

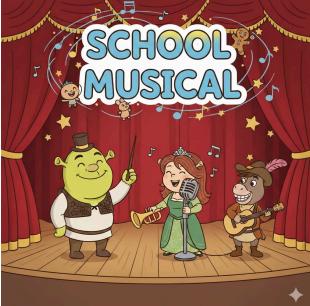
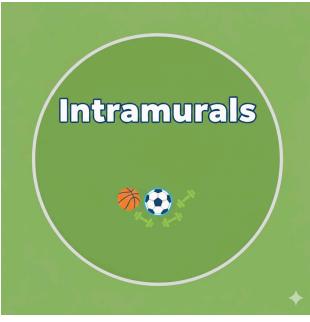


# GORSEBROOK JUNIOR HIGH COMMUNITY MEMO

Feb. 9th-13th, 2026

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

**This is: Week 2**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>MONDAY</b><br>      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><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>• Female-identifying Basketball Away Game vs. St. Agnes @ 4pm</li><li>• <b>School Musical @ 7pm</b></li></ul>  |
| <b>TUESDAY</b><br>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Grade 7 Band Rehearsal @ 7:45-8:30am</li><li>• Grab &amp; Go Breakfast available</li><li>• School Musical @ 10am for entire school</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>• Male-identifying Basketball Away Game vs. Five Bridges @ 4pm</li><li>• <b>School Musical @ 7pm</b></li></ul>   |
| <b>WEDNESDAY</b><br> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Grab &amp; Go Breakfast available</li><li>• String Ensemble @ 11:40am - in the Band Room</li><li>• Library Open @ 12pm<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Minute-to-Win-it Games for \$1 to support our Library Fundraiser</li></ul></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>• Male-identifying Basketball Practice @ 12-12:45pm</li><li>• Junior Woodworking/Duke of Ed Volunteering @ 12:05pm - Woodshop</li><li>• Female-identifying Basketball Home Game vs. Highland Park @ 4pm</li></ul>   |
| <b>THURSDAY</b><br>  | <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>• 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>• French Club @ 12pm - Room 211</li><li>• Library Open @ 12pm</li><li>• Math Extra Help @ 12pm - Room 216</li><li>• Grade 7 Oval Trip @ 1-2:45pm</li><li>• Female-identifying Basketball Practice @ 3:15-4:45pm</li><li>• Male-identifying Basketball Away Game vs. St. Agnes @ 4pm</li></ul> |
| <b>FRIDAY</b><br>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Grade 9 Band Rehearsal @ 7:45-8:30am</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><li>• Male-identifying Basketball Practice @ 3-5pm</li><li>• Female-identifying Basketball Away Game vs. Ellenvale @ 4pm</li></ul>   |

### Upcoming Dates

Feb 16th - Heritage Day (*No School*)  
Feb 18th - Grade 9 Trip to Oval (1-2:45pm)  
Feb 19th - PTA (6:00 pm)  
Mar 13th - Assessment & Evaluation Day (*No School*)  
Mar 16th-20th - March Break (*No School*)

## From the Office

### **School Musical Performance for Gorsebrook Students – Tuesday Morning**

This Tuesday morning, our entire school will gather to enjoy a special performance of our school musical, featuring an incredible group of Gorsebrook students. We are so proud of the courage, dedication, and hard work our performers have shown in preparing to take the stage in front of their peers.

Live performance takes bravery. For many of our students, this is a significant step outside their comfort zone, and we want to ensure they feel celebrated and supported. We ask that families please take a few moments to speak with their child about being a respectful audience member: listening attentively, responding appropriately, and encouraging their peers with kindness and positive energy.

Thank you for helping us create a supportive environment where all students feel safe to shine!

### **Late Arrivals**

We have recently observed a significant increase in students arriving late both at the start of the school day and following the lunch break. While we understand that occasional delays occur, every minute of lost time impacts student engagement and academic progress. When a student arrives late, it doesn't just affect their own learning; it interrupts the flow of the lesson for the entire class. We kindly ask for your support in ensuring students arrive on time and ready to learn, allowing our teachers to make the most of every instructional minute.

### **Heritage Day**

Nova Scotia Heritage Day is celebrated on Monday, February 16, and provides an opportunity for students and families to learn more about the people, stories, and events that have shaped our province. Each year, Heritage Day honours a notable Nova Scotian, and in 2026, we recognize Joseph William Comeau, an important Acadian poet, writer, and cultural leader.

Joseph William Comeau is remembered for his contributions to Acadian literature and for helping to preserve and promote Acadian language, identity, and culture in Nova Scotia. His work reflected the everyday lives, resilience, and traditions of Acadian communities, and his legacy continues to influence Acadian culture today.

Heritage Day provides us with an opportunity to explore Nova Scotia's diverse history and to better understand how individuals from different backgrounds have contributed to our shared story. Learning about Joseph William Comeau helps students appreciate the richness of Acadian heritage and the importance of preserving culture, language, and community.

### 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!



### Oval Field Trips

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

- Grade 7 - Thursday, February 12th
- 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.

## Tattletales Coin Campaign

During the month of February, we will be raising money for the library! Students can bring in loonies or toonies to their homeroom teacher at anytime 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!

## 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

### **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 forecast 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](http://hrce.ca/families/cancellations).

## Open your home to an international student!

Have you considered opening your home to an international student?

HRCE's International Services welcomes students from all over the world who would like to attend schools in our region. Hosting a student in your home can be an enriching and rewarding experience. We're looking for warm and caring families like yours to provide them with a home away from home.

Hosting an international student is a once-in-a-lifetime experience that gives your family the opportunity to bring the world home. For students, it's a way to learn about the Canadian way of life. As a host, your family would be matched with a student who will attend your neighbourhood school and participate in your daily routines.

What you can expect:

- Host families receive a tax-free monthly stipend to help cover hosting expenses (\$875)
- Students stay for periods of three to 10 months
- An experienced Homestay Coordinator provides ongoing support
- You will learn about and communicate with your student before their arrival



## BECOME A HOST FAMILY

OPEN YOUR HOME AND HEART TO AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT

**\$875**  
/month

PER STUDENT  
(Tax Free)

**\$975**  
/month

If you can  
accommodate  
a vegetarian or  
lactose free diet

**\$1075**  
/month

If you can  
accommodate  
a vegan or  
celiac diet

\* Effective in September 2025.

### RECEIVE \$100 FOR EVERY SUCCESSFUL REFERRAL OF NEW HOST FAMILY

Share the name and contact details of an interested host. Once they are approved and actively hosting, you'll receive \$100.



Learn More:  
[nsisp.ca/host](http://nsisp.ca/host)

Email [hostastudent@hrce.ca](mailto:hostastudent@hrce.ca)  
or call 902-464-2000 ext. 2548



Learn more [here](#) or contact:

HRCE International Services  
(902) 464-2000 ext. 2548  
hostastudent@hrce.ca

Please share this message with anyone who may be interested.

Thank you! Gracias. Merci. Xie-Xie. Danke. Arigato. Grazie. Obrigado. Kamsa-Hamnida. Kawp-Kun-Ka. Shukran. Teşekkür Ederim.

## 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'.