

École Shannon Park School

NEWSLETTER

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November 2025

Dear Families,

It's hard to believe another month has flown by! October was filled with learning, community, and celebration. We recognized Mi'kmaq History Month through thoughtful classroom activities and a meaningful school-wide assembly led by our Grade 6 student leaders.

Our Grade 6 students also completed their Provincial Literacy and Math Assessments, and the whole school participated in Bus Evacuation Drills to review important safety routines. We ended the month on a high note with a fantastic Halloween Howl, filled with creativity and school spirit-A big thank you to all our volunteers who helped make it a great success!

As we move into November, we are preparing for our Remembrance Day Assembly, a trip to Neptune Theatre for our Grade 4-6 students, and looking ahead to the end of Term 1 on November 21st, followed by Report Cards and Progress Conferences in early December and our Winter concert the afternoon of December 11th.

Warm regards,

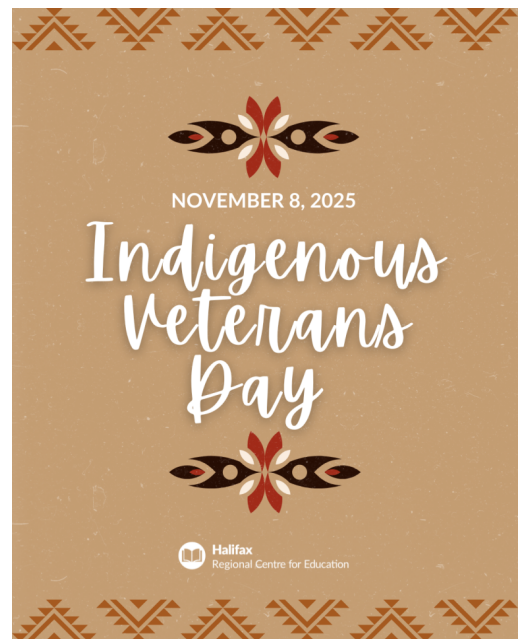
Ms. Gourlay and Mme. Hazel

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

- November 3: Picture Retakes
- November 6: SAC & Home and School meetings 6pm/7pm
- November 8: Indigenous Veterans Day
- November 10: Remembrance Day Assembly
- November 11: Remembrance Day (No School)
- November 20: Grades 4-6 students to Neptune: Wizard of Oz-*more details to follow*
- November 21: Assessment & Evaluation Day (No School)
- November 27: Home & School Family Event
- December 2: Report Cards sent home via EDUPost
- December 4: Teacher Prof. Practice & Progress Conferences (No School for Students)
- December 11: Winter Concert
- December 19: Last day of school for students before holiday break

November 8 is Indigenous Veterans Day

Indigenous Veterans Day is an important occasion to honour the sacrifices and contributions of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples who have served in the Canadian Armed Forces. Recognizing this day in schools is especially significant, as it provides students with the opportunity to learn about the often-overlooked histories and experiences of Indigenous veterans. By commemorating Indigenous Veterans Day in our schools, we ensure that younger generations understand the vital role Indigenous peoples have played in defending Canada, while also promoting respect, reconciliation, and a more inclusive understanding of Canadian history. This recognition helps strengthen empathy, respect for diversity and a greater appreciation for the many ways in which Indigenous peoples have shaped our country.



November 11 is Remembrance Day

Remembrance Day holds an important place in our schools as it provides a meaningful opportunity for our students to learn about the sacrifices made by veterans and all those who have served in times of conflict. Through ceremonies, discussions and creative projects, we demonstrate respect and gratitude for the freedoms Canadians enjoy. Observing Remembrance Day also helps students connect with Canada's history and reinforces the values of peace, tolerance and community responsibility.



Remembrance Day Assembly

On November 10 at 10:30am, the students of Shannon Park will be participating in a Remembrance Day Assembly. This event will be attended by our students and staff and will include a series of thoughtful presentations, including poems, wreath layings, and musical performances such as *O Canada* by our school choir.

We would like to extend an invitation to any serving uniformed members of the Canadian Forces, RCMP, Halifax Regional Police, EMS or Halifax Fire to attend the assembly as our special guests. Representatives of the Legion and local Cadet group have also been invited. If you are available to attend, please **RSVP by email to darren.tuck@hrce.ca** so that we may plan for seating and acknowledge your attendance.

Students, guests and staff are encouraged to wear uniforms or regalia if desired for the assembly. If you can attend, please arrive in the lobby by about 10:00am so that we can check you in and have seating available for you. Thank you in advance for your participation.

Preparing children for the Remembrance Day Assembly

It is important to help students understand what to expect at the assembly. This solemn occasion is an opportunity to honor those who have served. Here are a few ways to prepare:

- Talk about the importance of remembering the sacrifices made by others for our freedom.
- Let students know that the assembly may include moments of silence and that they are expected to sit quietly.
- If the music or themes feel heavy, remind students it's okay to feel sad or reflective and to talk about their feelings after.
- Explain that wearing poppies or participating in the ceremony shows respect.

Learning more about the Student Attendance and Engagement Policy

Did you know? [The Student Attendance and Engagement Policy](#) guides our approach to attendance and is in place to support all students. The policy states that regular, punctual attendance supports academic success, responsibility, and preparation for the future.

Ensuring regular attendance is a joint effort between students, families and schools. As a parent/guardian, you play an important role by monitoring attendance, communicating with the school when your child is absent, and supporting your child's regular attendance.



What Should You Know?

- Communication about absences
 - Schools will monitor attendance and lateness.
 - All absences must be communicated to the school, following the school's procedure.
 - If absenteeism or lateness reaches 10% of class time, the school will begin to engage more actively with the student and family.
 - If it goes beyond 15%, more targeted supports may be used (counselling, referrals, community supports).

What Can You Do?

- Monitor and encourage punctual, consistent attendance
- Maintain open communication with the school when absences or challenges arise
- Work with school staff to understand supports or accommodations for your child
- Be aware of the thresholds (10%, 15%) and possible consequences (intervention, loss of credit in high school)
- Remember: the policy allows flexibility. If your child has a legitimate reason for missing school (health, family issue, etc.), schools are encouraged to take a supportive approach.

Planning for Inclement Weather

Did you know? HRCE takes great care when making the decision to alter the regular operations of schools and school buses in the event of severe or inclement weather.

It is HRCE's goal to communicate any changes to the regular operations of schools and/or buses as close to 6:00 a.m. as possible. A 6:00 a.m. announcement could be:

- All schools are delayed in opening by two hours and bus pickups are delayed by two hours; or
- All schools are open, but some or all busses are not operating for the day; or
- Some schools (either individually or by family) are closed for the day; or
- All schools are closed for the day.

If weather deteriorates, or is forecasted to worsen throughout the morning, an 11:00 a.m. announcement could be:

- Bussed students will be picked up two hours earlier than their regular dismissal time; and
- Walking students will be dismissed at their regularly scheduled lunch hour.

How will I find out?

- By email to the addresses in PowerSchool
- By text message, if you have opted-in. If you aren't sure if you have opted-in, text Y to the following number: 978338
- [On the HRCE website](#)
- [On Instagram](#)

It's important to always have a plan in place for childcare in the event of any cancellation.

Please remember: As a parent or guardian you always have the choice of whether or not to send your child to school.

For more information on how HRCE manages during inclement weather, visit hrce.ca/families/cancellations.



Dressing for the weather

As the weather starts to shift we are getting a few colder days and some wet, rainy days too. Please make sure that your child is dressed appropriately for the weather. Even if it is a rainy day, we may get a break in the rain and have an opportunity to get outside. As the weather is colder, we still go outside. Soon we will see mittens, hats, snow pants, and boots!

HSA and SAC

Our next School Advisory Council (SAC) and Home and School Association (HSA) meeting will be **Thursday, November 6th at 6pm & 7pm** 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

Holiday Support

There are two resources that families can access when seeking holiday/winter support:

- 1.) Families can either call 211, or research 211 online and make an inquiry regarding the resources/programs that exist in the specific community/area where they reside. 211 will then provide them with the contact information for their area;
- 2.) Families can access The Salvation Army "Christmas Help" via the website, www.Christmasdaddies.org/christmashelp/. The website contains all the information that families need, to apply ONLY online and the documents that they need to upload, to support their application. The Salvation Army applications open on October 23 and close on December 8.

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!



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. All medications must be in their original containers; prescription medication with the current pharmacy label attached, and non-prescription medication to include the package documentation for guidance (*Parents/guardians are able to request from their pharmacy a separate labelled medication for school use*).
- Please ensure that your child has indoor shoes for school and wears outdoor shoes/boots to help keep our school clean.