



## Highbury Education Centre

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**Principal – Mike Mason**

***"An experiential approach to learning"***

# MAY 2017 NEWSLETTER

## Dear Students, Parents, Guardians:

It is hard to believe that we are fast approaching the end of the school year. Students have worked hard over the past eight months and I encourage them to continue this hard work over the remaining two months of school in order to ensure that they are successful in all of their courses.

We have been quite busy over the month of April and May will be quite busy as well. We have several ongoing projects/workshops, including a Mi'kmaq crafts workshop, anger management course, and a wellness group led by our school psychologist. We will also be out of the building quite a bit during the month of May attending many trips that help support course curriculums. We will also have several challenge by choice trips, where students choose to challenge themselves by completing the trip. These include a hike at Gaff Point as well as a Keji backcountry canoe trip.

On April 27th, we hosted our parent-teacher meetings. We had a great turnout and great discussions were had on students' successes and ideas for improvements. If you missed meeting with staff on the 27th, feel free to contact the school to set up a meeting to discuss your student's progress at HEC.

Finally, I'd like to draw your attention to the recently announced attendance policy created by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. This document can be found on the homepage of [www.avrsb.ca](http://www.avrsb.ca). Please take a look and provide feedback using the provided link should you have any suggestions to make. Should you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me via phone or e-mail. I look forward to continuing to work with you!

Mike Mason ~ Principal, HEC

## *Important Dates to Remember*

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|----------------------|---|
| May 10               | Hike, Blomidon (challenge by choice)  |
| May 12               | Boy Scout Camp (AM)   |
| May 15               | Open Arms (select students) - Kentville   |
| May 17               | Ross Farms – New Ross   |
| May 18               | Ross Creek (AM) - Canning   |
| May 22               | Victoria Day – No School  |
| May 24               | OETINS (Operating Engineers Training Institute of NS) – Falmouth 10am-12pm<br>Blue Beach – Avonport 1pm – 2:30pm (rain date May 25) |
| May 29 <sup>th</sup> | Gaff Point hike (challenge by choice)   |
| May 31 <sup>th</sup> | Car Wash Fundraiser – Midas Muffler, New Minas  |
| June 6 <sup>th</sup> | HEC Open House for interested new students  |
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Students have committed to an upcoming car wash fundraiser to help absorb the cost of outdoor excursions.

**10:30am – 2:30pm**  
**Midas Muffler - May 31<sup>th</sup>**

Parents/guardians, who would like to volunteer, please contact Deanna at 681-4930.

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**Open Arms** is a community supported registered charity made up of a network of about 300 volunteers from Hantsport to Bridgetown who have connected with them through many different churches, community groups, businesses, schools and more. Initially established in 2004 as a Community Chaplaincy/Advocacy for people in need, they soon began a much needed shelter program to complement their front-line advocacy work. Inn From The Cold now operates from seven local churches with the assistance of Police and many community volunteers. Emergency shelter has been provided for approximately 1200 individuals over the past twelve years. They currently feed between 20-60 people breakfast everyday with food donated by local farmers and Sobeys.

Open Arms Drop-in / Outreach Program and Resource Centre is located in downtown Kentville as well as Berwick and Kingston Nova Scotia.

Selected HEC Students volunteer their time every second Monday to cook / serve breakfast for their clients.

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**A birthday wish goes out this month to:**

**Students:**  
Brysin May 1<sup>st</sup>  
John May 4<sup>th</sup>

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### SCOUT CAMP TRIPS – SUNKEN LAKE

Over the next few weeks, Highbury students will be travelling to the Scout Camp at Sunken Lake. Students will be learning camping basics like setting up tents, building fires and creating shelters. Students will also take part in a canoeing workshop where they will learn how to be safe in and around canoes as well as basic paddling strokes and canoe maneuvers. This trip is a great way to be active outdoors and to build on skills that will help prepare students for future camping/canoeing trips!

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### GAFF POINT HIKE - LUNENBURG



On May 29th, several students will be travelling to Gaff Point just outside of Lunenburg to take part in a hike. This hike is approximately 7 km and features impressive rock formations while offering expansive ocean views. In order to prepare students for this hike, we'll complete

two prep hikes, one at Blomidon and one at the Black Rock Community Trails. During our prep hikes students will learn how to hike safely in the woods and will also learn about several aspects of Acadian forests. Students will also explore the cultural connections of the areas, specifically the role they play in Mi'kmaq creation stories. This is a challenge by choice trip, meaning students can choose to take part in the trip if they want to challenge themselves physically and mentally.

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### TRIP TO OEITNS - FALMOUTH

On May 24th, students will be travelling to the Operating Engineers Training Institute of Nova Scotia (OEITNS) in Falmouth. OEITNS has several programs that focus on operating heavy equipment. Students will have the opportunity to tour the facility as well as operate some of the heavy equipment (a highlight for many students!). This trip connects directly to our Career Development 10 course as it highlights several potential career paths for student after graduation and also exposes them to several of the workplace health and safety topics we have been discussing during the month of May.

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