### **End of Year Trip**

Permission forms for the Grade 9 Brigadoon trip have been distributed to students attending the 3-day camp. Please ensure they are signed and returned as soon as possible.

### **O2 Program**

Grade 9s, if you are applying for the O2 Program, pass in your applications to Ms. Mallon by Friday, April 25, 2025. Ms. Wilson will be picking them up on the morning of April 25th. Thanks! Ms. Mallon

### **Important Dates**

*June 26<sup>th</sup>*

- Grade 9 Closing Ceremony will take place on at 10am
- Grade 9 Evening Boat Cruise. Students should arrive at the dock for 6:00 pm with the boat cruising from 6:30-8:30 pm.

*May 29<sup>th</sup>*

- Citadel High is hosting a grade 10 orientation for students and parents from 6:30-7:30 pm. More info to follow as it gets closer.

## [Duke of Edinburgh](#)

**Chaperones Needed(!!!)**

The Duke of Edinburgh program still needs additional chaperones for the Adventurous Journey on June 7th and 8th. If you are a parent of a Grade 9 student and are interested in chaperoning this two day-overnight event, please contact Mme Jang ([mjang@hrce.ca](mailto:mjang@hrce.ca)) or Ms Conrad ([nconrad@hrce.ca](mailto:nconrad@hrce.ca)) for more information.

**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 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 Science Department**

**Science Fair**

Congratulations to all of our Gorsebrook students who participated in the Halifax Science and Tech Expo at Saint Mary's University on Friday, April 4th! An extra big shout out to Jasper Dorland, winner of the Engineers of Nova Scotia Regional Award and the Excellence Award, and Eliza Rasmussen, winner of the Passion for Science Award. Way to go!!!

**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 HRCE**

**Measles prevention in Nova Scotia**

*We are sharing the following on behalf of Nova Scotia Public Health:*

Measles cases are rising in Canada. Measles is a virus that spreads easily and can cause serious complications. **The best way to prevent measles is vaccination.** Nova Scotia offers free vaccines to eligible people. These can be given by primary care providers, pharmacists and Public Health.

Parents are encouraged to check their family’s vaccine records and get the measles vaccine if missing doses. Check your vaccine records at [vaxrecords.nshealth.ca](http://vaxrecords.nshealth.ca).

**Who should get vaccinated?**

- Anyone born in or after 1970 should get **two doses** of vaccine, typically given at 12 and 18 months. If missed, children and adults can catch up for free.
- Adults born before 1970 are generally considered immune but can get a single dose if travelling.
- Infants 6-12 months old can get a single dose if travelling but still require two doses after their first birthday to complete the series.

**Find out more about measles vaccination:** [www.nshealth.ca/measles](http://www.nshealth.ca/measles).

**Provincial lunch program in action**

Last month was Nutrition Month, and what better way to celebrate healthy eating than to shine a spotlight on the Nova Scotia School Lunch Program!

[Click here](#) to see how students at one HRCE school are using the program to dish out some serious leadership skills. It's a feast of learning and fun!

The school lunch program will launch at Gorsebrook during the 25-26 school year.

**Supporting literacy at home**

Did you know? Teachers use the [Six Pillars of Effective Reading Instruction](#) (*Français*) to support students’ learning.

Reading is best learned when children get clear and structured support in key skills: listening, recognizing sounds in words, learning letter sounds, building vocabulary, reading smoothly and understanding what they read. These skills work together and when you strengthen one, it helps improve the others.

Good reading instruction includes learning how letters and words work and practicing reading in books. The goal is for children to understand what they read, enjoy reading and learn new things from books.

The links below may help you support your children with reading at home:

- [Ideas for parents to help children to practice their reading and writing skills](#)
- [10 Ideas to Raise A Reader](#)

## [From the English Department](#)

### **Readers Rumble**

Big congratulations to our two teams that competed in this year’s Readers Rumble at Armbrae Academy on Wednesday afternoon! Both teams did a great job representing our school and community, and we are proud of them. They read an impressive number of books since the Fall and had a fun afternoon putting their knowledge to the test against seven other teams.

Thank you to the families of our competitors! Your support is invaluable.

We look forward to getting ready to rumble again in September!

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

Congratulations to the students in 701 who have started receiving letters back from our contest: The Great Canadian Mail Race. Two weeks ago, students posted friendly letters to unknown middle school students all across Canada. The first letter back was from two students in Langley, BC. Congratulations to our lucky winner, Iris Lou!

## [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.

## [Communication](#)

Please visit our [website](#) for updates, staff emails and other important information on school life at GBJH! Gorsebrook is also on Instagram. Find us at @gorsebrookjuniorhigh  
Gorsebrook Jr. High has a Parent-led Facebook Group – You can find it by searching GJHS community.