

École Shannon Park School

NEWSLETTER

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April 2026

Dear Shannon Park Families,

March flew by as we kicked off Term 3 following March Break. We also ended the month with a three day visit from Discovery Center and their portable digital planetarium so that each class had a visit learning about space.

Report cards were sent home this week, and we are enjoying connecting with families during our Parent/Family Interviews & Conferences these past few days. We hope you all have a wonderful long weekend!

Sincerely,

Ms. Gourlay and Mme. Hazel

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

- April 1: Student Progress Conferences 4-6pm
- April 2: Professional Learning & Progress Conferences 1-3pm (No School for students)
- April 2: World Autism Awareness Day
- April 3: Good Friday (No School)
- April 6: Easter Monday (No School)
- April 9: Home & School Meeting 6pm & SAC meeting 7pm
- April 22: Earth Day
- April 29: Professional Development Day (No School for Students)

April 2 is Autism Awareness Day

Autism Awareness Day is an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the many strengths and experiences of autistic children and youth in our school communities. For families, it's a moment to reflect on the importance of feeling seen, heard, and supported – not just today, but every day.

In our schools, awareness is only the beginning. True inclusion comes from acceptance, understanding, and a commitment to meeting each student where they are. When educators, students, and families work together to build empathy and reduce barriers, we create environments where every child can thrive.

Recognized globally on April 2, World Autism Awareness Day, led by the United Nations, highlights the importance of improving quality of life and upholding the rights of autistic individuals. This year's theme, "Autism and Humanity – Every Life Has Value," reminds us that every person deserves dignity, respect, and the opportunity to thrive, both in school and beyond.



Today we celebrate
**World Autism
Awareness
Day**



Try Carpool Conversations with your kids

Looking for an easy way to talk with your child about their digital world? Carpool Conversations from Common Sense Media offers short, engaging prompts and mini podcasts designed to spark family discussions about technology, media use, and online behaviour. Many episodes are only a couple of minutes long, perfect for a car ride or while waiting for practice to start. Explore the conversation starters [here](#).

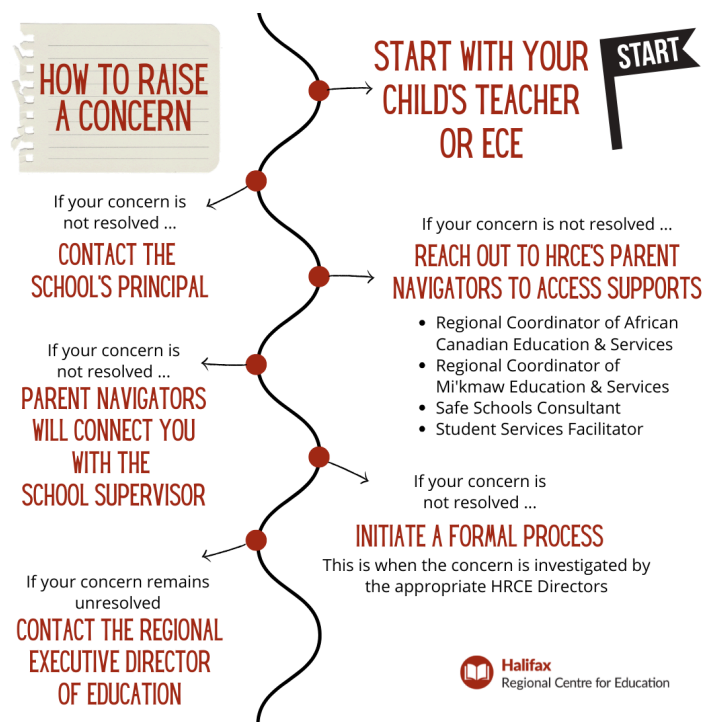
Do you know how to raise a concern?

We want families to feel comfortable reaching out when they have questions or concerns about their child's education or well-being. In most cases, concerns can be resolved quickly by connecting directly with school staff.

If you do have a concern, here are the steps to follow:

- Start by speaking with your child’s teacher or ECE. They are often best positioned to address questions about your child’s learning or classroom experience.
- If the concern isn’t resolved, contact the school principal to continue the conversation and work toward a solution.
- If you need additional support, HRCE’s Family Navigators are here to help. They can provide guidance and connect families with helpful resources and supports. They can be reached at connect@hrce.ca.
- If the concern still isn’t resolved, a formal review process can be requested and the matter will be looked into by the appropriate HRCE Director.
- The final step is for the concern to be reviewed by the Regional Executive Director.

You can learn more about the process [here](#) or by reviewing the [Parent/Guardian Concern Policy](#).



The “Amazing” Adventure Guide

[Unplugged Canada](#) encourages families to reclaim childhood by creating more opportunities for outdoor adventure, independence, and real-world responsibility. Research shows that children thrive when they spend more time exploring their

neighbourhoods, solving problems with friends, and contributing meaningfully at home and in their communities. Simple steps like walking to a neighbour's house, biking to a local park, helping plan a family meal or running small errands help kids build confidence, resilience and practical life skills.

Families can support this shift by intentionally creating space for free, unsupervised play and increasing responsibility over time. That might mean designating "no-adult" play zones, encouraging kids to gather in groups of three or more for creative play, or giving them meaningful household roles such as helping with groceries, cooking or caring for pets.

It can feel challenging to step back, but children build independence by practicing it. Families can make it easier by teaming up with other parents in their neighbourhood to create shared boundaries for safe roaming and outdoor play. For more ideas and practical steps, see the full guide: [The "Amazing" Adventure Guide](#) from Unplugged Canada.

HSA and SAC

Our next Home and School Association (HSA) and School Advisory Council (SAC) meetings will be **April 9** at 6pm and 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

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.
- Students are not permitted to use **cell phones** during the school day. If students bring cellphones to school, they must be turned off and in their backpacks for the entire school day.