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October is Mi'kmaq  
Heritage Month



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# October Newsletter

# Smokey Elementary

# School

Phone: 902-864-6838      Safe Arrival: 1-833-582-6940

Website: <https://sde.hrce.ca/>

Principal: K. Longard  
Vice Principal: C. Garrett  
Admin Assistant: L. MacNeil

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## Principal's Message

We had a very successful start to our school year. Students and staff are both excited to be back learning together. We had a busy month of September, including three safety drills (fire, lockdown and hold and secure), Stand Up Against Bullying Day, school photos and our third National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. October, being Mi'kmaq Heritage Month, promises to be another month of important and exciting learning for all.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to review this information. Communication between home and school remains a top priority at Smokey Drive.

Mrs. Longard

## PTA Fundraiser

The Smokey Drive PTA (Parent/Guardian Teacher Association) is putting on a 'Turkey Dinner' draw. A notice with tickets was sent home with students on Friday. On the notice it says that the winner will receive a frozen turkey, vegetables and a pie. In order to be more inclusive and respectful of the cultural and dietary needs of all, the winner will instead get a gift card to purchase their own items. Tickets are \$1.00 each. **Please send the tickets and accompanying funds (cash only please) back in by this Wednesday, October 9th.** If you would like to have additional tickets, just let the office know. The draw will take place at the end of the day and the winner will be contacted to pick up their prize. Ten runner up prizes of a buy 1 get 1 pizza coupon from Freeman's will also be provided. The winners of those coupons will have their prize sent home with the student who sold them the ticket.

The PTA thanks you in advance for your support of our students. If you would like to be a part of future events, you are invited to come to the next meeting on October 17th at 7:00 pm.

### **Outdoor Play**

Playing and physical activity is an important part of education. At Smokey Drive, we encourage students to get outside, and play with their peers at multiple times during the day, including recesses, lunch and outdoor learning opportunities. Please ensure that students are dressed appropriately for the weather each day. We go outside unless it is raining very hard or extremely cold. Students cannot stay inside when their class goes out as we do not have supervision for them. You may also wish to tuck a change of clothes in your child's backpack in case they get wet or muddy while playing outside.

### **School Advisory Council (SAC)**

The SAC is a group of parents, staff and community members who act in an advisory capacity to the school principal and Regional Centre of Education on a range of issues related to the school and school system. SACs play an important role in supporting student success at the school community level. We are seeking additional parent/guardian and community members so if you are interested, please contact Mrs. Longard at [KLongard@hrce.ca](mailto:KLongard@hrce.ca)

Our next SAC meeting will be October 17th at 6:00 pm here at the school. All parents/guardians are welcome to attend.

### **Mi'kmaq Heritage Month**

The focus of Mi'kmaq Heritage Month this year is food and its significance in Mi'kmaw culture.

Food gathers everyone together for celebration, nourishment and comfort. It is central to Mi'kmaw ceremonies, is considered part of their medicines and key to their resiliency. If you would like to learn more about it, please visit the link provided below.

<https://mikmaqhistorymonth.ca/>

## Up-Coming Dates

- Oct. 11 - PD Day - No school for students
- Oct. 14 - Thanksgiving - No school for students
- Oct. 27 - Conference Day - No school for students
- Oct. 31 - Halloween

## Important Reminder

- Do not send nut or peanut products to school. This includes items that contain peanut butter (i.e. Reese's Pieces) as well as Nutella (i.e. sandwiches or baked goods). We have several allergies at our school and we want to do all we can to keep them safe.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark these important HRCE dates on your calendar!

OCTOBER <b>11</b>	<b>NO CLASSES</b> Professional Development Day - PP-12
OCTOBER <b>14</b>	<b>NO CLASSES</b> Thanksgiving - PP-12
OCTOBER <b>25</b>	<b>NO CLASSES</b> NSTU Conference Day - PP-12

 Halifax  
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## Safe Dismissal

Please send teachers a note if there is a change to your child's dismissal procedure (ie, someone different is picking your child up, they are going home with a friend, etc.). This allows us to ensure that children are getting safely to their after school place. Also, students are not allowed to be on school grounds before morning staff supervision or after school without their own parent/guardian supervision.

## Picture Retakes

Picture retake day is Tuesday, November 5th. If you are requesting a retake or your child was absent on Picture Day, please let your child's teacher know.

## Lost and Found

We have accumulated quite a few items in our school's lost and found. We keep the table just inside the main doors. If your child is missing anything, please take some time to come have a look. Any items that are left at the end of the month will be donated.

## Coming into the school

If you are coming into the school building for any reason, please make sure that you check in at the office. Staff will make sure that students/items are dropped off or collected as needed. Visitors are not permitted to move throughout the school for safety and security reasons.



## Traffic Concerns

Please be mindful of the traffic on Smokey Drive as you are picking up or dropping off your children. There are no parking signs as well as a designated area for our buses. It is important that you move slowly through the area and respect staff who are there to protect students.

## Parent/Guardian Volunteers

HRCE values the many roles that volunteers play in our schools. We are in need of volunteers for a variety of different events throughout the school year.

In order to be able to volunteer, you must have a current Child Abuse Registry and Criminal Records Checks (with a Vulnerable Sector Check) completed within the last 6 months. We will gladly provide you with a letter to the Halifax Regional Police for a reduced cost for the CRC with VS.

Please click on the following link for more information or contact Ms. Lesley at the school office.

<https://www.hrce.ca/families/volunteering>



## **Halloween**

This year, Halloween falls on Tuesday, October 31st. More detailed information will be sent to families later this month regarding how this will look at Smokey Drive.

## **Food/Cutlery/Water Bottles**

Please ensure that you are sending in enough food/snacks with your child to last them throughout the day. It is also important that they come with any/all cutlery needed for those items.

Students also need to bring a full water bottle with them each day. This helps to limit trips to the water fountain during instructional time.

## **Family Dance**

On Thursday, October 24th, the Smokey Drive PTA will be hosting a Halloween Dance for families from 6:00-8:00 pm. Everyone is invited to dress up, but no masks or weapons please.

More information will come as we get closer to the event, however if you are interested in helping out, please click on the link provided below to sign up.

<https://signup.com/go/ADedkit>



## What is SchoolsPlus?

SchoolsPlus is a confidential, free service available in every school in Nova Scotia. Our goal is to build positive relationships between families, schools, and communities. We can help families navigate complicated situations when they are involved with many different services. This helps ensure everyone is communicating clearly and working on shared goals. SchoolsPlus can also help connect families to community resources and offers mental health support in schools. Contact the SchoolsPlus Facilitator for your school to make a referral. You can find additional information [here](#).



## Connect with us!

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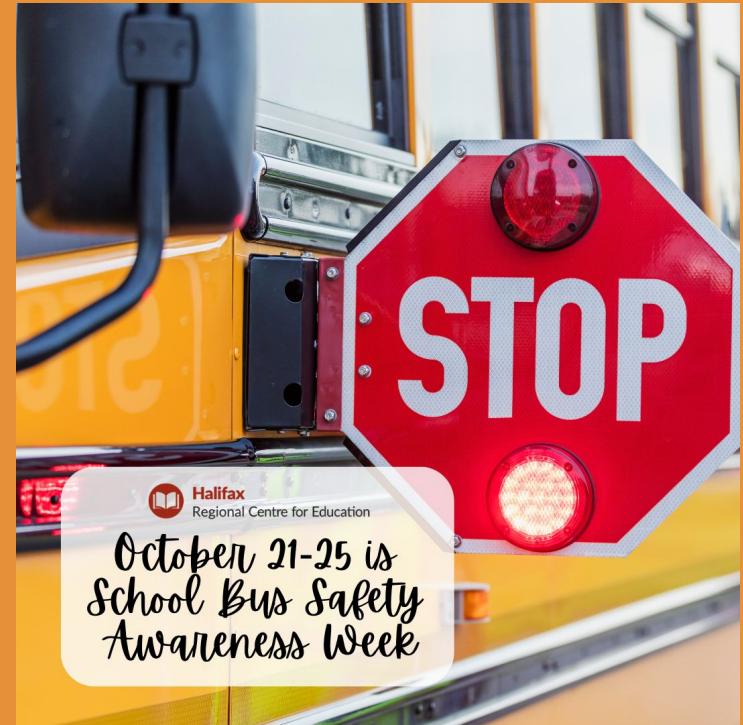
**Schools  
Écoles Plus**  
NOVA SCOTIA / NOUVELLE-ÉCOSSE

**Phone:** 902-464-2041  
**Email:** schoolsplus@hrce.ca  
**Twitter:** @HRCESchoolsPlus



## Bus Evacuation

Even though Smokey Drive Elementary is not a bussed school, we still practice bus safety to prepare students for any potential school trips involving travel by bus. This year's bus evacuation still will be taking place later this month. Once a date has been confirmed, it will be communicated to you. Consent forms are not required as the practice will be taking place on school grounds. HRCE bus drivers will review bus safety procedures with staff and students and will practice what to do in the event of an emergency. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this, please contact Mrs. Longard at the school.





## School Lunch Program

The Nova Scotia School Lunch Program will be launching at our school later this month on Monday, October 28th. The ordering window will be from October 18th-October 23rd. I met with our vendor, Scarlett House Atlantic Div. Inc, last week so that they could become familiar with our building and our school's needs and they are very excited to be working with Smokey Drive.

You will receive more information in the coming days but please click on the link provided below for how you can login to your account and set up a diner profile for each child so that you will be ready when the ordering window goes live.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j\\_z25C\\_3YBs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j_z25C_3YBs)



## Introducing the Smokey Drive School Snake

We have some creative members of our school community. Thank you for sharing your talents with us. If you haven't already done so, please stop by the planter by the fence at the front of the school and take a look at our newest member. You are invited to bring your own rocks to add to it if you wish. Please remind your children to look only with their eyes and not with their hands. Let's keep the snake growing!

