



ADMIRAL'S ACADEMY

Navigating Together and Sailing to our Potential

835 Conception Bay Highway, Kelligrews, NL A1X 7T7
Phone# 709-834-5394 Fax# 709-834-6573

John Barrington
Principal

Krista Fleming
Assistant Principal

December 2025 Admiral's Academy Newsletter

Growing Readers at Admiral's Academy

Fluency building is an important component of effective reading instruction. We know that many of our students are working on ways to build their reading fluency, (their ability to decode accurately and quickly with expression and prosody). Here are some ways you can build fluency at home!

1. **Repeated reading** - Have your child read their reading selection 2 or 3 times (or more!) You should notice that your child will improve their fluency each time!
2. **Echo reading** - Model for your child what good reading sounds like, then have them repeat after you.
3. **Choral reading** - Read along with your child. Focus on having your voices match as you read. You can have a lot of fun with this!

12 Days of Christmas

This year, beginning on December 3rd, we will celebrate the **12 Days of Christmas** as a lead up to our Christmas Break. Each day there will be a suggestion made for students to follow. It could be things like wearing red and green, bringing a Christmas themed snack for recess and so on. A quick overview can be found using this [link](#) or on our website.

Christmas Musical

Once again this year, our Christmas Concert will be performed by our grade 3 students. It will take place on **Wednesday, December 10th** beginning at **6:00pm** - with doors opening at 5:45pm. We will be selling 4 tickets per family for the concert (at a cost of \$5.00 per ticket). Tickets will be available for purchase beginning December 3rd via family RYCOR accounts. Once all families have had an opportunity to

purchase, we will communicate the sale of any remaining tickets to those who indicated that they need them. There will not be any tickets available at the door.

Additionally this year, our band students will be performing separately from the grade 3 Christmas Concert. Band students will be performing on the same evening - **December 10th** - but their performance will take place at **6:45pm** - with doors opening shortly after the grade 3 concert for band families.

We will also be offering a matinee performance for the whole school (and any parents who cannot attend the evening concert or have younger siblings) during the morning of December 10th. The morning performance will start at 10:45AM. Speaking parts have been sent home to practice and all band students have gotten their music for their performances.

Finally, on the night of the concert, we will have our "Best Seats in the House" available to be won. Tickets for this option will be available on the night of the concert at a cost of \$2 at the door. The option will include three couch seats in the front row, accompanied by snacks to enjoy during the concert!

Term 1 Reporting

Report cards will go home to families on Tuesday, December 2nd, 2025. Our family-teacher conferences will be held on December 4th from 1:00-4:00 and 5:00-7:00. Children will be dismissed at 11:30am on December 4th to accommodate the conferences. This year we will once again use OPTIS to book the conferences. A separate memo was distributed to families concerning signup instructions.



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Understanding Literacy Terms on Your Child's Report Card

You may see specific language used on the upcoming Term 1 report cards that relates to how your child is learning to read and write. Here is a quick guide to what some of those common literacy terms mean:

Reading & Word Recognition

- **Heart Words** (or *High-Frequency Words*): These are words that appear most often in text (the, and, was). They are often called "*heart words*" because they must be memorized by heart so students can read them instantly, without having to sound them out every time.
- **Decoding**: This is using the sounds of letters (phonics) to correctly read or "sound out" an unfamiliar word. When your child reads the word "cat" by blending the sounds /c/ /a/ /t/, they are decoding.
- **Fluency**: This is reading text accurately, quickly, and with proper expression. It's about reading smoothly and naturally, which allows the reader to focus their energy entirely on understanding the story.

Writing & Spelling

- **Encoding**: This is the process of hearing the individual sounds in a word and then writing the corresponding letters to spell it. This is the opposite of decoding. When your child writes the word "fish," they are encoding the sounds /f/ /i/ /sh/ into the letters F-I-S-H.
- **Segmenting**: This is the ability to break a spoken word down into its individual

sounds (phonemes). For example, a student who can hear that the word "mop" has three separate sounds—/m/, /o/, and /p/—is segmenting. This skill is crucial for spelling and writing.

The Goal: Quick, Effortless Reading

- **Automaticity**: This refers to the fast, effortless, and accurate recognition of words. When a reading skill becomes automatic, the brain can shift its focus to comprehension. Our goal is for students to achieve this effortlessness so they can understand and enjoy what they read.

How You Can Support Literacy at Home

The single best way to support all of these skills is to read aloud with your child every day.

- *For Decoding & Encoding*: Point out the sounds letters make. When reading, practice covering up parts of longer words to focus on sounding out smaller chunks.
- *For Heart Words*: Post a short list of words (3-5) that your child is learning and encourage them to read them quickly throughout the week.
- *For Fluency*: Model expressive reading when you read to them, and encourage them to reread short passages or books they love to build speed and confidence.

Toiletry Drive

During the week of **December 8th to 12th**, we are inviting families to send along toiletry items that will be gifted to some of our friends at Admiral's Coast Retirement Centre. We are accepting hygiene items for both the male and



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female residents. Our grade 2 students will present the items to the residents when they visit later this month. As always, your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Elf on the Shelf

Over the next few weeks, Admiral's Academy will be celebrating the holidays in special ways with our students. To keep the magic safe and sound, please keep your Elf on home ground! We don't want them getting lost or touched by friends at school. Remember: as we all know, elves work the night shift! So please leave them at home to catch up on sleep while we are learning at school. Thank you for your understanding.

Upcoming Holidays

There will be no classes for students on Friday, December 5th due to staff PL.

The last day of classes for students before the Christmas break will be Friday, December 19th. **We will dismiss at 1:15pm.** We will return to school on Monday, January 5th, 2026 and it will be day 6.

KinderStart Sign-up Reminder

If you or someone you know has a child turning 5 before December 31st, 2026 they should be registered for KinderStart! If they are not registered, please contact the school to get them registered as soon as possible. Dates for our KinderStart sessions for this school year will be communicated to families once the dates have been finalized. There will be no school for our current Kindergarten students on those days.

Move-A-Thon

Our first fundraising activity for the school year was our **Move-A-Thon** that took place on **Friday, November 7th**. With the generosity of our school community we were able to raise a little over \$11, 500!!!! Thank you to everyone for your continued support and generosity!

Christmas Sharing

It is once again the time of year when we begin to think about supporting others in our community during Christmas time. If you would like to contribute to this worthwhile cause, we are accepting monetary donations or gift certificates from supermarkets, Walmart, Toys R Us etc. until Friday, December 5th. In previous years we provided support to several families in our school community. Thank you for your kindness and thoughtfulness during the holiday season!

Parenting in the Online World Webinar

The Canadian Centre for Child Protection (C3P) is offering virtual webinars for parents and caregivers on Parenting in the Online World. During these sessions, C3P will provide insights into concerning trends seen through operations of Cybertip.ca – Canada's tipline to report the online sexual exploitation of children, and provide considerations and resources for talking with children and youth about online safety.

You can register for one of the virtual sessions being offered to parents and caregivers here: https://protectkidsonline.ca/app/en/parenting_in_the_online_world_webinars

Fast Food Considerations

Recognizing that life happens and often families need to drop lunch to their child at school, we



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are asking families to be mindful of bringing fast food to their child for lunch here at school. We need to consider the other children who do not have these same opportunities as well as giving consideration to our [Provincial School Food Guidelines](#). We appreciate your support in this matter.

Recycling

Our December Recycling Blitz will take place on **December 15th**. If you drop off your child on the recycling blitz days, the bags can be dropped off at the front entrance of the school. If your child takes the bus, he/she should only take a small grocery bag of recyclables due to limited space. Also, please ensure that the recycling bag is tied tight to eliminate any leakage on the school bus.

During each recycling blitz, children who bring in a bag will receive a ticket which will be collected and entered in a draw for a small prize pack. There will be one winner for a primary student and one for an elementary student each blitz day.

Winter Dress

We are in that time of the year where temperatures and weather conditions vary. As we aim to ensure that we get our students outside on a daily basis as much as possible when weather permits, we ask that our students please dress appropriately for the daily weather conditions. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Remembrance Day Assembly

Thank you to our Grade 5 students for a very moving assembly to commemorate Remembrance Day. Special thanks to Ms. C. Bussey, Ms. Ellsworth, Ms. Kennedy, and Mr.

Miller for their work with students as they prepared this assembly.

January SLA Ordering

A note from the SLA that January ordering will open on **December 1st** and close on **December 9th**. Orders can be placed using the website schoolslunch.ca

Allergies

Please note that we have severe anaphylaxis allergies in our school to PEANUTS, TREE NUTS, and BANANAS. As a result, we cannot permit students to bring cooked or raw bananas, any products containing any type of nuts, peanuts or WOW butter at school.

Please note: If your child has a diagnosed allergy by a medical doctor, and you have not already done so, please contact the guidance counsellor at billylynnclove@nlschools.ca to complete the necessary forms. Also, these forms must be completed each school year.

Video Surveillance

Admiral's Academy utilizes video surveillance cameras as per NLESD policy OPER-600. If you have any concerns, contact school administration.

Important Upcoming Dates

December 2nd - Term 1 reports go home

December 4th - Family-Teacher Interviews

December 5th - No classes for students

December 10th - Christmas Concert/Band

December 19th - Last day of classes before Christmas break. Dismissal at 1:15pm