BiHi Update

Bicentennial School Newsletter

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**Principal: Mr. T. McGowan / Acting Principal: Mr. D. Carter Vice Principal: Mr. W. Hughes**

**March 2, 2022**

***Celebrating and Observing at BiHi:*** The month of February was **African Heritage Month** in Nova Scotia. This year’s theme was ***Through Our Eyes: the Voices of African Nova Scotians.*** Our students, at all grade levels, were engaged in numerous learning activities under the guidance of their teachers. We didn’t simply celebrate African Heritage. We dug deeper, and immersed our students in meaningful learning to increase knowledge, understanding, empathy, and acceptance. Many students accomplished this through research of many kinds. Our hope is that we made a significant and positive impact on our students and our school community. Here are some **highlights** of what occurred here at Bicentennial School during the last month…

* Bicentennial School held a special **contest to design a button** for African Heritage Month. The purpose was to create a meaningful way for everyone to celebrate and show their pride. We had *over 100 entries!* The winners are:
  + Junior high - Zeith Pangilinan and Raena O'Quinn-Wetzel in Grade 8
  + Elementary - Ayumi Bacul in Grade 6

Their designs will be made into buttons by Student Council members. Everyone in the school will get a button in the coming days. Because we had so many beautiful designs, we will display all the entries on the bulletin board next to the Principal's office. Thanks to everyone who entered and to the judges for their hard work.

* Ms. Cain's **African NS Student group** paired up with the Grade 9 student announcers to give an **"ANS Proud Moment of the Day"** during morning announcements. Guest announcers took turns reading interesting facts to the school and we also played a lovely arrangement of ***"Lift Every Voice and Sing"***
* **Ms. Cain and Mrs. Driscoll, and some of their students,** are participating in a special book review and book launch. They have been asked to take a special sneak peek at Senator Wanda Thomas Bernard's new book *A Child of East Preston*. This is a very exciting opportunity to combine literacy and local history, and we will participate in a virtual book launch with the Senator through the **Delmore Buddy Daye Learning Institute**.
* **Ms. McLellan’s ELA (English Language Arts) classes (for 701, 702, 803)** explored various texts created by and about Black or African Nova Scotian authors/creators. They watched short documentaries, explored music, and studied short stories. They also completed a mini-research project. They chose their own author/text/song, and then did some research about the creator and the inspiration and intentions behind the piece. They presented their projects to their classmates.
* **Ms. Webber’s grade 8 students** looked at social movements that were started because of inequities. They studied a rap video ,called *Africville*, that was created by local artists. They read the story of Africville - while discussing how this displacement of an entire community was declared a human rights violation. They looked at various popular music by Black artists, and investigated some movements (such as BLM) that were sparked in recent years. They concluded the month by considering why organizations, and groups of people, advocate for their rights.
* **Mrs. Conrad's Grade 1/2 class** had Mrs. Cain (our African Nova Scotian support worker) visit their classroom to talk about African Heritage/History Month and what it means. They used their Art time that day to work on the button contest drawings. They also made Kente cloth from paper. During teacher read-aloud time they heard and discussed stories with an Afro-centric theme. Students were introduced to people of African descent who have made contributions to STEM fields (i.e. science, technology, engineering, math) and art.
* **Ms. Powell’s 3/4 class** were busy using the website [www.cbhtable.com](http://www.cbhtable.com) to explore African Canadians who are/were inspirational in some way. The read the books *The Children of Africville* (by Christine Welldon) and *Trailblazers* (by Tiyahna Ridley-Padmore). They also participated in the Student Council African Heritage button contest. Ms. Powell and her class intend to keep learning about African Heritage all year long, not just for the month of February.

***Heathy Hunger:*** Want to provide a hot lunch for your child? Want to treat them to a special lunch or snack? Take a day off from making lunches. ***Healthy Hunger*** is an Canadian company offering a user-friendly online **school lunch ordering system**. They have partnered with several local restaurants (Pita Pit, Little Caesar's, and Sunwich Cafe) to provide **hot and cold lunch meals and snacks** to our students who stay at school for lunch. Hot and cold meals, drinks, snacks, and desserts are available.....including cookies, muffins, drinks, fruit, pizza, wraps and sandwiches, pasta, rice, salads, yogurt, bagels & cream cheese, breakfast sandwiches, and lots more. Vegetarian and gluten free options are often available. Prices are reasonable. Go to the Health Hunger website at [**http://www.healthyhunger.ca**](http://www.healthyhunger.ca) Register and create and account for you and your child(ren). Review all the menu selections and prices. Order as much or as little as you like. Sometimes smaller portions are available to order for smaller appetites. You won't need to send any forms or cash to school. It's all done online. You pay online at time of ordering using VISA (credit or debit card) or Mastercard (credit or debit card). The meals are delivered directly to your child at school. It's all done in a **few easy steps:**

*Step 1: Click “REGISTER YOUR STUDENT” and create your account.*

*Step 2: Login and add your children to the account*

*Step 3: View all the up-coming lunch dates and menu items available.*

*Step 4: Place your orders and make payment online.*

***Grade 9 Grad Photos***: High school is getting closer for our grade 9 students. Grade 9 grad photos will be taken on **Thursday, March 3**, by our official school photographer, Adams Photography. The photographer suggests white shirts and ties or low necklines look best with the graduation gowns worn for the photos. Gowns will be provided. All grade 9 students are invited to participate.

***Keeping Our Students Safe:*** Our school is located at a busy intersection. The safety of our students is a prime concern. This is particularly concerning during the winter months with ice and snowbanks, and slippery conditions for drivers and walkers. Visibility (for drivers) is affected on rainy days We are strongly urging all students to exercise caution, and to **use sidewalks and crosswalks** when walking to and from school.

***Registration for 2022-2023 School Year:*** We are preparing for the next school year already! We are now registering students entering Pre-primary, Primary, or any other grade in September 2022. This year, due to COVID-19 restrictions, there is no in-person registration at the school.  The registration process must be completed online (at **www.hrce.ca**). Registration is only required if: You are new to Halifax Regional Centre for Education (HRCE); Your child is beginning school in Pre-primary or Primary.  **Note:**  If your child is already enrolled in our Pre-Primary program they are already registered.  It is not necessary to re-register for Primary; You have moved and will be attending a new school in HRCE.

***Student Absence:*** Our Student Absence Line number is **902-464-2094 (press 1).** Call this number anytime (it’s operational 24 hours a day) if your child will be absent from school (for part day, full day, or more than one day). You will be requested to leave the name of your child, their class, and the date(s) and time(s) of the absence, and the reason for the absence in voice-mail. This program is operated by the school for the safety of our students. If your child is absent, and we receive a message from you informing us of the absence, we know your child is safe and accounted for. Please call the Student Absence Line rather than the school office, or other school personnel, to leave absentee information.

***Reminders:***

* All students are encouraged to bring personal **water bottles** to school (with their names on them) so they can stay hydrated while at school during the day. We have lots of water dispensers for refills located throughout the school.
* All students (grades Primary to 9) must use their **designated doors to enter and exit the school** during the day. In the **morning this is required until 9:05 am**. After that time students are considered late and must enter the school using the **main doors**, and check in at the office to obtain a late slip and have their attendance updated.
* Out of concern for the safety of our students and staff, **vehicles (unless authorized) are no longer permitted on school property** during the school day (8:30 am – 3:15 pm, Monday to Friday).
* For **lots of valuable information** be sure to visit the Halifax Regional Centre for Education/HRCE website at [www.hrce.ca](http://www.hrce.ca) and our Bicentennial School website at [www.bic.hrce.ca](http://www.bic.hrce.ca)

***Something to think about…***

* Best thing we can do for kids…instead of teaching them how to always be successful….teach them how to respond when they are *not* successful.
* Popcorn is prepared in the same pot, in the same heat, in the same oil, and yet…..the kernels do not all pop at the same time. Don’t compare your child to others. Their turn to pop is coming!

*Dates to Remember*

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| Mar. 3 | Grade 9 Grade Photos taken |
| Mar. 4 | Mr. Carter’s last day as acting principal at BiHi |
| Mar. 14 – 18 | March Break *\*schools closed* |