

École Shannon Park School

NEWSLETTER

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October 2025

Dear Families,

We had a great September and we thank you for your support as we had a smooth transition back to school. In our first week of school, we participated in Pink Shirt Day and our ongoing message to stand up against bullying. It was wonderful to see so many families join us for Curriculum Night and the Ice Cream social hosted by our Home & School Association. This month, we successfully practiced a fire drill, a lockdown drill, and a hold and secure drill. We had our first school assembly and our walk/run for Terry Fox. Teachers and students discussed Orange Shirt Day and took time to reflect and learn about Truth and Reconciliation. Teachers have been taking time to discuss our school Matrix that aligns with our new Provincial [Code of Conduct](#).

Communication between school and home is very important. You would have received an email from the PowerSchool system asking you to update your child's information through our Demographics Updates. Even if your info is current and up to date, please follow the instructions in the link and submit the form. The 'consent for publication' form is embedded within the student demographic link, as well as dismissal plans in the event of an early closure. If you need help completing this, please call the school and we will assist. Our School Lunch Program is up and running with some new menu items and we have a new provider this year.

Wishing you all a fantastic October filled with learning, growth, and memorable experiences.

Sincerely,

Ms. Gourlay and Mme. Hazel

Upcoming Dates: Click [here](#) for HRCE 25-26 Calendar

- October 1: Treaty Day - Culturally Significant Day - School Open
- October 9: SAC & Home & School meetings 6pm
- October 7, 8, 15, 16: Grade 6 Provincial Assessments
- October 13: Thanksgiving Monday - No School
- October 24: NSTU Provincial conference day - No School for Students
- October 30: Halloween Howl

October is Mi'kmaq History Month

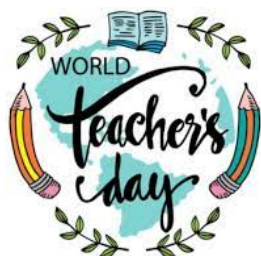
October is Mi'kmaq History Month, a time to celebrate and recognize the rich culture, history, and contributions of the Mi'kmaq people. In our schools, we can honour this month by incorporating Mi'kmaq stories, traditions and teachings into our curriculum. Activities such as guest speakers, art projects and cultural events can help students appreciate and understand the significance of Mi'kmaq heritage. Please join us in offering our respect, awareness and appreciation for the Mi'kmaq community and their enduring legacy. Learn more [here](#).

October 1 is Treaty Day

Celebrating and recognizing Treaty Day is an important way we can strengthen understanding and respect for Indigenous cultures and histories. It highlights the significance of treaties as living agreements that shape relationships between Indigenous peoples and the government. By educating students about Treaty Day, we promote awareness of Indigenous rights and contributions and encourage reconciliation. This celebration helps build a more inclusive and respectful society, where students learn the importance of honouring commitments and working together for a better future.



World Teachers' Day



October 5th is World Teachers' Day. World Teachers' Day started in 1994 and is now celebrated in over 100 countries around the world. We are fortunate to have such a fantastic staff at Shannon Park Elementary!

Grade 6 Provincial Assessments

Our Grade 6 students will be completing the NS Provincial Reading/Writing and Mathematics Assessment this month. The dates have been scheduled for *October 7th, 8th, 15th, and 16th*. Teachers are having ongoing conversations with students about the importance of being rested and having a good breakfast to start their day. Students have had some practice time before the administration of the assessments. If your child will be absent on the listed dates, please let your child's teacher know.

October 20-24 is School Bus Safety Week

Student safety is a shared responsibility! During School Bus Safety Week, everyone can work together to ensure the safety of students on and around the school bus. *Did you know that HRCE has more than 33,000 students who ride the school bus every day?*

School Bus Safety Week is a great time to remind students, families and schools of a few daily safety tips that everyone can follow to ensure all students get to school safely.

Bus Stop Safety

- Be on time for the bus and please don't run to/from the bus.
- Stand back off the road and don't push or shove when waiting at a stop.
- Always cross in front of the bus. Walk three metres (10 feet) in front of the bus to a point where you can see the driver and wait for the driver's signal to cross. Proceed to the centre of the road, STOP, LOOK & LISTEN and cross the road when it is safe.
- Never crawl under a school bus or cross the road behind the bus.
- Know the danger zones around the bus.



School Bus Safety

- Please respect and listen to the driver and avoid distracting them.
- Please keep noise levels to a minimum.
- Do not stand or move seats while the bus is in motion.
- Never put your hands, arms, feet or head out of the bus window.
- Ask the driver for permission before you open the bus windows.
- Do not throw anything inside the bus or out of the windows.
- Keep the aisle clear at all times when the bus is in motion.

Remember: In Nova Scotia, it's illegal to pass a school bus when its red lights are flashing and the stop arm is extended.

You can find out more information about riding the school bus in HRCE [here](#).

O Canada in Schools

In September, the Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Development shared a new provincial policy about the playing of our national anthem in schools. You can read it [here](#).

In keeping with this policy, we play O Canada at the beginning of each school day in our school. If you have any questions, please reach out to the school office.

HSA and SAC first meeting

Our next School Advisory Council (SAC) and Home and School Association (HSA) meeting will be Thursday, October 9th at 6pm in our school library. This is a great opportunity to become involved with our school community. If you are interested or just want to know more about each of these groups, please contact us to let us know; spes@hrce.ca

Medication at School

Students requiring medications at school must have proper documentation on file in the school office. Forms must be completed on a yearly basis so we have current information in the office. Over the counter drugs must also follow this procedure. All medication is kept in a secure location in the office and is given to the student by appropriate school personnel when required. Families should make every effort to give medications at home. Prescribed medication should be provided to the school in the original container dispensed by the pharmacy that is labelled with the student's name, the name of the drug, the prescribed dose, the administration time/schedule, the route the medication is to be administered, the expiry date, and the storage information. Please contact the school (spes@hrce.ca) if you require the proper forms.

Lunch Monitors

We are reaching out in search of lunch monitors. If you have or are willing to have a criminal record check/vulnerable sector and child abuse registry done and are able to help, please phone 902-464-2084 or email spes@hrce.ca and we can begin the process. Even if you are only available certain days of the week your time is appreciated. Thank you!



October is Canadian Library Month

October is Canadian Library Month, a time to celebrate our wonderful libraries and the Library Support Specialists who support our students. The third Friday of the month is Canadian Library Workers Day and the fourth Monday is Canadian School Library Day. Please join us in thanking our school library workers for all they do every day in creating safe and welcoming spaces, encouraging a love of reading and helping students succeed in school and beyond. Learn more [here](#).



Reminders

- Please, do not send nut or peanut products to school (this includes Nutella products).
- Please note that teachers are on morning duty as of 8:00am. Please do not drop off students before this time. Thank you!
- It is helpful to have a complete change of clothes in your child's backpack just in case of mud, puddles, or spills and it may save you a trip to school in the middle of your day.
- Please do not bring dogs onto school grounds.
- Please do not drive or park on school property. There is absolutely no driving/parking on school property for unauthorized vehicles without prior arrangements during the day. Please drive slowly and watch for crosswalks. *When buses arrive, do not drive, or walk around them.* This protects all of us and especially our students.
- Please request proper forms for the administration of any medications. These need to be completed each school year. Medications can be administered to students by school staff during school hours when we have completed forms on file at school. This includes over the counter medications.
- Please ensure that your child has indoor shoes for school and wears outdoor shoes/boots to help keep our school clean.