



November Newsletter Smokey Drive Elementary School

Phone: 902-864-6838

Safe Arrival Toll Free: 1-833-582-6940

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

Principal: K. Longard

Vice Principal: C. Garrett

Admin Assistant: L. MacNeil

Principal's Message

Welcome to November! November is always a great time to reflect on how much we've already learned this year and look forward to the next few months. It is also an important time to reflect on peace and freedom as we move towards Remembrance Day. Our school Remembrance Day observance this year will be an in-person assembly for our students and staff on Friday, November 8th.

In this newsletter you will find a lot of important information for our families. We hope you find it useful and informative.

Report Cards and Progress Interviews

Report cards will be sent home electronically by end of day on **Tuesday, December 3rd**. Please follow the steps outlined later in this newsletter to ensure that your most up-to-date email is in PowerSchool. Progress conferences will be held during the afternoon/evening of Thursday, December 5th. There will be no school at all for students on that day as staff will be engaging in professional learning in the morning. More information to follow on this.

Report cards and Progress conferences are not the only way that we communicate student learning and progress through the year, and they are not the only times you can speak with your child's teacher. Communication and collaboration between school and home are essential to student success.

Holiday Concerts and Events

This year's holiday concerts will be in-person events here at school. They will take place on **Wednesday, December 4th**. Classes will be split into two groups, each with an afternoon and evening performance. More information to follow on start times, tickets, etc.

Remembrance Day

This year to commemorate Remembrance Day, we would like to thank all of the present and past serving members of our community.

Our in-person ceremony will be Friday, November 8th for staff and students. This is also recognized as Indigenous Veterans' Day. Students are encouraged to wear their Scout, Guide and/or Cadet uniforms if they are members. They could also wear black or red clothing if they choose.

There will be no school for students and staff on Monday, November 11th as we all observe this day in our own way.



SAC and PTA

Our SAC (School Advisory Council) meets most months, and all school community members are welcome to attend meetings.

We are currently seeking additional parent/guardian and community members to broaden the voice and perspectives of our school community. You are able to access SAC Minutes posted on our website <https://sde.hrce.ca/>.

Our next SAC meeting will be held on November 21st from 6:00-7:00pm. Following that from 7:00-8:00, we will be having our next PTA meeting. All parents and guardians are welcome to attend.

Water Bottles

It is very important that students bring a water bottle with them each day to school. They are able to fill the bottles during the day but it is helpful if they come to school full.

Code of Conduct Reminders

Students, parents, teachers, support staff, principals, and school boards share responsibility for creating a school-wide approach to maintaining a positive and inclusive school climate where all students are supported to develop healthy relationships, make good choices, and achieve success in their learning. All members of Nova Scotia's school communities have a role to play in the awareness and prevention of unacceptable behaviour. The provincial school code of conduct policy applies to all public schools and school boards in the Province of Nova Scotia. All students and school members in Nova Scotia are required to follow this provincial school code of conduct policy, which is governed by the Education Act.

One of the examples of unacceptable behaviour that we are working on not having here at Smokey Drive is hands-on. We do not want our students to be pushing, pulling, hitting or throwing. We are encouraging them to keep their hands to themselves and to only use them for helping, not hurting. We would appreciate you reviewing this with your child.

If you would like more information on the provincial school code of conduct, please click on the link below.

<https://www.ednet.ns.ca/docs/provincialschoolcodeofconduct.pdf>



Updating PowerSchool

If you have not already done so, please follow the instructions below for how to update your child's information in PowerSchool.

Visit the PowerSchool Parent Portal at <https://sishrsb.ednet.ns.ca/public/>.

From inside the Parent Portal:

1. Select the student you wish to register along the top
2. Select the "HRCE Demographic Updates" icon from the Navigation menu on the left side
3. Enter the Date of Birth
4. Complete the form



I can't remember my login for the PowerSchool Parent Portal.

If you aren't able to retrieve your login credentials using the "Having trouble signing in?" link on the Sign In page, please contact your school directly for assistance logging in to the Parent Portal.

Do I have to answer all the questions?

No, but some questions are marked "Required" and must be answered before you can submit your form.

What if I make a mistake?

If you would like to make a change prior to submitting the form, you can either navigate back to the page using the "Previous" and "Next" buttons or if you are on the Review page select the underlined field. If you have already submitted the form you will need to contact your student's school so they can make the changes for you.

I've completed the form, now what?

Once you have finished entering your information select "Submit." This will send all of the information you've entered to the school. If you cannot select this button you will need to make sure that you have answered all required questions.

What if I have more than one student in the district? Do I need to do this for each child?

Yes you will need to provide information that is specific to each child. We recommend that you complete and submit one form and then start another. This will allow you to "snap" (or share) selected family information, which saves you time.

Building Access

If you are coming into the school building to drop off or pick up a child, please report to the main office. Family members are not permitted to accompany children to their classrooms. School staff will be happy to escort them if needed and can drop items off.

Weather Appropriate Clothing

Students should come to school each day dressed for the weather conditions. Students go outside multiple times each day and it is important for them to be dressed warmly as the weather gets colder. This includes a warm coat, a hat and gloves or mittens. We will go out in all but extreme conditions. We only stay inside if temperatures reach -20 degrees or lower (with the windchill). It is also a great idea to keep a change of clothes in your child's backpack in case they need them.

Lost and Found Items

Our lost and found items will be displayed for another week to give families a bit more time to come and look for any missing belongings. Any items left at the end of the day on Friday, November 8th, will be donated.

*Will school be
cancelled?*

HRCE takes great care when making the decision to alter the normal operations of schools and school buses due to weather.

Learn more at hrce.ca



Halifax
Regional Centre for Education

Upcoming Dates

- Nov. 11-- Remembrance Day - no school for students and staff
- Nov. 22--Assessment and Evaluation Day--no school for students
- Dec. 3rd--Report Cards emailed home (by end of day)
- Dec.5th--PD and Parent/Guardian-Teacher interviews--no school for students

Safe Arrival

If your child is going to be late or absent, please remember to call our Safe Arrival program. Excuse them absent for the day and it will be changed upon their arrival.

1-833-582-6940 (Toll Free)

Reminders

- Do not send nut or peanut products to school
- No pets on school property between 8:15 am-2:30 pm.
- Respect “No Parking” and “No Stopping” signs when dropping off and picking up your students.
- When the bus is stopped on Smokey Drive, please respect the stop sign/flashing lights by not passing.
- There is no parking available for visits to the school during the instructional day.

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.

Playground Safety and Supervision

Students are not to be arriving at school before 8:15 am without adult supervision and must come directly into the school after the bell at 8:25 am. There is no supervision for students before 8:15 am.

Inclement Weather and School Cancellations

In the event of school cancellation due to inclement weather and other exceptional circumstances, the decision to cancel school is made as close to 6 am as possible. Here are some ways you can find out:

- HRCE Website at www.hrce.ca
- Follow HRCE on Twitter at [Twitter.com/HRCE_NS](https://twitter.com/HRCE_NS)
- Call the information line at 902-464-4636
- Listen to the radio (all local radio stations)
- Sign up to receive text messages from the HRCE

At times schools may be cancelled by “Family of Schools”. **We are in the Sackville High family of schools.** In the event school is cancelled during the school day, the decision is usually made by 11:00 am. The school will contact all families to confirm procedures to release your children. Please ensure your child knows what to do in case of early closure and ensure that your phone numbers and email addresses are up-to-date so we can contact you. Students are not released until we have made contact with a parent/guardian or designate as you identified when you updated information on PowerSchool in September.

If school is cancelled during the day, we will dismiss students as per their parent/guardian instruction at 12:00. If you can avoid it, do not come to pick your child up early as this will result in congestion in the office area. Parents, guardians and caregivers are requested to wait outside their regular dismissal door at 12:00 for their children.

On days when conditions exist that it is not safe to open schools at the regularly scheduled time but it is predicted that conditions will improve, a 2-hour delayed opening may be considered. In this situation, students at Smokey Drive cannot arrive before 10:15 am and classes will begin at 10:25 am. Lunch and dismissal times will not be affected in this case.