



ACORN



LandmarkEast.org

A PUBLICATION OF LANDMARK EAST SCHOOL DECEMBER 2025



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CHANGING LIVES WITH DETERMINATION



A LETTER FROM OUR HEAD OF SCHOOL

Gratitude, Energy, Purpose, and Connection

As we come to the close of another remarkable year, I'm filled with gratitude and pride for all that our students, staff, families, and alumni have achieved together in 2025. This winter newsletter offers a snapshot of the many moments—large and small—that make Landmark East School such a special place to learn, live, and grow.



This year has been full of energy, purpose, and connection. From the joyful spirit of Winter Carnival to the community service and teamwork shown during the Nova Scotia Great Pick-Me Up, our students have demonstrated care for one another and for the world around them. The Thank You Day celebration reminded us how important appreciation is in building our culture of kindness, while the Science Fair once again showcased creativity, curiosity, and impressive problem-solving.

Our student life program continues to thrive, with our boarding students making the most of every adventure—both on campus and out in the wider Nova Scotia community. Their enthusiasm and resilience embody the best of the Landmark East School spirit.

A special part of this year's success story is our focus on Arf, our therapeutic bunny. Arf has brought joy, calm, and comfort to students and staff alike, becoming a critical part of daily life on campus. His quiet presence reminds us how compassion and connection support well-being and learning.

Our community has also come together in tremendous ways through fundraising events such as the Walkathon, Golf Tournament, and the Fougere and Friends Concert. These gatherings not only strengthen our school spirit but also help sustain the programs and supports that make Landmark East School so unique.

We were especially proud to reconnect with our alumni this year—seeing how the foundations built here continue to support success long after graduation. Their stories remind us of the lasting impact of a Landmark East School education.

Finally, as we celebrated Family Literacy Day and Graduation, we were reminded that learning is a lifelong journey—one that grows richer through collaboration, courage, and care.

Thank you to each member of our Landmark East School family for your support, dedication, and belief in empowering students to help them unlock their full potential.

Yours,
Karen Fougere





Family Literacy Day Town of Wolfville



Last January, Family Literacy Day was proudly sponsored by Al Whittle Theatre, Landmark East School and the Town of Wolfville.

National Family Literacy Day celebrates the importance and variety of literacy activities. The event included read alouds of beloved children's books by Darrin Harvey, Alice Green, Ray Baltzer, and Sarah Anderson. Performances included Villain's Theatre and music by Mat Hughes.

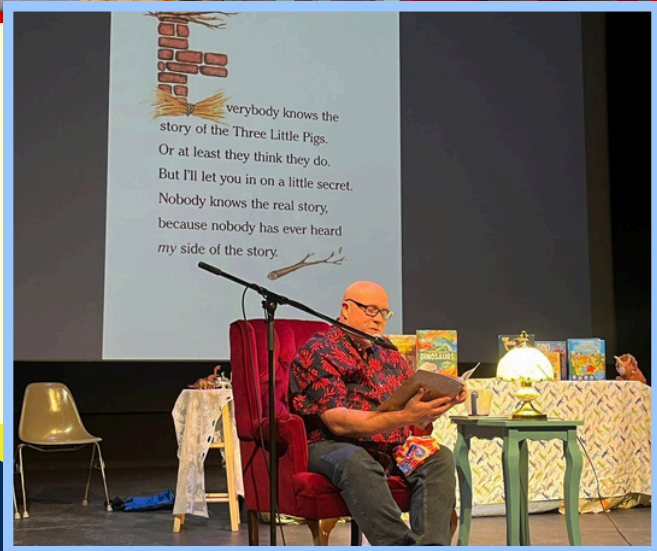
Keep a look out for information about this coming January 2026 Family Literacy Day!



Moira Taylor
Teacher, Literacy and
Professional Development
Coordinator

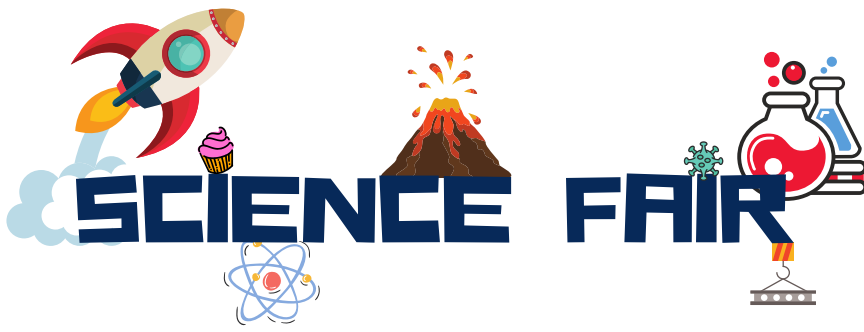


Sheonagh McCullough
Speech Language Pathologist



Winter Carnival





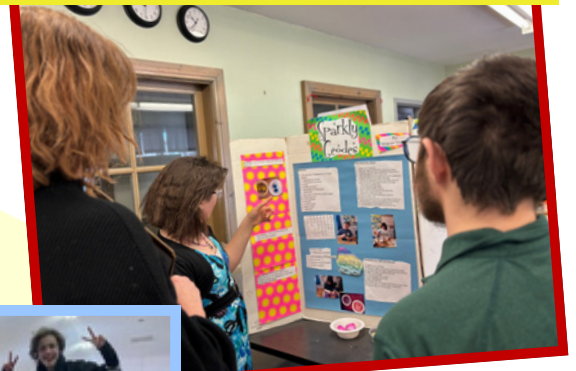
SCIENCE FAIR



Every year, Landmark East School hosts its Annual Science Fair for all the Elementary and Middle School students. The students put a great deal of effort into their projects, and they look forward to sharing these with the greater school community. This year, due to unforeseen circumstances, we were unable to host an open house for the community. Instead, students took scheduled slots to present their projects to judges and staff. The students and staff showed resilience and creative problem solving making the day magical for the students who had invested so much time in preparing for the event.



Congratulations to Jesse and Abel for both winning bronze medals at this year's Regional Science Fair! Also deserving of a huge shout out are Landon, Emile, Orrin, Jayden, Masaki, Bailey, Layne, and Ee Chuen who worked incredibly hard to set up the Regional Science Fair Awards Ceremony.



Staff Profile



ARF the Therapeutic Bunny



Sandie Beyea
Social Emotional Learning Coordinator



The Acorn (TA): What is Arf's role at Landmark East School?

Ms Beyea (MB): Arf plays an important therapeutic role supporting and connecting with each individual student; he connects in a unique and special way with each of the students. Sometimes he is the snuggling teddy bear that students find soothing.

TA: How long has Arf served in this role?

MB: Arf has been in this role since Ms Beyea started in her role as the Social Emotional Coordinator, which was about six years ago. Arf's role is a very important part of the Social Emotional Learning landscape.

TA: What does Arf mean to the students?

MB: Arf brings a sense of security and comfort to the students. Arf creates a special space that allows Ms Beyea to guide conversations in a way that is indirect. Arf's presence opens up the avenue for a conversation to flow more easily.

TA: What do the students most like about Arf?

MB: The students love feeding him treats and feeding him paper! Arf is very calm and helps regulate the students, which is really good for them.



TA: What does Arf do in his off time?

MB: Arf enjoys playing with the dogs and having outside time. Arf attends music festivals and loves the adventures he gets into. He attracts a crowd wherever he goes and enjoys helping others feel relaxed. These outside activities, refuel him for his very important role at Landmark East School.

TA: What is Arf most famous for?

MB: Arf is most famous for his ability to connect and create opportunities for positive communication and interactions. Arf is able to bring calm to just about any space.

ARF

the Therapeutic Bunny

TA: Where did you get Arf?

MB: A friend of mine has a farm and she found several bunnies in a hole in the ground. She started looking after them. One day she reached out to me to ask if I would mind looking after them while she was away. And of course, I said I would! When I checked in on them, I saw a grey ball of fur among the bunnies and something sparked for me. I picked him up and held him in my hands. There was something about him that felt special to me so I took him home. On our way, we stopped to pick up “pet bunny” supplies and we have never looked back!



TA: Where did Arf get his name?

MB: My little brother’s name was Arthur, but I couldn’t say it when I was younger. So, I always called him Arf 😊 It gives me an even deeper connection to bunny Arf.

TA: Is there anything else you would like to share about Arf?

MB: I am very appreciative of the therapeutic role that animals can play in our lives and the importance they bring to our overall well being. A lot of time investment went into creating Arf to be the bunny that he is today. Not unlike the time invested in valuing our students to help them grow to become who they are destined to be.





Sarah Leopold
Student Life Director

Student Life

Over the winter boarding students enjoyed many indoor cozy activities such as completing puzzles, colouring and watching holiday movies together! Karaoke nights became a regular Friday evening event for the girls. Students had fun going to Ski Martock every week where they learned how to ski and snowboard. January was particularly cold and snowy this year. The students turned the outdoor playpad area into a winter playground. Students spent many cold evenings playing hockey on the playpad and sledding down the hill!



In the spring we celebrated a number of boarding students' birthdays, gathering to sing "Happy Birthday", eat cake and celebrate one another. The boarding students went to watch the Harlem Globetrotters which was a favorite activity for many. Students were amazed by the fancy trick shots and slam dunks. The evening was filled with high-energy, lots of laughs and wonderful memories.

Summer was bittersweet. Students studied for exams, said good-bye to their friends and reminisced on the year's activities and accomplishments. Boarders packed up their bedrooms for the summer holiday. The dorms were filled with lots of energy and excitement as the graduates prepared for their next chapter. Four boarding students graduated this year. The Student Life Team members are very proud of our graduates for achieving this milestone. We look forward to-reconnecting with them at alumni events in the future. At the end of summer returning boarding students came home to Landmark East. Everyone un-packed their bedrooms, settled into their new room, made new friends and reconnected with old friends. It was a lovely start to another school year.



Autumn was filled with festive events such as viewing the Kentville pumpkin people, getting lost in corn mazes and going Trick or Treating. The days became shorter but students continued to play outside! The boarding students loved creating big piles of leaves to run and jump in. Boarding students enjoyed our annual Thanksgiving dinner with all the fixings and pie for dessert. Our thoughtful kitchen team went above and beyond to make the day special. We all have so much to be grateful for.



Boarding Experience

Watch Sarah's interview on the boarding experience. Scan the QR Code.



2025 has been a wonderful year. Students participated in outdoor games, played and built meaningful friendships. Upon reflection I imagine that the boarding students participated in many of the same games and outdoor fun over the last year as the students did back in 1979 when the school opened.

Sarah Leopold
Student Life Director



ALUMNUS SPOTLIGHT

Owen Mummary

My family moved from Southern Ontario in 2014 after my mother had heard about Landmark from a friend. At that time, the local middle school I was attending had lost its funding and was being shut down. Posing quite the decision for my family, deciding to move to Nova Scotia in the hopes that Landmark could provide the kind of help I needed at the time.

At the time of my enrolment with Landmark, my reading level was several grades behind what it should've been due to struggling with dyslexia in years past. I wasn't engaged in class and typically teachers allowed me to use text-to-speech as a workaround for my inadequate reading level. Though that may have been an attempt to help, I never felt that those teachers ever tried to truly address the root issue in how I learn.



Some of the bright spots and memories that come to mind when I think about my time at Landmark arise from many of the extracurricular activities I had the opportunity to partake in. I remember the science fair, testing seawater buoyancy, measuring CO₂ content in carbonated drinks, and even feeding my classmates an array of food to determine the relation between taste and smell.

Fondly remembering the chopped liver throwing most 'test-participants' off quite a bit. Other memories come from getting to be in school plays and the array of sports that were available. Definitely the prime of my basketball career, if you could call it that.

In the fall of 2017, I attended Horton High School from grades 10-12, graduating with honours in the spring of 2020. Following such, during the uncertainty of the 2020 pandemic, I decided to enrol at NSCC from the fall of that year to the spring of 2022, taking Energy Sustainability Engineering Technologies (ESET). Having heard of transfer program opportunities, I decided to pursue my undergraduate studies at Acadia University, with a major in Environmental and Sustainability Studies (ESST) with a minor in engineering.

Currently, I work at a local engineering firm that specializes in energy services within the construction industry. Working on various sustainability-focused projects that range from renewable energy assessments to whole-building efficiency revaluations.

Outside of work, I usually enjoy spending time with friends and family. When I'm not, I typically like to put some time into making doodles and drawing characters. I've also picked up rock climbing as a hobby, which lets me spend that downtime in an active manner.

The last thing I'd like to mention is thank you to all the staff who've dedicated their all to ensure that kids at LME get the attention and type of education they need. If I hadn't moved to Nova Scotia to attend such an amazing school, I can assure you that I would not be the kind of person I am today.

The Great Nova Scotia Pick-Me-Up

In May, the students and staff of Landmark East School participated in the Great Nova Scotia Pick-Me-Up event. For many years this community-wide litter pick up has been one of the much-anticipated events in our school calendar. Landmark East School members helped the town of Wolfville and community look great again by collecting garbage and debris left over from the winter months. We look forward to being part of this province-wide action now associated with the Nova Scotia Adopt-a-Highway program. Students and staff reviewed safe cleanup practices and waste sorting information at a special assembly before the clean-up.

Landmark East remains committed to developing a school culture that embraces active citizenship and encourages acts of volunteerism in our local community. The Great Nova Scotia Pick-Me-Up gives us an opportunity to help our neighbours and the environment.



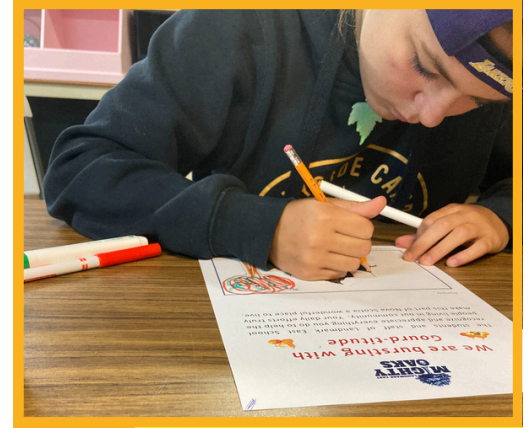
THANK YOU! DAY



Thank You Day is a long tradition of Landmark East School giving back and thanking the community for its ongoing support of one another.

In October, the entire school gave back to the community by volunteering time at the following businesses: Kingswood Camp, The Flower Cart, L'Arche Homefires, the Anglican Church, and Dragonfly Haven Therapeutic Farm. Students and staff were given assigned tasks to do that would help the specific business they visited by completing a day-to-day routine or help with a special project.

Some students made special Thank You Day cards, others made gourds, parent volunteers baked cookies, and students and staff packed up special thank you parcels and delivered them to our community businesses.



Fougere and Friends 4th Annual Charity Concert

In April, Fougere and Friends performed at the beautiful Acadia Festival Theatre in support of the Landmark East Student Bursary fund with Darrin Harvey as the evening's MC!

The Band included Shawn Cottrell (bass and guitar), John Lohnes (drums), Josh McIsaac (lead and rhythm guitar), and Karen Fougere (guitar and vocals). SPECIAL GUESTS included:

Shannon Callaghan (Alto Sax), Judy Rafuse (Vocals), Ruth Manning and Ray Baltzer (Vocals). All performers had a direct or indirect connection to Landmark East School.



Watch the concert video scan the QR Code.



The Evening's MC
Darrin Harvey
The Morning Show
89.3 Rewind



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



SPONSORS



Sun Life
Gregory Rice*
Carriage House
Financial Services Inc.
gregory.rice@sunlife.com



16th Annual Charity Golf Tournament

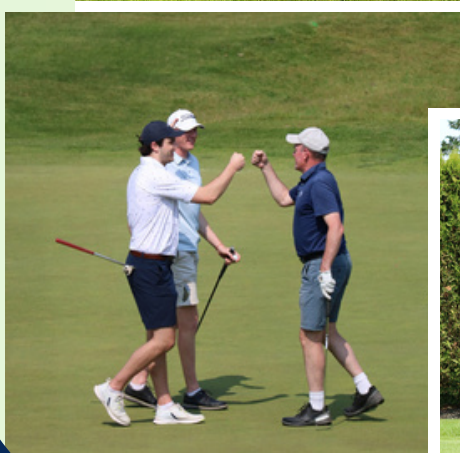
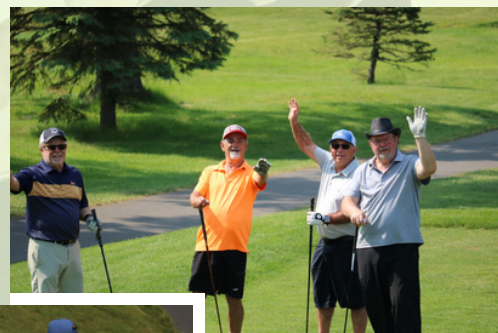
One of the major fundraisers of the Landmark East Foundation is the annual golf tournament in support of student bursaries. This past year, we celebrated 16 years of the Landmark East Foundation Annual Charity Golf Classic which was hosted at KenWo Golf Club in New Minas.

Mackay Real Estate was Landmark East Foundation's title sponsor again this past year and invited all the players for a BBQ hamburger/hotdog and snack before they teed off. At the end of the tournament participants enjoyed a rib dinner and prizes.



The annual golf tournament typically raises between \$30,000-\$40,000 which goes to support many students who need Landmark East School to unlock their full potential.

A special thank you to all of our sponsors and players - we look forward to seeing you again on June 5th, 2026!



23rd Charity Annual Walkathon



The Walkathon is one of our premier fundraising events in support of student bursaries. Judy Rafuse, Landmark East Foundations' Fundraising Coordinator, organized another very successful event! Canvassing is the major method of collection - students and families canvass in their neighbourhoods and boarding students cavass in the areas around the school.

Canvassing is not only a great way to collect bursary money, but it is also a great way to share with the community more about the life changing experiences Landmark East School has to offer.

Home Hardware was the title sponsor again this year. Other sponsors included: Wolfville Independent, We're Outside, and Supplement King. We are very appreciative of all our sponsors!

THE 23rd ANNUAL LANDMARK EAST FOUNDATION WALKATHON
FOR STUDENT BURSARIES

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28TH

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

TITLE SPONSOR

ONE STORE FIVE LOCATIONS

Rafuse 902-542-2211
Maple Leaf 902-582-3060
Berwick 902-538-8000
Rockwell 902-678-2124
Highland 902-863-6242

SPONSORS

We're Outside
Outdoor Outfitters

LANDMARK EAST Landmark East School empowers students with learning differences to help them unlock their full potential. For more information, please visit landmarkeast.org

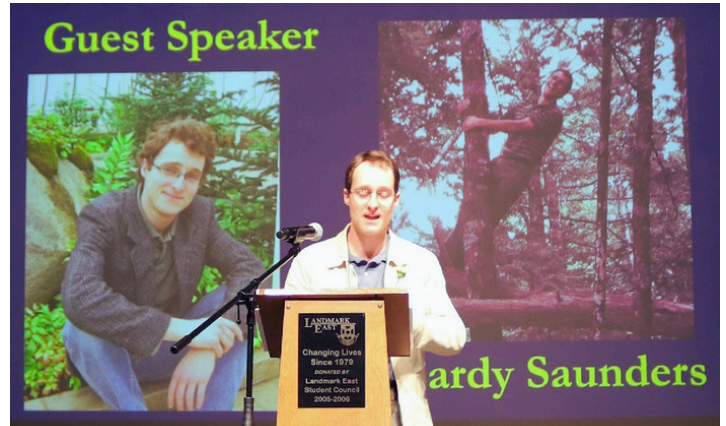


Landmark East School's 27th Graduation and 46th Closing Ceremonies



Class of 2025

Mark Fournier, Layla Alders, Aiden Lohnes, Lucy Ducarme, Benjamin Walker, Gemma Wilson, and Damian Gomez



Cardy Saunders, BScH
Landmark East Class of 2012

Guest Speaker and Alumnus - Cardy Saunders, BScH

To watch Cardy's full inspiring speech scan the QR Code.



Cardy spent the first sixteen years of his life in Bermuda. He was diagnosed with ADHD in his youngest years, and Asperger Syndrome a little later. Cardy came to Landmark East School in 2010 and graduated in 2012 with Honours as well as serving as Valedictorian. Cardy attended Acadia University and received a bachelor's degree with Honours in Biology in 2017. During his undergraduate years, he wrote and published his thesis concerning the use of tree lichens as indicators of air pollution and developed custom research equipment which is still in regular use at Acadia. He also worked with Access Acadia, a service that provides accessibility accommodations to students who learn differently. From 2020-2022, Cardy conducted research at Acadia University and assisted in the development of custom equipment for remote-sensing applications in the renewable energy sector. Cardy has since devoted the majority of his energy towards the growth of his business, CHS Labs, which experiences high market demand.

Excerpts from Cardy's Speech

"I'm a firm believer in the concept that everyone has a 'gift' - something they are innately good at (wired for, you could say). The challenge is in finding it - some never do -, but if you DO find it, it's locked-in and it becomes a core part of your being. Hold-on to your gift too, and build upon it still further: you CAN become a master of it. ..."

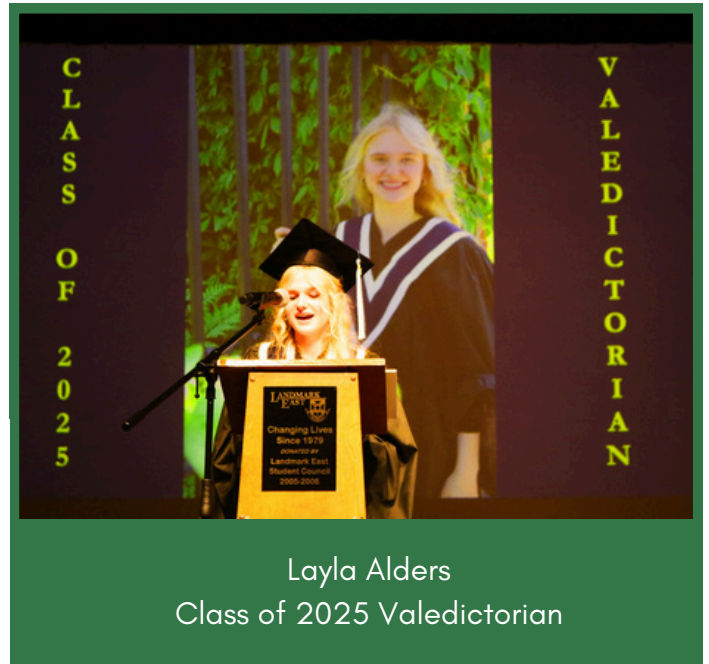
"By our nature, we are dual-standard individuals: We operate in our own particular way, but by necessity we must also operate with an understanding of the neurotypical ways of society. The general population may be able to do the latter more perfectly than we can, but they - by and large - cannot see things at all easily from our viewpoints. This is a situation where we who learn and think differently - we, the proverbial underdog - truly have teeth."



Presentation of Awards



Determination Certificates are presented to students at the closing and graduation ceremony who have shown they are committed and engaged learners. These students consistently exhibit determination through the demonstration of the attributes of success including self awareness, perseverance, pro-activity, goal setting, and use of emotional coping strategies, as well as support systems.



Layla Alders
Class of 2025 Valedictorian



Changing lives with determination!

Tuition Support For Nova Scotia Families

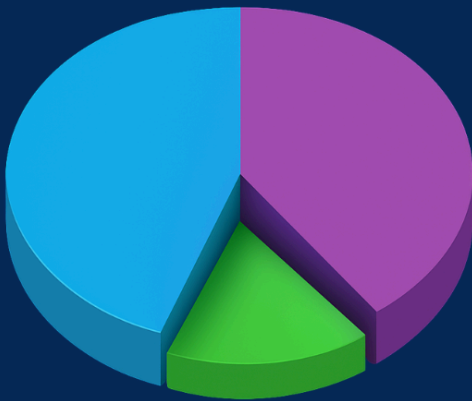


A Life Changing Education
is more affordable than you might think!

Students with diagnosed learning differences who qualify for the Tuition Support Program receive 44% applied to their tuition (\$15,100).
Remaining Tuition: \$19,300

Plus, a supplement of up to an additional 44% is available for income qualified families (\$15,100).
Remaining Tuition
Between: \$4,200 to \$19,300

Remaining Tuition minus
Landmark East Bursary or other
sources of funding
(PWD, Rotary, Lions Clubs, etc.)
Between: \$0 to \$4,200



Landmark East School empowers students who have learning differences and helps them unlock their full potential. Our rolling admissions process allows students to join when the time is right for them. We take the time to get to know each student and make sure we're the right place to help them grow and find their success. Our Admissions Team is ready to answer any questions you have about Landmark East School and can help guide you through the application process.



Changing lives with determination!

Spreading The Word

About Landmark East!

A look back at how we promoted our school in 2025

There were plenty of ways to tell people about our wonderful school this year, out in the community...
...in great local publications like The Grapevine and Valley Faces Magazine...
...and online!

Valley Faces of Business Rotary



LANDMARK EAST SCHOOL

Changing the lives of students with learning differences since 1979!

Contact admissions@landmarkeast.org

LANDMARKEAST.org



THE GRAPEVINE



LANDMARK EAST

Changing Lives



A school where learning differences become strengths!

My child doesn't like to ~~miss a~~ miss a speak in class.

Various Online Social Platforms



LANDMARK EAST SCHOOL

OPEN HOUSE

Wednesday, November 19, 2025

5:30 PM - 7:00 PM

708 Main Street, Wolfville

LANDMARK EAST



Changing Lives

RSVP: admissions@landmarkeast.org or 

Join us for a tour and learn how Landmark East School empowers students with learning differences to help them unlock their full potential.



CONTACT

admissions@landmarkeast.org

Landmark East School empowers students with diagnosed learning differences to help them unlock their full potential.



Learn how Landmark East School can make a difference in your child's education.

We're celebrating 46+ years of changing lives.

Videos - Back to School, Parent Testimonials, Events and more...



BACK-TO-SCHOOL ANXIETY?

LANDMARK EAST SCHOOL

Changing Lives since 1979

landmarkeast.org

We specialize in teaching students with diagnosed learning differences.



Thankful Believe kindness

MIGHTY OAKS

To watch these videos and others, visit the Landmark East School YouTube Channel or scan the QR Code. [Youtube.com/elandmarkeastschool](https://www.youtube.com/elandmarkeastschool)



Canada's Only Independent Day and Boarding School for Students with Learning Differences



Testimonials

“This school and its amazing staff are an absolute God-send! It made ALL the difference in the world for both my boys with ADHD. To see the confidence and self-worth grow, is beyond anything money could ever buy! If you are thinking of sending your child to Landmark East and wondering "is it worth it?" I promise you it's worth every penny.”

Sarah

“So many lives have been changed, actually I'd even go as far as saying transformed, not only for the child but the family dynamics. These children have so much potential and so much to give back to society - they just need the right people to teach them how to find their super powers. Thank you to all the wonderful staff at Landmark East for transforming so many young people's lives.”

Michelle

“A destination where your child or grandchild in my case can be surrounded by love & learning safely tucked into a safe environment with others like them and teachers and staff that love them as much as their parents & family. If ever in doubt, just attend a graduation in the spring. It's the most moving couple of hours watching the students blossom and the pride of the school's staff and the connection they have with each child. Just bring Kleenex. The best decision ever!” Linda

There are many ways for you to contribute and give the gift of a life-changing education:

Volunteer: on either the Foundation Board or the Association Board.

Legacy: wills and estates are a way to leave a lasting legacy of generosity as part of your life story, which in turn can inspire others to give back as well.

Donate: Many of our families make a donation to the school in their children's name or give directly to the Student Bursary Fund.

Donate by:

- E-Transfer to donations@landmarkeast.org
- Visa or MasterCard - please call 1-902-542-2237
- Other options are available for donors outside of Canada

708 Main Street, Wolfville, Nova Scotia B4P 1G4
Tel: (902) 542-2237
www.landmarkeast.org



Changing Lives