
December Newsletter

Smokey Drive

Elementary School



Phone: 902-864-6838
Website: <https://sde.hrce.ca/>

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

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

Up-Coming Dates

Dec.3rd - Report cards emailed home

Dec. 4th - December Concert

Dec. 5th - Progress Conferences

Dec. 20th - Last day of school before the
Holiday Break

Jan. 2nd - Teacher Professional Practice
Day - No school for students

Jan.3rd - Classes resume

Principal's Message

It is so hard to believe that it is December already! Our staff and students have been engaged in so much wonderful learning this term. We have an amazing school and are thankful that you are all a part of our school community. On behalf of all of the staff of Smokey Drive Elementary, I would like to wish you all a fantastic holiday season and a very Happy New Year!

Mrs. Longard

December Concert

This year's concert will be an in-person event here at school. It will take place on **Wednesday, December 4th**. Each class will be participating in a daytime performance as well as an evening one. Please see the schedule provided below.

Tickets for the evening performances will go home the day before the concert on Tuesday, December 3rd. Due to capacity constraints, each family will be receiving two tickets to the appropriate evening concert. No tickets are needed for the daytime performances.

Many thanks to Ms. Tyndall and the Smokey Drive Team for organizing this event. It's going to be a fun one!

Group A Concert Times: 9:00 am and 5:30 pm

P Cody, P/1 Garland, 1/2 Walker, 3 Sparkes, 4/5 Belfield

Group B Concert Times: 10:30 am and 7:00 pm

P/1 Ball, 1/2 Toner, 2 Williams-Cooper/VanPoelgeest, 3 Garrett/Mole,

4/5 Hiltz, 5 Aucoin



PTA Gift Card Draw

The Smokey Drive Elementary PTA is excited to offer the opportunity to win your Holiday Dinner. The prize will be a \$100 Gift Card to Sobey's for families to purchase the dinner of their choice. Tickets will be sent home on Monday, December 9th with a draw date of Wednesday, December 18th. The winner will be contacted to arrange prize pick up. Tickets are \$1 each. Please send in exact change with your tickets.



Progress Conferences

Progress Conferences will be taking place on **Thursday, December 5th from 1:00-3:00 pm and from 4:00-6:00 pm**. These conversations to discuss student progress will be in-person meetings here at the school. On the pink form that was sent home, please check off the time frame that works best for you and every effort will be made to accommodate your request. If this date does not work for you, please let your child's teacher know and they will help make other arrangements. If you would like to meet with one of our specialist teachers, please indicate that on the form as well. If you have any questions, please reach out to your child's teacher.



Head Lice

Please ensure that you are checking your child's head frequently for lice. If you find any live lice or nits, students can return to school once they have been treated.

Reminders

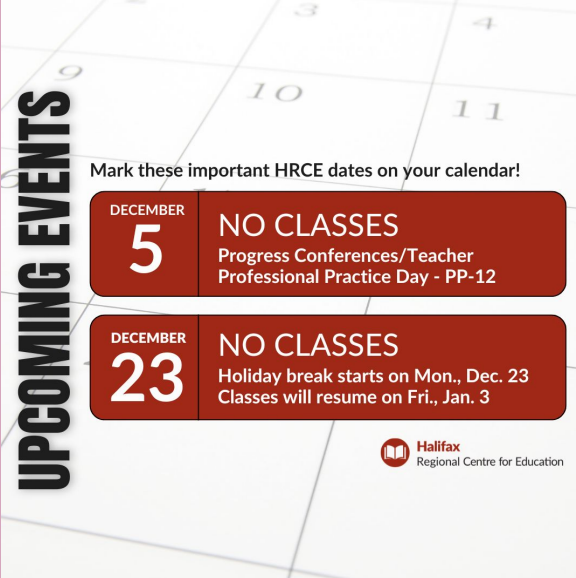
- Do not send nut or peanut products to school
- No dogs on school property between 8:15 am-2:45 pm.
- Respect "No Parking" and "No Stopping" signs when dropping off and picking up your students.
- Send a water bottle and any required forks/spoons with your child each day.

Safe Arrival

If your child is going to be late or absent, please remember to call our Safe Arrival program.

Toll Free: 1-833-582-6940


PowerSchoolPortal
SchoolMessenger App



UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark these important HRCE dates on your calendar!

DECEMBER 5	NO CLASSES Progress Conferences/Teacher Professional Practice Day - PP-12
DECEMBER 23	NO CLASSES Holiday break starts on Mon., Dec. 23 Classes will resume on Fri., Jan. 3

 **Halifax**
Regional Centre for Education

We're always hiring!

Did you know that HRCE has roughly 10,000 employees serving nearly 60,000 students?

Our job postings are updated every Wednesday at noon and feature a wide variety of career opportunities!

As HRCE grows, so does our staff. Check out new opportunities weekly at www.myhrce.ca/jobs.

Looking for a new opportunity?

We are ALWAYS hiring!



Halifax
Regional Centre for Education



SchoolsPlus is here to support you

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.

Parents, guardians and students (12+) can self-refer to SchoolsPlus 12 months a year! Just contact the SchoolsPlus Facilitator at your school. Call 902-464-2000, ext. 2331 or email schoolsplus@hrce.ca.





Playground Safety and Supervision

Students are not to be arriving at school before 8:15 am, without adult supervision. There is no supervision for students arriving early to play before school and we want to be mindful of that, especially as the weather is turning colder.

Winter Weather

We love to get outside and plan to spend as many recesses and lunches playing outside as we can throughout the winter. We can't wait for the snow to arrive! We take the temperature and wind chill into consideration when deciding to send students outside but we are able to get out most days. Please ensure that your child is dressed appropriately for the weather. When students are sent outside, we do not have supervision for students to stay inside. We require students to wear a jacket, boots and snow pants if they are to play in the snow. This helps avoid students having to sit around in wet clothes after playing outside. Students can easily get wet playing in the snow so it's a good idea to tuck a dry set of clothes in the backpack in case your child needs to get changed during the day.



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 pm. 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/recess and dismissal times will not be affected in this case.