

École Shannon Park School Newsletter

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September 2026

Dear Families,

Welcome Back to School! We are off to a wonderful start after our first few days together. As we kick off September, our classrooms are focused on building strong relationships and establishing daily routines to create a safe, supportive learning environment. Please review this month's newsletter to stay updated on all the great things happening at Shannon Park Elementary!

Sincerely,

Ms. Gourlay and Mme. Hazel

Upcoming Dates: Click [here](#) for HRCE 26-27 Calendar

- September 8: Lunch Program starts
- September 10: Stand Up Against Bullying-Pink Shirt Day
- September 10 : Home & School and SAC meetings 6pm School Library
- September 17: Curriculum Night (more details to follow)
- September 18: Terry Fox Walk
- September 25: Professional Development Day-No School for Students
- September 29-Observe Orange Shirt Day
- September 30: National Day for Truth & Reconciliation - No School
- October 1: Treaty Day - Culturally Significant Day -School Open
- October 1 & 2: School Picture Days
- October 12: Thanksgiving Day - No School
- October 23: NSTU Provincial conference day - No School for Students

Morning Drop Off and After School Dismissal

Primary-Grade 6 students can arrive at school at 7:50 am and will be outside with teacher supervision. There is no supervision prior to this time. At 8:05 am the bell will ring and students will come inside and go to their classes for an 8:10 am start time. Dismissal time is 2:00pm and classes will dismiss from their designated doors. Pre-Primary students can be dropped off at their doors at 8:10 am and will be dismissed from their designated doors at 2:00pm.

Recess and Lunch

We will be outside in various types of weather for recess and lunch, so please dress your child to be comfortable for the weather outside. Recess is supervised by our teachers. During lunch, students have 25 minutes for eating and 25 minutes of outside play time with our lunch monitors.

Stand Up Against Bullying Day is September 10

In 2007, Berwick Nova Scotia classmates David Shepherd and Travis Price bought and distributed 50 pink shirts after a student at their school was bullied for wearing a pink shirt. With that act of kindness, Pink Shirt Day was born!

On Stand Up Against Bullying Day, we come together to promote kindness, inclusion and respect in our school communities.

Every student deserves to feel safe, supported and welcome at school. On **Thursday, September 10**, we invite students and staff to wear pink, if they're able, and help show that bullying has no place in our schools.

Together, we can help create school communities where everyone feels they belong.

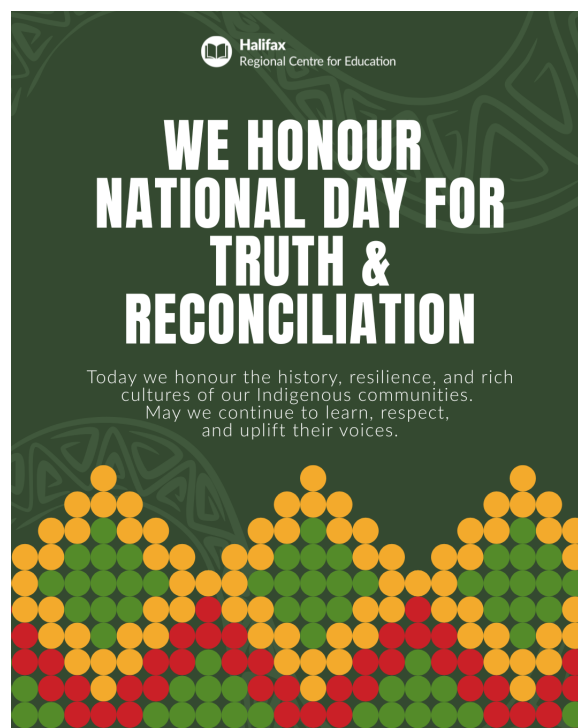


National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

On September 30, we honour the children who never returned home from residential schools, and the survivors, families and communities who continue to live with their lasting impacts.

Orange Shirt Day is an Indigenous-led movement that reminds us that Every Child Matters and encourages all of us to learn, reflect and support truth and reconciliation.

As there are **no classes on Wednesday, September 30**, we invite students and staff to wear orange, if they're able, on **Tuesday, September 29**.



Universal Screening in Reading

In September, classroom teachers spend time getting to know their students and who they are as learners. Like last year, schools will be using *Universal Screening in Reading* for Grade 1 and 2 students. This is one of the many ways teachers will assess learning.

What is Universal Screening in Reading?

It's a short (1–5 minute) activity that helps us see how your child is developing key reading skills. Think of it as a quick check-in on their reading journey, like looking at a map to see where they are and what might help them move forward.

Why do we do it?

The screening helps teachers understand children's strengths and where they may need extra support. This allows us to plan instruction, so students get what they need to succeed in reading.

Important to know:

This is *not* a test. There's no "pass" or "fail." It's a way for teachers to ensure students are supported in their learning.

Returning Student Registration From

The Returning Student Registration Form is for students currently enrolled in HRCE. Each fall, the form is made available to families through the **Power School Parent Portal** to collect updated demographic information. The deadline to submit the form is **October 5, 2026**

Using this form has eliminated the need for schools to distribute paper copies of these documents. This form should be updated by every family to ensure all information about your child is current, including contacts, medical information, consents and demographics. Even if there are no anticipated changes, please still review this information and submit the form.

Again this year, the form includes the following consents and agreements:

- Consent for Publication of Student Personal Information and Student Work (required annually)
- HRCE Technology Acceptable Use Policy
- Google Additional Services Consent

SchoolCash Setup

SchoolCash Online is an easy-to-use and safe way to pay for your children's school fees. You can pay for your child's yearbook, class trips and so much more, quickly and conveniently. Simply register an account to be able to pay in several different payment forms. [Click here](#) for more information.

Home & School and SAC first meeting

Our first School Advisory Council (SAC) and Home and School Association (HSA) meeting will be Thursday, September 10th 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

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!



Shannon Park Vision and Values & School Matrix

At Shannon Park we are a student-centered school where everyone is respected, included and celebrated for who they are. We value all cultures, identities and lived experiences, and we grow by learning from each other. We empower everyone to strive for their best and take pride/ownership in their learning.

Simplified PBIS Matrix – Shannon Park 2025				
Location	Respect for Self	Respect for Others	Respect for Environment	Respect for Learning
Classroom	Try your best Dress and act appropriately	Be kind and keep hands to yourself	Keep your space clean Use bins properly	Be ready to learn Use your materials
Hallways	Walk safely Stay to the right	Use quiet voices Share space politely	Look with your eyes Use garbage cans	Be quiet near other classes
Lunch Room	Use good manners Eat politely	Stay in your seat Don't share food	Clean up Sort waste properly	Use quiet voices Keep your area clean
Library	Work quietly Pick good-fit books	Wait your turn Use whisper voices	Return books on time	Treat books gently Be helpful
Phys. Ed.	Try new things Wear gym clothes	Share and follow rules	Use equipment safely Keep it clean	Listen and participate
Assemblies	Listen carefully Sit properly	Clap politely Stay still	Keep the space tidy	Sit quietly Follow the plan
Playground	Play safely Stay in your area	Use kind words Be a good sport	Pick up garbage Take care of equipment	Line up safely Follow rules
Bus	Be on time Stay seated	Use quiet voices Be polite to the driver	Keep your backpack tidy	—
Washrooms	Use properly Wash your hands	Respect privacy Use indoor voice	Throw waste in bins	Go back to class quietly
Arrival/Dismissal	Be on time Dress for the weather	Be polite to others Keep hands to self	Use the right door	Enter and leave calmly
Class Trips	Be a good role model	Respect adults and classmates	Clean up after yourself	Follow directions Use your manners

Head Lice

If your child has been in contact with someone who has lice, please check your child's head carefully to see if they have caught lice. Head lice spread easily, so if one person in the household has lice, others may have it too. A child with head lice may return to school after the first treatment. Please know that head lice is a common occurrence and we can all work together to minimize the effects. See Guidelines [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 7:50 am. 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.