École Shannon Park School

NEWSLETTER

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November 2026

Dear Families,

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

Throughout the month, students had their school photos taken, explored their creativity with Mr. Church, our HRCE Art Specialist, and we reviewed important safety routines during our bus evacuation drills. We finished October on a high note with a fantastic Halloween Howl filled with creativity and school spirit—a big thank you to all the volunteers who helped make it such a success!

As we move into November, we are preparing for our Remembrance Day Assembly and looking ahead to the end of Term 1 on November 20, which will be followed by report cards and progress reports in early December and our Winter concert the afternoon of December 16th.

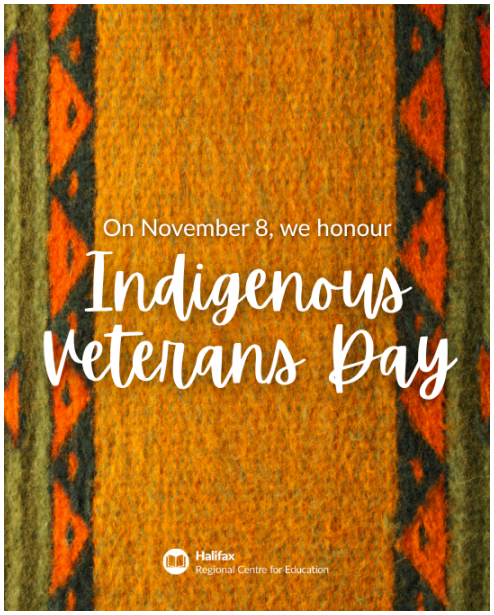
Warm regards,

Ms. Gourlay and Mme. Hazel

Click here for HRCE Calendar & here for Shannon Park Calendar

- November 8: Indigenous Veterans Day
- November 9: Picture Retakes
- November 10: Remembrance Day Assembly
- November 11: Remembrance Day (No School)
- November 12: Home & School meeting 6pm / SAC meeting 7pm
- November 20: Assessment & Evaluation Day (No School)
- November 30: Report Cards sent home via EDUPost
- December 3: Progress Conferences-evening
- December 4: Prof. Practice & Progress Conferences afternoon (No School for Students)
- December 16: Winter Concert (Grades Primary-2/3M)
- December 18: Last day of school for students before holiday break

November 8 is Indigenous Veterans Day



On November 8, we recognize Indigenous Veterans Day and honour the First Nations, Inuit and Métis people who have served and continue to serve in the Canadian Armed Forces. Indigenous veterans have made significant contributions to Canada's military history, serving with courage and dedication while often facing discrimination and barriers to recognition when they returned home.

This day is an opportunity to learn about their stories, recognize their sacrifices and reflect on the importance of ensuring their contributions are remembered and honoured.

We encourage families to take a moment to learn about Indigenous veterans and share their stories with the next generation. Learn more here.

November 11 is Remembrance Day



Each year on November 11, people across Canada pause at the 11th hour to remember. The poppy we wear, the silence we observe and the stories we share are ways of keeping the memory of those who served, those who never returned home, and the lasting impact of war alive for future generations.

In our schools, Remembrance Day offers students an opportunity to explore the meaning behind these traditions and consider what remembrance looks like today. As we honour the past, we also reflect on the importance of peace, kindness and understanding in our own communities.

We invite families to join Canadians across the country in taking a moment to remember.

Remembrance Day Assembly

On November 10 at 10:40am, the students of Shannon Park will participate in a Remembrance Day Assembly. This event will be attended by our students and staff and will include thoughtful presentations, including poems, wreath layings, and musical performances such as *O Canada* sung by our students.

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 sarah.covey@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 10:15 am 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.

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
- Non-bussed 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

On Thursday, **November 12th,** we have our next Home & School meeting at 6pm and our School Advisory Council (SAC) meeting at 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

Free screening of “ Your Attention Please”

Join Unplugged Canada’s Nova Scotia Chapter for a FREE screening of the documentary "Your Attention Please" on **December 3**, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the White Spruce Room at Keshen Goodman Library.

Parents, caregivers and educators are invited to watch this thought-provoking documentary about the impact of technology on our attention, and come together for a discussion on how we navigate this with youth in our own community. Please register in advance as tickets are limited.

Event: FREE screening of Your Attention Please
Date: December 3, 2026
Time: 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Location: White Spruce Room, Keshen Goodman Library
Cost: FREE
Register:
https://yourattentionpleaseNS.eventbrite.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!



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 <u>not</u> 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.