



GBES Newsletter

September 2025

September is off to a great start here at GBES! We are looking forward to a great year. We have lots of information and important dates to share with families, so please make sure you read to the end of the newsletter.

Important Dates

- ★ 8th - Breakfast program begins
- ★ 11th - Pink shirt day to stand up against bullying
- ★ 15th - Provincial lunch program starts
- ★ 25th - Picture day
- ★ 26th - Orange Shirt Day (observed) - **Please wear orange today!**
- ★ 29th - Professional Development Day - No classes for students
- ★ 30th - National Day of Truth & Reconciliation - No classes



Stand Up Against Bullying Day is September 11

On the second Thursday of September, we recognize Stand Up Against Bullying Day. On Thursday, September 11, we will celebrate inclusivity, kindness and friendship. All HRCE school teams are focused on ensuring all students have a safe and welcoming environment in which to learn and thrive.

Please join us and wear pink if you're able on September 11 to take a stand against bullying.

Demographic Form Updates

On September 9, the Demographic Updates Form will be available to families in the PowerSchool Parent Portal. 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. This information will then be reviewed by the school before updates are finalized. This deadline to submit the form is October 6, 2025.

Arriving on Time

As we begin a new school year, we kindly ask for your support in helping your child arrive at school on time. Our instructional day begins at 8:20, and we encourage families to establish a consistent morning routine to ensure that students are ready to start their day with us.

If you are facing any challenges that make punctuality difficult, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. We are here to support you and your child in any way we can.

Calling All Volunteers

There are many ways parents can volunteer to support our school.



• Field trips • Fundraising • Special events • Classroom support • Breakfast/Lunch programs • Reading with students • Assisting teachers with teaching materials • Coaching • School beautification • Gardening Committee • Chaperones

Please contact the school if you are interested in volunteering. We have a generous parent volunteer who is heading up our gardening committee. Please reach out to the school if you would like information on how you can support. To volunteer with our students you will be required to have a current Criminal Record Background Check and a current Child Abuse Registry Check. (within 3 months of starting the volunteer position)

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

Each year on September 30, National Day for Truth and Reconciliation honours the children who didn't return from residential schools, as well as survivors, their families, and communities.

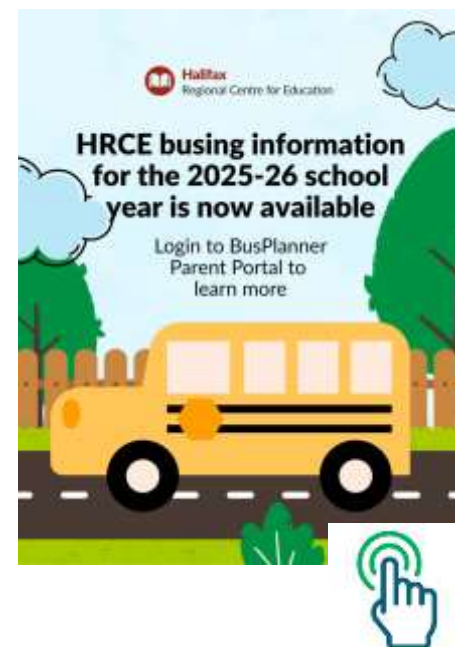
Orange Shirt Day, led by Indigenous communities, aims to raise awareness about the intergenerational impacts of residential schools and allows us all to show our support for the Every Child Matters movement.

As there are no classes on Monday, September 29 and Tuesday, September 30, we welcome staff and students to **wear orange on Friday, September 26.**



Using BusPlanner

Everything you need to know about student transportation including eligibility, stop times and stop locations can be found on BusPlanner. Once you register and subscribe, you can choose to receive email and/or text message notifications on changes to routes, bus delays or cancellations. To sign up, go to BusPlanner at hrce.mybusplanner.ca and click on Parent Portal. Follow the instructions to create an account. Don't have a BusPlanner Parent Portal account? Need help logging in? Please contact the HRCE Student Transportation Team at transportation@hrce.ca or call 902-431-4723.



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.

Do you know how to raise a concern?

Did you know that there's a protocol in place to help families contact schools or the HRCE office when you have concerns about your student's education or well-being?

- All concerns should first be shared with your child's teacher.
- If your concern is not resolved, you should then contact the principal.
- If your concern remains unresolved, you can reach out to HRCE's Parent Navigators who can provide information about a wide range of supports and resources or connect you with the school supervisor.
- If your matter continues to be unresolved, you can then initiate a formal review process in which the matter will be investigated by the appropriate HRCE Directors.
- The final step is for your concern to be passed on to the Regional Executive Director.

Click here to view the [Parent/Guardian Concern Policy](#).

Growing Greener Together!

We're excited to share that our school is partnering with Tree Canada to plant trees around our schoolyard for a national tree planting event! This special project will help create a greener, healthier environment for our students, provide shade for outdoor learning, and teach the importance of caring for our planet.

On September 29th, the GBES community will have the chance to get involved in the event. All of the trees and the planters are being provided to our school free of charge. Tree Canada partners with various companies that provide volunteers to take care of the planting. We will share more information with the school community as we get closer to the date and details are finalized. For more information on this project, please visit the [Tree Canada](#) website.



A Few Reminders...

Lost & Found - In just the first two days of school, we have begun to accumulate some items in the lost and found. Please have your child check the rack by the gymnasium if they are missing any items.

Students going home for lunch - Student safety is our priority. It is the responsibility of Administration to know where the students are at all times during the school day and to communicate the expectations and responsibilities for parents and students.

As part of our safety protocol, we have hired lunch monitors to supervise and ensure the safety of our students. We also have lunch time safety rules which are:

- Listen to the Lunch Monitors
- Be respectful of others around you
- Remain seated
- Ask permission from the Lunch Monitors to leave the classroom
- Clean up when finished eating (tidy any spills or alert the Lunch Monitors of any big spills, put garbage and recycling in the appropriate bins.)

Lunchtime supervision is only provided on George Bissett School Property. If your child is asking permission to leave the school grounds to go home at lunch, Parents are expected to please contact the school indicating that your child has permission to go home for lunch for that day.

Students are expected to check in the main office to indicate they are leaving at 11:50 am. Then, upon their return at or before 12:45 pm they must also check in the main office. Students are asked to use the main entrance to exit and return.

Food being delivered to the school - Please note, If food is being dropped off or delivered to the school for your child, it will be held at the office until snack time or lunchtime so as not to interrupt instructional time.

Change of clothes - Please make sure your child has a change of clothes in their school bag as accidents or slips in the mud and wet grass can occur.