

# F.E.S. Family Connections

February 20<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>

**Vision:** F.E.S students will be passionate life-long learners who contribute as responsible leaders in the global community.

<b>Monday, February 20<sup>th</sup></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Family Day- No School</li></ul>	<b>Thursday, February 23<sup>rd</sup></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Grade 4 Open Gym</li><li>○ Chess Club-Grade 1</li><li>○ Skating- Kindergarten-Grade 2</li><li>○ Great Rothesay Food Bank Challenge continues!</li></ul>
<b>Tuesday, February 21<sup>st</sup></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Grade 2 Open Gym</li><li>○ Student Led Clubs- Grade 1</li><li>○ Lego Club- Grade 4</li><li>○ WITS assembly</li><li>○ Great Rothesay Food Bank Challenge continues!</li></ul>	<b>Friday, February 24<sup>th</sup></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Grade 5 Open Gym</li><li>○ Student Led Clubs-Grades 3 &amp; 4</li><li>○ Great Rothesay Food Bank Challenge continues!</li><li>○ Deadline to submit your contribution to the Top Secret Mission (see letter attached from Home and School group)</li></ul>
<b>Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Pink Shirt Day!</li><li>○ Grade 3 Open Gym</li><li>○ Student Led Clubs-Grade 2</li><li>○ Tinker Tray Play-Grade K-2</li><li>○ Sock Hop-K-2 @ 10:15 and gr. 3-5 at 12:15</li><li>○ Healthy Lunch Period #5-Order site closes</li><li>○ Great Rothesay Food Bank Challenge continues!</li><li>○ Extended deadline to submit your contribution to the Top Secret Mission (see letter attached from Home and School group)</li></ul>	<b>Upcoming Dates:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Feb. 27<sup>th</sup>-March 3<sup>rd</sup>-Staff Appreciation Week</li><li>○ Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>- Lego Club- grade 5</li><li>○ Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>- Art Richard school wide presentation</li><li>○ March 1<sup>st</sup>- Tinker Tray Play- Gr. 3-5</li><li>○ March 2<sup>nd</sup>- Winter Carnival</li><li>○ March 3<sup>rd</sup>- Last day before March Break</li><li>○ March 6<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>- March Break</li></ul>

## **Information Items:**

- We are looking forward to celebrating **Pink Shirt Day** on Wednesday, Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>. Celebrated annually around the globe, Pink Shirt Day began in Nova Scotia in 2007 when two students, Travis Price and David Sheppard, took a stand against

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bullying after a new student was harassed for wearing pink. Their message grows stronger every year. In support of their message, we have a great celebration planned, including an engaging virtual presentation organized by the WITS Foundation (<https://witsprogram.ca/>) and WITS Up the Walrus, along with guest speaker Peter H. Reynolds, author of *Be You, Say Something, The Dot*, and many more inspirational stories. Following the presentation students will enjoy a pink frozen treat!! To add to the excitement students can look forward to:

- ✓ Signing our Pink Shirt Day Pledge generously donated by the Kennebecasis Regional Police Force
- ✓ Attending a K-2 or Grade 3-5 Sock Hop during their recess break.
- ✓ Working together as a class to guess how many pink pom poms are in Java's container.
- ✓ Purchasing a pink heart sticker OR having a pink heart stamped on their hand for the cost of .25 cents (or .50 cents if they would like both) in support of the Kids Help Phone.

We encourage both students and staff to wear as much pink to show their support of PINK SHIRT DAY!

- The deadline to submit your contribution to the **Top Secret Mission** for Staff Appreciation Week has been extended until end of day Wednesday. For more information, please see the message attached from our Home and School group.
- As you know we have **three drop off zones** for families who drive their children to school in the morning.
  - ✓ Option #1- Drop off circle in front of our gymnasium. Cars remain single file with children exiting passenger side of vehicle to the sidewalk that leads in front of the school to the playground. Adults remain in the vehicle and circle around to exit through the same driveway that you used for entry.
  - ✓ Option #2- Pull into a parking spot in front of Dreamland, park, exit vehicle and help/watch children as they enter through the gate directly to the playground. Be careful when backing out on to the roadway.
  - ✓ Option #3- Drive beyond the telephone pole at the end of the playground parking area, do a U-turn, and pull up parallel to the fence across from the grade 3-5 door (where games are painted on the pavement). Like Option #1, students exit the passenger side with adults remaining in the vehicle. Proceed back into traffic carefully.

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**There have been safety concerns with families who use Option 3 but without following the safety protocols. Several people doing drop off do a u turn directly in front of the fence instead of proceeding to the location beyond Dreamland where it is safe to turn around. Vehicles also pull in and park perpendicular to the fence exiting their vehicle to help children. This blocks the third drop off zone and creates an unsafe traffic flow with people backing out of the parking spots in front of Dreamland, people backing out from this area where they shouldn't be parked, and those attempting to access and leave Option #3 appropriately.**

School zones often have a lot of traffic, stressed drivers (especially if families are running late), and distracted children. Unsafe driving practices such as speeding, distracted driving, parking in the no parking zones, or not following other safety protocols can be a recipe for disaster in terms of child safety. It's simply not worth taking safety risks. Remember to keep calm, have patience, and always put the safety of children at the top of your list.

There are other options to driving your child to school. Taking the bus or having your child walk (or bike, weather permitting) reduce traffic around the school.

- Following recent public consultation on the future of French language learning, the **provincial government will not proceed with implementing the proposed 50/50 framework and will be opening French immersion registration for Grade 1 students**. Please click on the link below for the full news release by the government.  
[https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/education/news/news\\_release.2023.02.0069.html](https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/education/news/news_release.2023.02.0069.html)
- The **pancake breakfast** was a huge hit with our kindergarten and grade 1 students! Our grade 2 students will enjoy a special breakfast on March 16<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to our educational assistants and EST-R teachers for your help with preparations and clean up!
- We are excited to share that we are planning a **Multicultural Night** for early May! F.E.S. families and staff will gather to celebrate our school community's rich diversity with interactive cultural booths created by students and families, student artwork, delicious food samples, entertainment, and more. We invite families to partner with classes to create cultural booths representing your family's culture or history. Families who have lived abroad are encouraged to participate too - you do not have to be originally from another country to be

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able to present and celebrate it. More information will be sent home on Wednesday.

- **February is Black History Month** -Every February, people across Canada participate in Black History Month events and festivities that honour the legacy of Black Canadians and their communities. The 2023 theme for Black History Month is: "Ours to tell". This theme represents both an opportunity to engage in open dialogue and a commitment to learning more about the stories Black communities in Canada have to tell about their histories, successes, sacrifices and triumphs. No matter where you live, we invite all Canadians to learn more about these communities, and how they continue to help shape Canadian history. For more information, please visit <https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/campaigns/black-history-month.html>
- We are excited to be participating in the **Great Rothesay Food Bank Challenge!** As rising inflation and cost of living spikes continue to hit Canadians hard, food insecurity is becoming a more widespread issue. February is also a month with Valentine's Day and Pink Shirt Day; opportunities to demonstrate Kindness to others! Throughout the month of February, classrooms will be collecting nonperishable food items to donate to the KV Food Basket. January, February, and March are typically slow months for donations, and we want to do what we can to support. A pizza party will be given to the class that collects the most items (per class capita).