

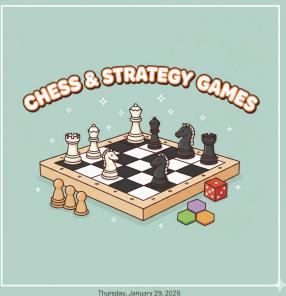
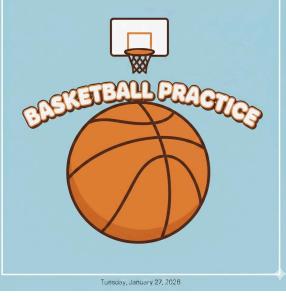
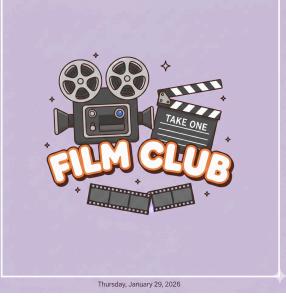
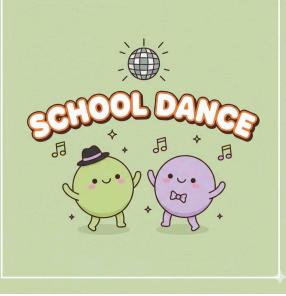


# GORSEBROOK JUNIOR HIGH COMMUNITY MEMO

Feb. 2nd-6th, 2026

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

This is: Week 1

<p><b>MONDAY</b></p>  <p>Thursday, January 29, 2026</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Male-identifying Basketball Practice @ 7-8:30am</li><li>Grab &amp; Go Breakfast available</li><li>Chess &amp; Strategy Games @ 12pm - Room 210</li><li>GSA @ 12pm - Room 214</li><li>Intramurals @ 12pm (max. 30 students) - Gym</li><li>Musical Rehearsal (Full Cast &amp; Crew) @ 3-5:30pm</li><li>Female-identifying Basketball Home Game vs. St. Agnes @ 4pm</li></ul>
<p><b>TUESDAY</b></p>  <p>Tuesday, January 30, 2026</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Female-identifying Basketball Practice @ 7:15-8:25am</li><li>Grade 7 Band Rehearsal @ 7:45-8:30am</li><li>Grab &amp; Go Breakfast available</li><li>Debate Club @ 12pm - Room 222</li><li>Math Extra Help &amp; Duke of Ed Help @ 12:05pm - Room 210</li><li>French Extra Help @ 12:10pm - Room 211</li><li>Musical Rehearsal (Full Cast &amp; Crew) @ 3-5:30pm</li><li>Male-identifying Basketball Home Game vs. Halifax Central @ 4pm</li></ul>
<p><b>WEDNESDAY</b></p>  <p>Thursday, January 30, 2026</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Male-identifying Basketball Practice @ 7-8:30am</li><li>Musical Rehearsal (Full Cast) @ 7:30-8:30am</li><li>Grab &amp; Go Breakfast available</li><li>String Ensemble @ 11:40am - in the Band Room</li><li>African Heritage Month Challenge @ 12pm - Room 209<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The deadline for the 2026 African Heritage Month Challenge has been extended! If you are interested in submitting a project for a chance to win a cash prize, please come to Room 209 at lunch. It's not too late! For more information, please see Mme Lutley</li></ul></li><li>Robotics Club @ 12pm - Room 209</li><li>Library Open @ 12pm</li><li>K-Pop Club @ 12pm - Room 109</li><li>Film Club @ 12pm - Room 217</li><li>Intramurals @ 12pm (max. 30 students) - Gym</li><li>Junior Woodworking/Duke of Ed Volunteering @ 12:05pm - Woodshop</li><li>Female-identifying Basketball Home Game vs. Oxford @ 4pm</li></ul>
<p><b>THURSDAY</b></p>  <p>Friday, January 31, 2026</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Grade 8 Band Rehearsal @ 7:45-8:30am</li><li>Grab &amp; Go Breakfast available</li><li>Violin Technique @ 11:40am - in the Band Room</li><li>Musical Appreciation Club @ 12pm - Room 211</li><li>Library Open @ 12pm</li><li>Math Extra Help @ 12pm - Room 216</li><li>Grade 8 Oval Trip @ 1-2:45pm</li><li>Male-identifying Basketball Home Game vs. Halifax Grammar @ 4pm</li><li>School Dance 6-8pm</li></ul>
<p><b>FRIDAY</b></p>  <p>Friday, February 03, 2026</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Musical Rehearsal (Full Cast) @ 7:30-8:30am</li><li>Grade 9 Band Rehearsal @ 7:45-8:30am</li><li>PTA Pancake Breakfast @ 8am - in the Gym</li><li>Grab &amp; Go Breakfast available</li><li>Warhammer Club @ 12pm - Room 221</li><li>Games &amp; Conversation Club @ 12pm - Room 107</li><li>Readers Rumble @ 12pm - Room 215</li><li>Senior Woodworking/Duke of Ed Volunteering @ 12:05pm - Woodshop</li></ul>

### Upcoming Dates

NOW! - Tickets for Shrek Jr the Musical for sale on SchoolCash  
Feb 9 & 10th - School Musical (7pm)  
Feb 12th - Grade 7 Trip to Oval (1-2:45pm)  
Feb 16th - Heritage Day (*No School*)  
Feb 18th - Grade 9 Trip to Oval (1-2:45pm)

## From the Office

### **Attention: Grade 9 Students & Parents/Guardians**

#### General Information Session

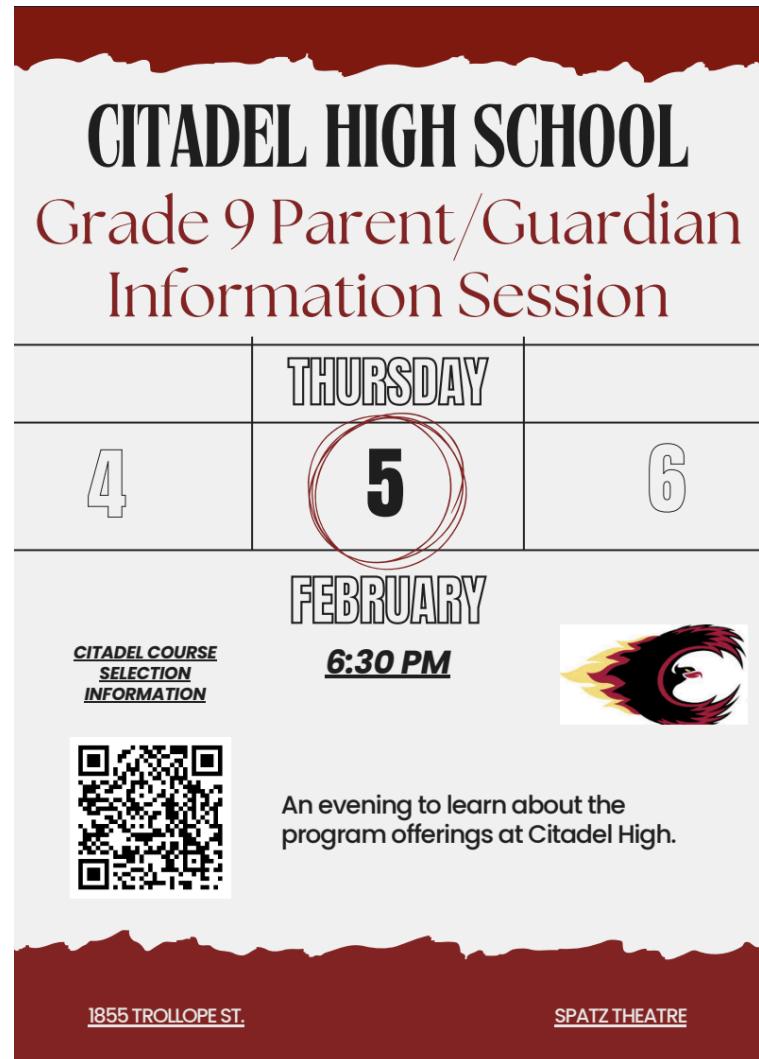
There will be a general information session on Thursday, February 5th @ 6:30pm for parents/guardians at Citadel High School (Spatz Theatre).

#### IB Program Information Session

As you might know, Citadel High is an International Baccalaureate World School, and all students have the option to participate beginning in Grade 11. There are two ways that students are part of the program: as full IB Diploma students (all courses are IB) or by taking one or two IB classes as part of their course selection.

Students do not pick IB courses until the winter of Grade 10, and there are no prerequisite Grade 10 courses to choose IB for Grade 11.

If you're interested in learning more, all Grade Nine students and/or family members interested in learning more about IB are welcome to come to the Citadel High IB Information night on **Wednesday, February 18th @ 6:30pm**.



## **School Lunch Program**

New Updated School Lunches Are Coming!

The school lunch menu is getting a tasty refresh! Expect more fresh fruit, better side pairings, and some exciting new favourites like chicken fingers, quesadillas, egg roll bowls, and meatloaf! New items vary slightly by menu.

Give the new menu a try! The next ordering window opened on Friday, January 30th 

## **Grade 9 Trip - Brigadoon**

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As part of our planning, we continue to seek parent volunteers who would be interested in joining us as chaperones.. Please note that we must meet specific supervision ratios to satisfy school board safety policies. Ultimately, the trip's departure depends on reaching our volunteer goal. If you have the time and would like to help ensure our students don't miss out on this experience, we would love to have you join us.

Chaperones would have to provide the following:

1. A completed Child Abuse Register search (completed within the last 3 months), which can be found here: <https://beta.novascotia.ca/apply-child-abuse-register-search>
2. A Criminal Records Check with Vulnerable Sector Check (completed within the last 3 months) from your local Police or RCMP detachment, or through online organizations endorsed by Nova Scotia law enforcement agencies. Available here: <https://www.halifax.ca/fire-police/police/criminal-record-check>. A letter from the school is required to complete this check at the police station. Please contact Ms. Johnston at [kelsey.johnston@hrce.ca](mailto:kelsey.johnston@hrce.ca) to request the required documentation.

\*Please note: we have been informed that "mybackcheck" no longer provides a vulnerable sector check. While they do provide something similar, it is not approved by HRCE at this time. You will need to go through your local police station, and we are told that this could take up to a month to process.

Thank you again for your continued support. We are very much looking forward to this memorable experience for our Grade 9 students.

### **Tournament Champs!**

A massive congratulations to our Male-identifying Basketball team for their incredible performance in Truro last weekend! For the third consecutive year, the Bears have claimed the tournament championship, proving once again that hard work and teamwork pay off. We are so proud of your dedication and the way you represented our school on the court. Triple threat, triple champs! Way to go, Bears!

### **Oval Field Trips**

Each grade level will be attending the Emera Oval for skating on the following dates:

- Grade 7 - Thursday, February 12th
- Grade 8 - Thursday, February 5th
- Grade 9 - Wednesday, February 18th

Students will leave at 1pm to walk to the Oval and skate until they are dismissed at 2:45pm. Students are expected to dress appropriately for the weather (hats, gloves, jackets, warm pants). Skates and helmets will be provided free of charge; however, students are welcome to bring their own gear if they have it. Permission forms should be signed and returned to the school a week before the trip.

### **Coming Soon - School Musical, Shrek Jr!**

Gorsebrook Junior High is excited to present *Shrek the Musical JR.* on **February 9th & 10th at 7:00 pm**, with a snow date of **February 11th at 7:00 pm**.

This fun, family-friendly production is based on the DreamWorks film and the book by William Steig, featuring music by Jeanine Tesori and book and lyrics by David Lindsay-Abaire. Tickets are now available on School Cash Online or at the door: **\$5.50 students, \$17 adults, \$35 family (2 adults + 2 students under 16)**. Come support our talented students and enjoy a great night of theatre!



### **Tattletales Coin Campaign**

In February, we will be raising money for the library! Students can bring in loonies or toonies to their homeroom teacher at any time, or they can bring them directly to the library on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Ms. Sadye will be hosting "Minute to Win It" games every Wednesday in February in the library at lunch. The final day to bring in your coins is March 11th. Thanks in advance for supporting this initiative!

### **Athletics Dept.**

We are looking for someone who has experience in Badminton that is interested in coaching Gorsebrook's Badminton team! Please get in touch with our athletic director ASAP at [l.stepaniak@hrce.ca](mailto:l.stepaniak@hrce.ca)

### **Duke of Edinburgh**

We are currently looking for chaperones to help with the Duke of Ed Adventurous Journey (overnight camping and hiking trip) on June 6 and 7. Please e-mail Mme Jang ([mjang@hrce.ca](mailto:mjang@hrce.ca)) or Ms. Conrad ([nconrad@hrce.ca](mailto:nconrad@hrce.ca)) if you are interested and available. Please note that the trip will only proceed if we have enough chaperones.

Duke of Ed Bottle Return Fundraiser: The school has set up an account with Tanner's Recycling to raise funds for the Duke of Ed Program to offset student fees for the program. Tanner's Recycling is located at 6393 Bayne St, Halifax, NS B3K 2V6, near the Windsor Street Exchange. At any point, you can bring refundable bottles/cans/tetra packs to their location, tell them that it is for Gorsebrook Junior High School, and they will add it to our account. It would be a great help to them if you label the bags with our School name. If the bottle depot is out of your way, you are also welcome to drop clean, refundable bottles/cans/tetra packs to Mme Jang at Gorsebrook on Fridays.

Thanks!

## From the HRCE

### February is African Heritage Month

African Heritage Month in Nova Scotia is a time to recognize and celebrate the rich history, vibrant culture, and lasting contributions of people of African descent in our province. This year's theme, **"Strength in Unity – Moving Forward with Purpose, Prosperity, Power and Progress,"** reminds us of the importance of coming together as a community, learning from one another, and moving forward with shared purpose.

In our schools, African Heritage Month provides meaningful opportunities for students to explore African Nova Scotian histories and experiences, deepen their understanding of our shared past, and reflect on the values of respect, inclusion, and belonging. Through classroom learning, discussions, and activities connected to this year's theme, students are encouraged to appreciate diversity, build empathy, and recognize the strength that comes from unity. These experiences help foster welcoming school communities and inspire students to contribute positively to a more inclusive and equitable future for all.



### Planning for Inclement Weather

Did you know? HRCE takes great care when making the decision to alter the regular operations of schools and school buses 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 buses 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 the 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
- Walking 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 the HRCE website](#)
- [On Instagram](#)

It's important to always have a plan in place for childcare in the event of any cancellation. Please remember: As a parent or guardian, you always have the choice of whether or not to send your child to school.

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



## February is Registration Month

Do you have or know a child who will be starting Pre-Primary or Primary this fall? It's time to register!

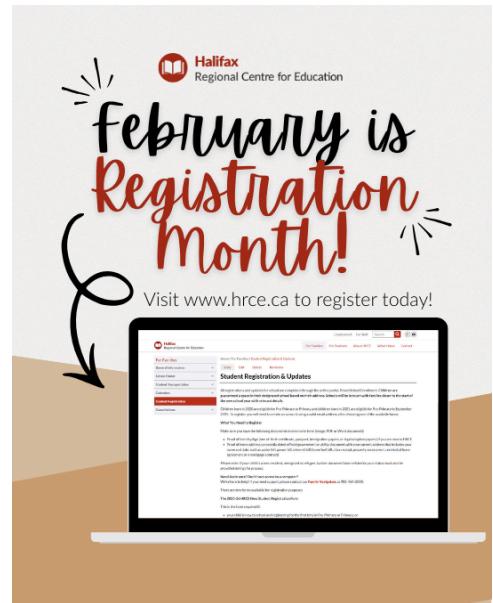
Registration for the 2026-27 school year begins on Monday, February 2. To ensure we have the right staff and support in place for September, we must gather enrolment numbers now.

Tip: Before you begin, make sure you have the following documents in electronic form (image, PDF or Word document):

- Proof of identity/age with one of the following: birth certificate, passport, immigration papers, or legal adoption papers if you are new to the HRCE
- Proof of home address with one of the following: a recently dated official government or utility document with your current address that includes your name and date, such as a water bill, power bill, internet bill, home fuel bill, a tax receipt, property assessment, a mortgage contract or a residential lease agreement

Visit the [HRCE website](#) for more information and to enrol your child today through PowerSchool Enrollment!

Don't have a child to register? Maybe you know someone who does! Please help us spread the word and pass this information on to friends, neighbours or relatives who will be looking to register for the fall.



## Safe Arrival Reminder

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

**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 and sign-in at the Main Office.

→ **PowerSchool Parent/Student Portal:** Parents/guardians can log in to <https://sishrsb.ednet.ns.ca/public/> to access the School Messenger website to report all 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 9:05 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 stating your child's full name and the duration of the absence.

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.

## Communication

Other updates and important school information can be found on our webpage. <https://gbf.hrce.ca/>

Gorsebrook Jr. High has a Parent-led Facebook Group – you can find it by searching for 'GJHS Community'.