

September 2023 Newsletter



September

Note from the Office

Thursday, September 14	School Photos Stand Up Against Bullying Day (Wear Pink!)
Tuesday, September 19	Meet the Teacher – 5:00-6:00 pm. Please bring along our students.
Thursday, September 21	Terry Fox Walk
Friday, September 22	School-based In-Service Day – No School for students
Friday, September 29	Orange Shirt Day
Monday, October 2	Truth and Reconciliation Day – No School for Students

Hello All,
We are extremely excited to be opening the doors and welcoming all of our students, staff, parents, guardians and the community to the 2023-24 school year. Returning to school brings lots of energy and emotion and we are thrilled that your young learners will be accompanying us at Felix Marchand Education Centre for their educational journey. We look forward to another successful school year of learning and growing together in a positive and safe learning space. Welcome and the warmest of wishes to all!

Be sure to visit our FMEC website (fmec.srce.ca) for lots of information and please join our Facebook group.

Yours in Education,
Jason MacLean, Principal



— WELCOME —
BACK TO SCHOOL

Reminders - Please return the following:

- ❖ Signed anti-spam legislation letter.
- ❖ Registration form with any corrections or missing information completed.
- ❖ Consent to publish pictures/work letter (in Registration form package)
- ❖ Year-long permission slip re: walking/hiking

Public Health

In consultation with Public Health, the Province continues to encourage schools, staff and students to embrace healthy habits, including getting vaccinated, staying home if unwell, sanitizing hands and high-touch surfaces, and creating a supportive environment for those who decide to wear a mask.

Schools will continue to have hand sanitizer available and masks for those who choose to wear them. High-touch surfaces will also continue to be cleaned regularly.

School Advisory Councils

School Advisory Councils play an important role in supporting student success at the school community level.

A School Advisory Council is an advisory body to the school principal and the Regional Centre for Education on a range of issues related to the school and the school system.

Membership can vary, but generally consists of the school principal, parents, teachers, and other community members.

If you would like to be a member of our SAC please call the school or email jason.maclean@srce.ca.



Orange Shirt Day

Orange Shirt Day (September 29th) is a **day** when we honour the Indigenous children who were sent away to residential schools in Canada and learn more about the history of those schools. Please wear orange if you can on Friday, September 29.



Breakfast Program

We are very pleased that we will once again offer a breakfast program at FMEC. Our program will be offered to all students from Monday to Friday. Thank you to our staff volunteers.



Terry Fox School Walk

Our annual Terry Fox School Walk will take place on Thursday, September 21. In support of this very worthwhile event, we are asking that students donate, if possible, a loonie or toonie. Thank You!!



Strait Regional Centre for Education

Safe Arrival Process for Elementary Schools



Felix Marchand Education Centre and the Strait Regional Centre for Education believe that regular attendance at school supports greater student success and achievement. Attendance supports student learning and promotes a sense of responsibility that students will need as they transition from grade to grade. Promoting and supporting regular student attendance is a shared responsibility. All partners, students, parents/guardians, teachers, school administration and school board staff, must work together.

As a result, the following safe arrival process will be implemented at our school to help us account for any student's unexplained failure to arrive at school:

- Parents/guardians are responsible for notifying the school when their child(ren) will not be in attendance.
- If your child(ren) is going to be late or absent from school, the parent/guardian is asked to contact the school by email **fmec.office@srce.ca** or telephone at (902) 345-2560 before 9:30 a.m. An explanation is required.
- On a daily basis, homeroom teachers will complete morning attendance. A list of those students who are absent will be generated.
- If a student is marked absent during first class and we have not been previously notified by parents/guardians, we will call the numbers provided in the student demographic information.
- When direct follow-up contact with parents/guardians cannot be reasonably made, we will then determine appropriate action. This may involve contact with the RCMP.

School Insurance Program

Every eligible child attending public school in Nova Scotia is automatically insured by the School Insurance Program's Basic Plan student accident coverage. This coverage is provided without deductible and at no cost. Basic Plan coverage can cover things such as physiotherapy, dental and medical equipment expenses, up to policy limits.

However, if parents/guardians wish to purchase additional coverage, the Gold Plan increases the time that your child is covered to 24/7 including summer vacations. Many of the specific loss accident payments are triple those of the Basic Plan.

Please visit www.sip.ca for policy & limit information and for more information on how to purchase the optional Gold Plan.

Year-long Permission Form re: Walking and Hiking

On occasion, a teacher may plan an informal walk/hike in our local community. These walks/hikes are considered outdoor learning opportunities for all students. Please see the permission slip in this package regarding this opportunity. Please call the school if you have questions or concerns.

Notice to Families Regarding School-Based Communications

As we begin another school year, I would like to share a reminder with our students and families regarding school communications.

As part of efforts to establish and maintain open communication with our students and families, our school uses several communication platforms, including print, online and social media, to regularly share information with our families and school community. These platforms include monthly school newsletter/calendar, school website, Facebook group and direct email and text alerts to parents and guardians using SchoolMessenger. In addition, our practice is to share information on situations that require emergency response from EHS and/or the RCMP, as needed. Currently, there are plans involving individual students who may require a medical response. These specific incidents involving individual students will be addressed directly with the family of the student and no school-wide notification notice will be issued.

When necessary, serious incidents that impact multiple students and the school community broadly, including those that escalate through broad sharing on social media, will continue to be communicated directly to students and families through a notification issued by the school. If you have any follow-up questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. As always, thank you for your ongoing support and cooperation.

Sincerely,

Jason MacLean

Principal

School Photographer Services

As part of our contract with Lifetouch Canada, our school will be providing them with student names, grade and provincial student ID # which they require to provide the service. The photographer is required to permanently delete all student information once the contract agreement has been fulfilled.

Notice to Parents/Guardians

Information Sharing Agreement with Department of Health and Wellness

Annually, students across Nova Scotia are offered services delivered by Public Health including the Grade 7 School Immunization Program, Pre-school Screening, Enhanced Vision Screening Program and the Fluoride Mouthrinse Program. Public Health works with the education system to distribute information about these programs and to obtain consent for student participation. Occasionally, Public Health practitioners may need to contact parents/guardians of students where consent information is incomplete or unclear, or when a consent form has not been returned. Public Health will not contact you if you have signed a consent form indicating you do not wish to have your child participate in one of these programs. The Strait Regional Centre for Education takes its responsibility for the protection of personal student and family information seriously and will share limited information such as names of parents/guardians and students and

parent email addresses with Public Health for the purposes of operating these public health services for students.

All Regional Centres for Education in Nova Scotia share certain personal information about students and parents/guardians with the Department of Health and Wellness, for the purposes of operating these programs. This information sharing is required by the Public Health Protection Act and is permitted by the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIPOP) Act and an Information Sharing Agreement signed by the Regional Centre.

Please contact your local public health office if you have any questions about these public health programs. If you have any questions about how your information is shared, please feel free to contact your respective school or our Regional Centre's Information Access and Privacy Manager at 902-625-2191.

Dear Parents/Guardians: (information regarding head lice)

As we begin another school year, I would like to share some information with you in regards to the treatment and prevention of head lice that our school will be following.

Head lice are tiny insects and parasites of the human body which are most often attached to clean hair. They lay eggs called nits, which stick to the hair shaft, very close to the scalp. Head lice spread most easily through direct head-to-head contact or through articles used on the head or in the hair, such as hats, combs, brushes, ponytail holders, etc. Head lice occur mostly in children.

Based on Public Health Services information, the following sequence of treatment is recommended to break the head lice cycle: Please note that two treatments are required in order to completely break the head lice cycle:

- Two (2) head lice treatments, spread apart with a period of 7-10 days between treatments or as directed by the product.
- 1st treatment - kills live head lice.
- Some lice may hatch but they are adolescent nits that cannot lay eggs.
- Combing and nit removal is required on a daily basis.
- 2nd treatment - kills the adolescent nits and breaks the head lice cycle.

Please note the following guidelines that will be helpful in preventing the spread of head lice:

- Notify the school administration if your child has head lice and keep school administration informed about head lice issues as they arise;
- Check your child's head regularly.
 - once a week as part of your routine
 - after every sleepover
 - every day during lice outbreaks at school
- Keep long hair tied back or braided.
- Teach your child not to share personal items that are used on their head. This means things like brushes, combs, barrettes, headbands, elastics, towels, hats, helmets, toques, and scarves.
- Teach your child to put their hats and scarves in their coat sleeves or backpacks when they take them off at school.

When there is a suspected case of head lice, the Principal will notify the parent(s)/guardian(s). The student who is suspected of having live head lice will be sent home for treatment. The student may return to school after the first treatment in accordance with Public Health recommendations. A notice will be sent home to all parents/guardians when there is a confirmed case of head lice in our school. Our school and the Strait Regional Centre for Education are committed to following the

recommendations of health care professionals and supporting school communities in the treatment and prevention of head lice. Our focus is on the treatment and prevention of head lice in an effort to support student attendance and full participation at school, in accordance with healthcare standards. For more information, please find enclosed a copy the Strait Regional Centre for Education brochure, Head Lice: An Information Guide for Parents/Guardians and School Communities. If at any time you require further support on this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Jason MacLean

Principal

**Notice to Families when hosting public events – e.g., sporting events/competitions,
Holiday concerts, etc.**

Please note from time to time our school may host public events like sporting events, competitions and concerts. As a public event, it is reasonable to expect photographs and audio/video/digital recordings may be taken by those in attendance. Therefore, privacy cannot be expected. When events are public, it is reasonable to expect photographs and/or taping will be taken by spectators, media and schools.

We understand you may wish to record your child at this event. Please be respectful of other students' and family's privacy when recording your child during the event.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Dear Parents and Guardians: (information regarding Emergency Management)

The safety and security of our students and staff are a priority for Felix Marchand Education Centre and the Strait Regional Centre for Education. We have been implementing a number of measures as part of a comprehensive plan aimed at ensuring our school remains a safe place for our students to learn.

Two of the procedures our school will use are "hold-and-secure" and "lockdown."

- "Hold-and-secure" is an action taken to restrict access to the school in response to a safety concern external to the school.
- "Lockdown" is a procedure taken to have students in a secure location in response to an act or safety concern inside the school.

Just as we prepare our students to properly respond to a fire drill, they also need to be aware of the proper response during a "hold-and-secure" and a "lockdown." These procedures should be treated with the same level of importance as fire drills. Please be assured that staff at our school will spend time discussing the importance of these procedures with students prior to conducting a drill. We will also take time after the drill to remind them it was only a practice and there was no

danger. Please take the time to speak with your child(ren) about these procedures and reinforce their importance. We practice these procedures to ensure our school remains a safe place for teaching and learning.

Please contact me if you have any questions about hold-and-secure and lockdown procedures.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Jason MacLean

Principal

FMEC Bell schedule:

8:25 am	Students begin arriving
8:45 am	Classes begin
10:15-10:30 am	Recess
12:00-12:40 pm	Lunch/Recess (please send reusable fork/spoon with your child)
2:40 pm	Dismissal

*Teacher Communication Plans will be sent home during the week of September 11th -15th .

- Region-wide email and text alerts to parents and guardians. As a reminder, if you have a cell number on file at your child's school and have not yet opted in to receive text messages, **please text Yes to 978338 to continue to receive text messages. If you do not opt in, you will not receive any text messages** from your child's school or the SRCE. If your email and/or cell number has changed, please advise your respective school.

Let's have another amazing year at FMEC! 😊

