# GBES Newsletter

November 2026

## HOME & SCHOOL NEWS

Our Home & School Association would like to thank everyone who came to our Halloween Howl! Thanks to our amazing volunteers, we raised over $1500 for our school library, and everyone had a great time. The costumes were fantastic; our judges had a difficult time picking winners!

December is coming fast and furious.... We are now accepting donations for slightly used or new gift items for our Holiday Gift Mart. We are happy to accept housewares, men's items, children's toys, books, stuffies etc. Please no toy guns, no clothing and no used personal care items. We also require gift wrap and bags. Thank you for helping give our children a fun way to "shop" for their families.

## ASSESSMENT & EVALUATION DAY

Friday, November 20th is Assessment and Evaluation Day for teachers. There will be no classes for students on that day. Report cards will be sent home by Monday, November 30th.

## 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.

## CEREAL BOX CHALLENGE

GBES will be hosting a cereal box drive from November 3-24. During that time we will be accepting donations of unopened cereal boxes. On November 24th, we will create a cereal box domino chain in our gymnasium as a fun event for the students to learn about community service. There will be a small prize for the classes that donate the most boxes. All boxes will be donated to the Cole Harbour Community Fridge afterwards.



## SPECIAL DATES

- November 8 — Indigenous Veterans Day
- November 11 - Remembrance Day (No classes)
- November 13-19 - Transgender Awareness Week
- November 20 - Assess. & Eval. Day (No Classes)
- November 30 - Term 1 Report Cards sent home

# ARTSHINE AT GBES

We are very excited to have Artshine return to GBES for a 6-week art workshop for registered students. We had a number of students who participated in this program last year and they loved it! Classes are led by artists that come into the school and teach the classes. If your child is interested, please see the following information for more details.

- Registration is now open: Registration for the Artshine Winter I Program is now open. Parents can register and pay directly through our website.
- Direct Registration Link: https://app.amilia.com/store/en/artshine/api/Activity/Detail?activityId=b3d64Qv
- Program Times: Fridays, 11:50AM-12:45PM
- Program Dates: Nov 27, Dec 11 18, Jan 8 15 22
- Early Bird Promotion: All Winter I Programs will be 10% off from October 19 to October 22.
- Registration Deadline: Registration closes the day before the final class. Any registrations made after the session has started will be charged on a prorated basis.

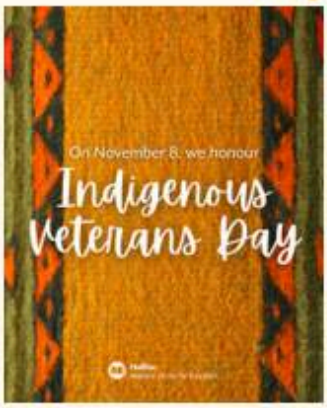


# INDIGENOUS VETERANS DAY

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.




# 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.

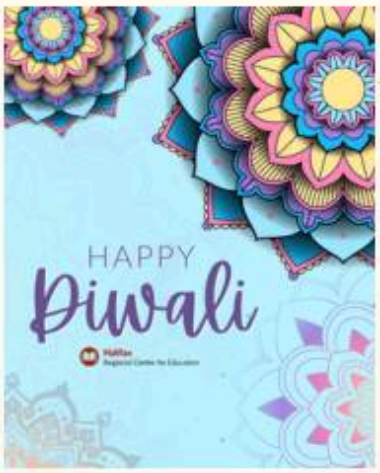
We invite families to join Canadians across the country in taking a moment to remember.

# HAPPY DIWALI

Diwali, also known as the Festival of Lights, is celebrated by millions of people around the world, including Hindus, Sikhs, Jains and some Buddhists. The celebration carries different meanings across traditions, but often centres on themes of light overcoming darkness, good overcoming evil, and hope, renewal and new beginnings.

Celebrations may include lighting diyas (small oil lamps), decorating homes, sharing special foods, exchanging gifts and gathering with family and friends. Diwali is an opportunity to learn about the diverse traditions and cultures represented in our school communities and to celebrate the many ways people find meaning, connection and joy.

We wish all those celebrating a happy Diwali!



# TRANSGENDER AWARENESS WEEK

Transgender Awareness Week is an opportunity to reflect on how kindness, inclusivity and understanding help create welcoming school communities where everyone feels they belong. Taking time to learn about experiences different from our own, listening with an open mind and treating others with respect can make a meaningful difference in someone's day and sense of belonging.

Families can help reinforce these values by encouraging children to lead with kindness, embrace differences and recognize that everyone deserves to be treated with dignity and compassion. Together, we can help create school communities where every student feels welcome, valued and supported.




# 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.

# FREE SCREENING: "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




# NOVEMBER PRE-TEEN EVENTS AT COLE HARBOUR PUBLIC LIBRARY

Betwixt & BeTWEEN is for students in grades 5-8. It's a lot like Teen Night, but for slightly younger kids. Every Friday afternoon from 3:30-4:30 we'll have a new activity, snacks, and friends. No registration required unless otherwise noted.

The upcoming ones are as follows:

- Nov 6: Diwali String Art
- Nov 13: Codebreaking
- Nov 20: Blood on the Clocktower (runs 2:30-4:30)
- Nov 27: Dirty Soda Dance Party

Club Queirdo is open to all students in grades 5 and up: while it is focused on queer teens, allies are also welcome. No registration required. Club Queirdo meets on the first Thursday of each month from 4:00-5:30.

- Nov 5: Wire Wall Art

Special Event: Puzzle Rehoming Reception on Saturday, November 14 from 2:00-4:00. This is an All Ages program. You do not need to bring a puzzle in order to take a puzzle. There will also be puzzle crafts.