








GORSEBROOK JUNIOR HIGH COMMUNITY MEMO

THIS WEEK AT GORSEBROOK: Dec. 14-18, 2020

*Please read below the week's events for more school-related info☺

This is: Week 1

<p>MONDAY</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mask Drive - please bring in new disposable and/or reusable masks all week - see below for info! • Infinitus Academy virtual presentation for African Nova Scotian students • Breakfast club each morning in homeroom classes • Please ensure you have a mask and water bottle each day:) • Mental Health Awareness Club - 12:00 pm • Group 1 Strings rehearsal - 12:10 pm - 12:40 pm (in the band room - group lists have been emailed home) • Group 2 Strings rehearsal - 12:40 pm - 1:10 pm (in the band room - group lists have been emailed home)
<p>TUESDAY</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakfast club each morning in homeroom classes • Please ensure you have a mask and water bottle each day:) • GSA meeting at lunch in the foods lab (lower level) • Grade 8 viewing of Neptune's production of a <i>Christmas Carol</i> - pm (see below for more info)
<p>WEDNESDAY</p> <p>Twin Day</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Twin Day • Breakfast club each morning in homeroom classes • Please ensure you have a mask and water bottle each day:) • Group 3 Strings rehearsal - 12:00 pm - 12:30 pm (in the band room - group lists have been emailed home) • Grade 7 viewing of Neptune's production of a <i>Christmas Carol</i> - pm
<p>THURSDAY</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Festive Attire Day • Breakfast club each morning in homeroom classes • Please ensure you have a mask and water bottle each day:) • Grade 9 & 8/904 viewing of Neptune's production of a <i>Christmas Carol</i> - pm
<p>FRIDAY</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PJ Day • Breakfast club each morning in homeroom classes • Group 4 Strings rehearsal - 12:05 pm - 12:35 pm (in the band room - group lists have been emailed home) • Group 5 Strings rehearsal - 12:35 pm - 1:05 pm (in the band room - group lists have been emailed home) • Happy Holidays!

Upcoming Dates

December 18 - Last day of classes before holiday break
 January 11 - First day of classes after holiday break

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.
- Parents, guardians and visitors who are coming to the school are reminded they must call ahead or ring the doorbell. Someone will come assist you, but you are unable to enter the building.
- In an effort to ensure we have accurate and updated information for all our students, we ask that parents and guardians contact the main office if there are changes to home/cell phone numbers, home address, email address and health card expiry dates. Thank you in advance!



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- If your child is going to be absent or late, please call our Safe Arrival line @ 902-421-2687. **This line is open 24 hours to leave a message.** Additionally, if your child has an appointment during the school day, parents and guardians must contact the school to let us know. Students must always sign out at the main office before leaving the building during regular school hours.
- Energy drinks are not permitted in school. Please note, some drink flavours, such as Mio, may contain high amounts of caffeine, and are not permitted either. Thank you for your support in ensuring these types of beverages are not consumed during the school day.
- Please note that cell phone usage **is not** permitted during class time. It would be greatly appreciated if this could be reinforced at home. As you know, they can be a great source of distraction when not being used for educational purposes. If students have cell phones, they are to stay in their backpacks, on silent, or powered off. Students who do not follow these expectations can lose their phones for the remainder of the day.

- **Intimate Images and Cyber-protection:**

The rapid growth of smart phones, social media and the anonymity of the online world has created increasing opportunity for cyberbullying and the unwanted sharing of intimate images. The impacts of these behaviours can be devastating for victims. Supports are available. For more information please visit novascotia.ca/cyberscan . If you believe your child is a victim of cyberbullying, or that an intimate image of them was shared without their consent, call CyberScan at 902-424-6990 or toll free at 855-702-8324.

[Classroom ventilation and colder weather](#)

As the weather gets colder, we remind students to dress in layers as the windows will need to remain open for ventilation purposes. Additionally, warmer clothes are needed for the outdoor portion of our lunch break, including hats and mitts/gloves. As long as it is not raining out, or extreme conditions, students are expected to be outside for a portion of their lunch break. Winter in Nova Scotia can bring a lot of variety to our weather, so we ask students to be prepared.

[Mask Drive](#)

Please consider donating new disposable and/or reusable masks in support of Mission Masks - a non-profit mask drive. All proceeds will be donated to the North End Community Health Center. Drop-off boxes will be located in the school's main office. Thank you for your support - donations will be accepted until Friday, December 18.

[Neptune's production of A Christmas Carol](#)

Students at Gorsebrook will be viewing Neptune Theatre's production of A Christmas Carol thanks to the sponsorship of the Halifax Regional Arts. Language Arts teachers will be doing pre and post activities to support the links to the curriculum.

[Holiday card campaign for local veterans](#)

Over the next week, students will be creating holiday cards for delivery to local veterans in an effort to spread holiday cheer! Thank you, GJHS Bears!

[Student well-being microsurvey](#)

Students in grades 4-12 in HRCE will be participating in a short survey that asks them about their relationships at school and their feeling of belonging at school. This will allow us as a school and region to better serve the needs of all learners. This will take place in class before the holiday break.



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[Indoor shoes for Phys Ed](#)

As the weather is getting colder, many students are changing their footwear to adapt. This is great! However, we do remind them they need indoor sneakers for Phys Ed so they can actively participate.

[Nourish your Roots and Poppy Campaign update](#)

Thank you to students and their families for supporting our Nourish your Roots and Poppy fundraisers. As a result of your generosity, our school breakfast program received \$420, and we were able to donate \$250 to the Royal Canadian Legion Poppy Fund!

[SCHOOL PHOTOS](#)

School photos can still be ordered. You can visit the Photomaster Studios website and order online, at photomasterstudios.ca. All orders will now be sent home by Canada Post instead of going to the school due to the new outbreak of covid. Please note that Photomasters has all the school photos on file for the past 7 years. If you missed a year you can order past years online too.

[Lates](#)

The school year is up and running and we are asking that students ensure they are arriving on time both in the morning and after lunch. We realize that lates are sometimes necessary for appointments and the odd traffic snag, and if this is the case, please let the main office know. Setting these good habits early on helps to ensure maximum learning time. Line ups to sign in at the main office are getting longer and students are missing instructional time. We appreciate your support with this.

[Gorsebrook Giving Campaign](#)

A reminder of our giving campaign to help offset the cost of our new phone system. Please reference the memo sent home earlier this week on how you can help out and what specifically the donation will support. This is a voluntary donation, and tax receipts are available for donations of \$10 or more. Thank you!

[From the Math Department](#)

Students are reminded to have their own calculators for Math class. The use of cell phone calculators are not permitted.

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.

[Parent Navigators](#)

For information on the HRCE's Parent Navigator program, please click here: <https://create.piktochart.com/output/50338546-parent-navigator-info>



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[SchoolsPlus staff are here to support Gorsebrook families](#)

[We can:](#)

- Help get answers to your questions.
- Connect you with services that can make a difference for your family.
- Help you fill out forms.
- Help you apply for funding (to help pay for things like recreation programs or eyeglasses).
- Support you during a stressful time.
- Help you get ready for a meeting with a school, agency, landlord, etc. We'll help you feel prepared and have a voice.

[SchoolsPlus services are confidential.](#)

[Yes, we can still do all this during COVID-19. Just give us a call! ...keep scrolling for contact info:](#)

[Contact your SchoolsPlus Community Outreach Worker \(Laura Hutt\) and Assistant Leader \(Alicia Barrett\) at: 902-399-8317 \(phone or text\) or \[alicia.barrett@hrce.ca\]\(mailto:alicia.barrett@hrce.ca\).](#)

[From the Community](#)