



GBES Newsletter

November 2025

Welcome to November! 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

- ★ Tues., Nov. 4: Picture Retakes
- ★ Thurs., Nov. 6: SAC @6pm & PTO @7pm
- ★ Sat., Nov. 8: Indigenous Veterans Day
- ★ Tues., Nov. 11: Remembrance Day - No classes PP-12
- ★ Nov. 13-19: Transgender Awareness Week
- ★ Fri., Nov. 21: Assessment & Evaluation Day - No classes
- ★ Nov. 27: Golden Bee Assembly @ 12:50
- ★ Dec. 3: Report cards sent home

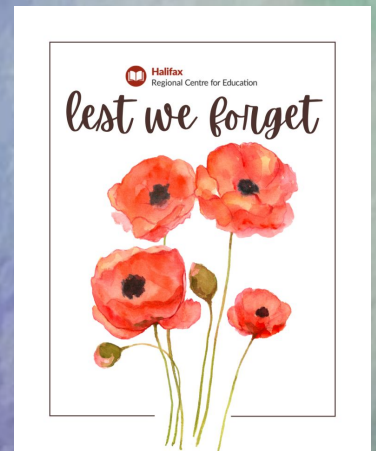


Parking Lot ~ Families are reminded not to drive into the school's driveway/parking lot during the hours of 8:00am and 3:00pm. Caregivers with mobility issues are welcome to enter the parking lot to drop off students. Please make sure you do not park in the parking lot or block any cars by double-parking.

After School ~ Our school property is used after school for the HRCE Excel Program. If you have a child that is not part of the program but comes back to the school to play after dismissal, please note that the Excel program takes priority over the school grounds. If your child is not respecting the rules of the playground or disrupting the members of the Excel program, they may be asked to leave or to go play in another area.

Holiday Gift Mart ~ The GBES PTO will be hosting a gift mart for students on December 17th. This event provides students with the opportunity to purchase gifts for their family members. The PTO relies on donations to make this event a success. If you are able to donate, they are looking for household gifts and ornaments, jewelry, gifts for men, toys in good condition, books, gift wrap, tape and gift bags. Please do not send in clothing. Thank you for your support.

Remembrance Day ~ November 11th is Remembrance Day, which holds an important place in our schools as it provides a meaningful opportunity for our students to learn about the sacrifices made by veterans and all those who have served in times of conflict. Through ceremonies, discussions and creative projects, we demonstrate respect and gratitude for the freedoms Canadians enjoy. Observing Remembrance Day also helps students connect with Canada's history and reinforces the values of peace, tolerance and community responsibility.

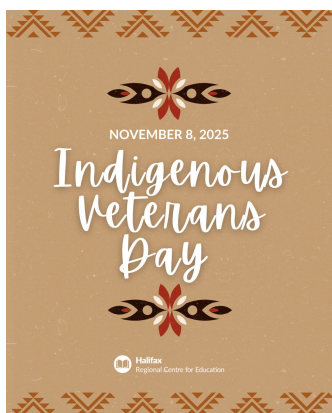


Assessment & Evaluation Day/Report Cards ~ Friday, November 22nd is Assessment and Evaluation Day for teachers. There will be no classes for students on that day. Report cards will be sent home the following week, before the end of the month.

Transgender Awareness Week ~ November 13th - 19th is Transgender Awareness Week, which provides an important opportunity to strengthen understanding and respect for the transgender community, to encourage inclusivity in our schools and to promote safe environments where all students feel valued and supported. Learn more [here](#).



Indigenous Veterans Day ~ November 8th is Indigenous Veterans Day, is an important occasion to honour the sacrifices and contributions of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples who have served in the Canadian Armed Forces. Recognizing this day in schools is especially significant, as it provides students with the opportunity to learn about the often-overlooked histories and experiences of Indigenous veterans. By commemorating Indigenous Veterans Day in our schools, we ensure that younger generations understand the vital role Indigenous peoples have played in defending Canada, while also promoting respect, reconciliation, and a more inclusive understanding of Canadian history. This recognition helps strengthen empathy, respect for diversity and a greater appreciation for the many ways in which Indigenous peoples have shaped our country.



Student Attendance and Engagement Policy

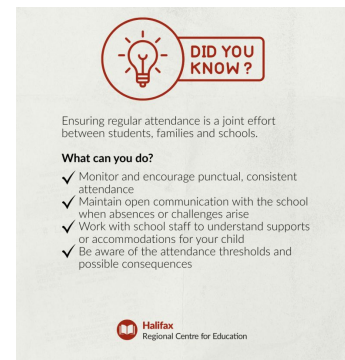
Did you know? [The Student Attendance and Engagement Policy](#) guides our approach to attendance and is in place to support all students. The policy states that regular, punctual attendance supports academic success, responsibility, and preparation for the future. Ensuring regular attendance is a joint effort between students, families and schools. As a parent/guardian, you play an important role by monitoring attendance, communicating with the school when your child is absent, and supporting your child's regular attendance.

What Should You Know?

- Communication about absences
 - Schools will monitor attendance and lateness.
 - All absences must be communicated to the school, following the school's procedure.
 - If absenteeism or lateness reaches 10% of class time, the school will begin to engage more actively with the student and family.
 - If it goes beyond 15%, more targeted supports may be used (counselling, referrals, community supports).

What Can You Do?

- Monitor and encourage punctual, consistent attendance
- Maintain open communication with the school when absences or challenges arise
- Work with school staff to understand supports or accommodations for your child
- Be aware of the thresholds (10%, 15%) and possible consequences (intervention, loss of credit in high school)
- Remember: the policy allows flexibility. If your child has a legitimate reason for missing school (health, family issue, etc.), schools are encouraged to take a supportive approach.



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
- Walking 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.



AI and your child's learning ~ HRCE teachers and staff are introducing students to artificial intelligence (AI) in safe and meaningful ways that build awareness, creativity, and critical thinking. Together, we can help our learners understand how to use AI responsibly and confidently in their education and everyday lives. This informational sheet provides you with starting points for conversations about AI and learning.

Supporting Students and Families: Unplugged Canada Resources

Unplugged Canada is a parent-led, national movement advocating for healthier childhoods by delaying smartphones and social media until kids are developmentally ready. Parents and caregivers are invited to explore resources, take the [pledge](#) to delay, and join upcoming parent events at unpluggedcanada.com.

The local Nova Scotia chapter is hosting a free community event for parents, caregivers and educators.

Unplugged Together: Raising Connected Kids in a Digital World

Learn about the latest research on how smartphones are impacting kids, safer alternatives to consider and tools to navigate the digital world with your family.

Hammonds Plains Community Centre
(virtual/zoom option available)

Sunday, November 2, 2025

6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Register: <https://UnpluggedTogether.eventbrite.ca>

UPCOMING FREE EVENT!

Unplugged Together:
Raising Connected Kids in a Digital World





Learn about the latest research, safer alternatives to consider and tools to navigate the digital world with kids

When: Sunday, November 2nd @ 6:30pm ADT
Where: Hammonds Plains Community Centre
(Virtual Zoom option available)

Register: UnpluggedTogether.eventbrite.ca
Connect with other parents!



Hungry for something fun? Check out the Nova Scotia school lunch

cookbook! ~ Hungry for something fun? Get cooking with the new cookbook *What's for Lunch? Nova Scotia Recipes to Cook and Enjoy Together*, a joyful collection of most-loved recipes from school food programs.

Proceeds from the sale of this book go directly to supporting school healthy eating programs in Nova Scotia, such as breakfast and snack, cooking clubs and school gardens. Learn more and order yours [here](#).

Whether you're a new cook, a young chef, or a family learning together in the kitchen, *What's for Lunch?* invites you to bake up a handmade pizza, create a picnic plate, make a big batch of breakfast sandwiches, or stir up some butter chicken! Each easy-to-follow recipe comes with tasty ideas for toppings, sides, and simple swaps to make it just right for you and your family.

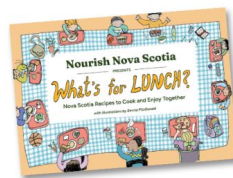
Within its pages, you will meet some of the inspiring folks behind Nova Scotia's made-from-scratch school lunches, explore where local food ingredients come from, and discover bite-sized fun facts to spark curiosity. Colourful illustrations by students at Oxford School in Halifax and beloved local illustrator Emma FitzGerald bring it all to life!



Cook up your favourite school meals at home

with Nourish Nova Scotia's new cookbook!

Within its pages, you'll find easy recipes, meet
inspiring lunch heroes, explore local ingredients,
and enjoy bite-sized food facts.



Get your copy of
What's for Lunch? here:



nourishns.ca/ns-school-lunch-cookbook

All proceeds from the sale of this cookbook will
support food programs in Nova Scotia schools.

Nourish
Nova Scotia

NOVA SCOTIA