

*École Shannon Park School*

# NEWSLETTER

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## **June 2026: online version here**

Dear Shannon Park Families,

As we welcome June, we want to take a moment to thank you for your ongoing support throughout the school year. Our students have grown in so many ways, and that success is a reflection of the dedication of our staff and the partnership we share with you. Whether you've helped at home, attended events, or volunteered, your involvement has truly made a difference in our community. We're excited for the joyful events ahead! Look out for a mid-June newsletter with details about year-end activities, staffing, and September planning.

Sincerely,

*Ms. Gourlay and Mme. Hazel*

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

- National Indigenous History Month
- Italian Heritage Month
- Filipino Heritage Month
- Portuguese Heritage Month
- Pride Month
- June 3: Grade 6 Fr. Im. information/orientation to Dartmouth South Academy
- June 3: Primary Orientation 12:30-1:30pm
- June 16: Field Day (raindate June 23)
- June 17: Volunteer Appreciation - more details to follow
- June 21: National Indigenous Peoples Day
- June 25: Grade 6 Closing 10:30 am
- June 29: Assessment & Evaluation Day-No School for Students
- June 30: Last Day of School

## **Bell times Change 2026-2027**

Beginning in September 2026, instructional time will begin at 8:10 a.m. and dismissal will take place at 2:00 p.m.

## 2026-27 Bus Information

Information about student transportation for the 2026-27 school year will be available to view online through the BusPlanner Parent Portal later in July.

Families eligible for transportation will receive an email to access the Parent Portal to view their child's bus information once it is available.

Once you receive the email, you must follow the instructions to activate your new Parent Portal account and create a password. Using previous Parent Portal login information will not work.

If you can't find the email, please contact [transportation@hrce.ca](mailto:transportation@hrce.ca) or 902-431-4723 for assistance.

Over the summer, the HRCE Student Transportation team will also reach out to new HRCE families and those families who may require special needs transportation for their children with more information about busing.

**Reminder:** The Student Transportation team is available to assist you and answer questions about busing all summer at [transportation@hrce.ca](mailto:transportation@hrce.ca) or 902-431-4723. When contacting the team, please ensure you have your child's name, grade, school name and student ID number ready. Your child's student ID number can be found in PowerSchool or on the top of your child's report card

**STUDENT TRANSPORTATION  
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**Halifax**  
Regional Centre for Education

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## Nova Scotia Loyal Farmers' Market Voucher Program

Once again this year, students across the province will receive a \$10 Nova Scotia Loyal voucher to use at participating farmers' markets. The program encourages young people and families to explore local markets, support Nova Scotian growers and producers, and learn more about where their food comes from. From fresh produce and baked goods to locally made products, the initiative helps connect students with their communities while supporting small businesses and strengthening the local economy. Families are encouraged to visit participating markets over the summer months and discover all that Nova Scotia has to offer through the [Nova Scotia Loyal program](#). Watch for these vouchers coming home soon!

## HSA and SAC

Our Home and School Association (HSA) and School Advisory Council (SAC) meetings have concluded for this year. We would like to give a big thank you to our Home and School members and all our volunteers for helping make our Spring Fair an amazing success. It was enjoyed by many and funds raised will be a great support for our students next year. Looking ahead to next year, 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](mailto:spes@hrce.ca)

## Listen to Lead: Year 2

Listen to Lead, HRCE's annual consultation, is more than just a survey. It is an ongoing commitment to partnership, continuous improvement, and ensuring our schools reflect the voices and experiences of the communities they serve.

Please take the opportunity to share your thoughts, feedback and vision for HRCE anonymously through ThoughtExchange: [Participate here](#)

The consultation will be open until June 4.

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## Be tick aware in Nova Scotia

After a long and snow-filled winter, we're finally headed toward summer – a season when many people spend time at Nova Scotia's beautiful beaches, parks, and wooded areas. However, we need to be mindful of the presence of ticks and how we can protect ourselves. Nova Scotia is home to several kinds of ticks, but only blacklegged tick bites can cause illnesses like Lyme disease, Anaplasmosis, Babesiosis and Powassan virus. Tick-borne diseases can lead to serious illness, especially if they are not noticed and treated quickly. It's important that we all know what to do about ticks, so if you've asked yourself any of these questions lately:

- What does a tick look like?
- What do I do if I find a tick on me or my child?
- What symptoms should I be aware of?
- How can I prevent ticks?

Visit [NovaScotia.ca/TickSafety](https://NovaScotia.ca/TickSafety) to learn more.



## Operation Landline by Unplugged Canada

[Unplugged Canada](#) has launched a new resource called [Operation Landline](#), designed to help families reconnect kids with safe, healthy communication, without the pressures and distractions of smartphones. The initiative encourages families to bring back the family landline as a simple way for children to build independence, strengthen social skills and stay connected with friends and neighbours in a safer, more intentional way.

Created in partnership with the Institute of Child Psychology, the [complete guide](#) includes practical tips for setting up modern landline options, teaching phone safety

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and etiquette, and even creating a family phonebook together. Families are also invited to sign the [Unplugged Canada](#) pledge to help create a new community norm around delaying smartphones and supporting connected childhoods.

## Tips to support reading and writing at home

As parents and caregivers, you play one of the most important roles in helping your child become a strong, confident reader and writer. What you do at home can make a big difference in your child’s success in school and beyond. When reading and writing become part of family routines – like bedtime stories, writing notes to each other, or making shopping lists together – children see them as enjoyable and meaningful activities.

Here are some ideas and tips:

### 1. Create a dedicated writing space

Set up a quiet, well-lit area where your child can focus. Stock your writing center with essentials like paper, pencils, crayons, and even fun extras like family photos and old magazines to spark creativity.



### 2. Read often

Reading is one of the best ways to become a better writer. When children read a variety of books, they naturally absorb vocabulary, grammar, and different writing styles. Encourage daily reading to build their language skills and inspire their own writing.

### 3. Encourage reflective journaling

A journal is a great outlet for expressing thoughts and feelings. Prompt your child to write about everyday events at home and school. Suggest using sensory details – what they saw, heard, or felt. This helps develop descriptive writing. Provide real-life experiences that they can later write about. Remember, only read their journal if invited – and always respond with encouragement and thoughtful feedback.

### 4. Offer real-world writing opportunities

Help your child see writing as a practical skill. Let them write thank-you notes, grocery lists, birthday invitations or letters to family. Consider finding a pen pal to make writing

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feel more authentic and fun.

#### 5. Be a writing role model

Let your child see you writing too! Whether it's a grocery list, an email or a note to a friend, show how writing fits into everyday life. Talk about the purpose of different types of writing and their audiences. Try having a "family writing night" where everyone writes and shares together.

#### 6. Start a vocabulary notebook

Introduce a few new words each week and encourage your child to use them in writing and conversation. Turn it into a game for using words creatively.

## 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.