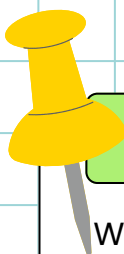


BACK TO SCHOOL

GBES SEPTEMBER 2026 NEWSLETTER



WELCOME BACK!

Welcome back to another exciting school year! We hope your summer was filled with fun, relaxation, and time with family and friends.

We are looking forward to welcoming our students back and beginning a year filled with learning, growth, connection, and joy. Thank you to our families for your continued partnership and support. Together, we can help make this a positive and successful year for every student.

Wishing everyone a wonderful start to the school year!

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

A very big thank you to our District 4 Councillor Trish Purdy and the GBES SAC for providing the funds to purchase school supplies for all GBES students! Please remember to send your child with a backpack, water bottle, indoor shoes, and a change of clothes. We've got the rest covered!



IMPORTANT DATES

- Tuesday, Sept. 1: Curriculum Night
- Thursday, Sept. 3: First day of school for students!
- Monday, Sept. 7: Labour Day - No classes PP-12
- Tuesday, Sept. 8: Breakfast Program & Provincial Lunch Program begin
- Thursday, Sept. 10: Picture Day & Stand Up Against Bullying Day
- Friday, Sept. 25: Professional Development Day - No classes PP-12
- Tuesday, Sept. 29: Observe Orange Shirt Day
- Tuesday, Sept. 30: National Day for Truth and Reconciliation - No classes PP-12



POWERSCHOOL

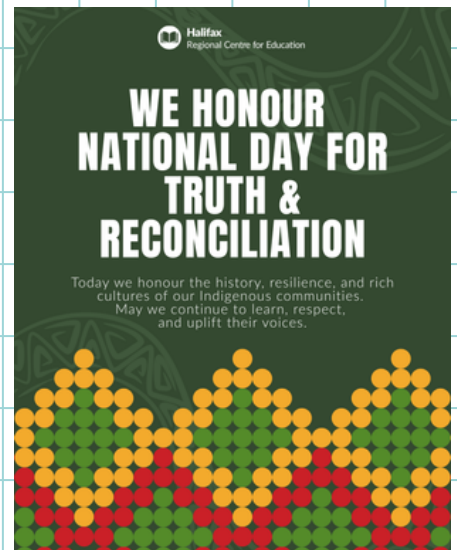
PowerSchool will open to families on Wednesday, September 2 at 3 p.m. In PowerSchool, you'll be able to view your child's teacher(s) and/or class schedule.

NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH & 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.



STAND UP AGAINST BULLYING

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.



USING BUS PLANNER

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 through the Transportation Inquiry Form [here](#).



NOVA SCOTIA SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM: ORDERING IS NOW OPEN!

We're looking forward to the 2026-27 launch of the Nova Scotia School Lunch Program! Beginning this school year, the program will be available in all public schools across the province.

Start date

Lunches at your school will begin on Tuesday, September 8.

Key dates for the first ordering cycle:

- Ordering opens: Friday, August 28
- Ordering closes: Wednesday, September 2, at noon

Registering and ordering

All lunches must be ordered through the online ordering system. To get started, visit www.NSLunch.ca and click "Order Now." Returning users can sign in using their existing account.

More information, including instructions on how to create a diner account, is available at www.NSLunch.ca.



ARRIVING TO SCHOOL ON TIME

A reminder that being on time each morning makes a big difference! Arriving ready to learn at the start of the school day helps students settle in, connect with their classmates and teacher, and begin learning right away.

We appreciate families making punctual attendance a priority and helping us get each day off to a positive start. Our instructional day begins at 8:20, so students need to be in the building before then to get settled and ready to learn. Thank you for your support!



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)

RAISING 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](#).



A FEW REMINDERS...

Lost & Found – As school gets started, it won't take long 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.

A NOTE FROM HOME & SCHOOL

Our Home & School team (formally PTO) is looking forward to another exciting year! We will be hosting an 'Ice Cream Social' on September 1, along side curriculum night. So stop in and have a delicious treat! 🍦

As always we are looking for volunteers who are willing to; lend a hand, share ideas, and help make our school events amazing.

Events Coming This Year

🎃 Halloween Howl 🛍️ Drop & Shop 🎁 Gift Mart 🎮 Bingo 🌸 Spring Fair

There are lots of ways to help, whether you can spare a little time or can take on a bigger role. Every volunteer makes a difference!

Everybody is welcome let's make this year one to remember!

Thank you,
Home and School