



January 2025 Newsletter Smokey Drive Elementary School

Phone: 902-864-6838

Safe Arrival: 1-833-582-6940

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

Principal: K. Longard

Vice Principal: C. Garrett

Admin Assistant: L. MacNeil

Principal's Message

Welcome to January! We have had a great start to 2025 here at school. Students and staff were excited to see each other after the break. We quickly got back into the swing of things and are looking forward to what the rest of the school year has to bring.

Mrs. Longard

Communication between Home and School

Report cards and Parent-Teacher 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. If you have any questions or concerns about how your child is doing at school, please reach out to their classroom teacher(s). Communication and collaboration between school and home are essential to student success and are very important to the team here at Smokey Drive.

Upcoming Drills

We will be having our next Lockdown Drill during the week of February 10-14. More information will be sent home just prior to. Our monthly Fire Drill practices will resume in April.

Lost and Found Items

Please take some time to have a look at our school's lost and found table, located just inside the main doors of the building. Classes will have multiple opportunities to look throughout the month, however we are encouraging families to have a look as well. Any items remaining by January 31st will be donated.

Chaperones Needed

A number of our classes are considering possible field trips over the remainder of the school year. To make these trips happen, we need chaperones to accompany us. If you have flexibility in your schedule and would be interested in helping us out in this way, please contact the office to obtain the Child Abuse Register Form and Criminal Records Check with Vulnerable Sector letter.

There is a small cost to this but don't let that hold you back. Just let us know if this is a concern and we can help with that. Thank you in advance for your consideration!

SAC (School Advisory Council) and PTA (Parent/Guardian Teacher Association)

Our SAC and PTA groups meet most months, and all school community members are welcome to attend those meetings.

We are always seeking additional parent/guardian and community members to broaden the voice and perspectives of our school community.

Our next SAC and PTA meetings will be held on January 16th, 2024. The SAC meets from 6:00-7:00 pm and the PTA from 7:00-8:00 pm. All meetings are held in the Library here at the school.

December Concert

It was wonderful to see so many of you here at school last month for our December concert. The students did such an amazing job. A big thank you to Ms. Tyndall for sharing her love of music with all of us here at Smokey Drive!



International Holocaust Remembrance Day

International Holocaust Remembrance Day, observed on January 27, serves as a crucial reminder of the Holocaust.

Through survivor stories, students learn empathy, compassion, and the importance of standing against antisemitism and prejudice. By observing this day, we ensure future generations uphold human rights and dignity, fostering a culture of respect and inclusion.



Today we recognize
International Holocaust
Remembrance Day



Lunch Monitors Needed

Smokey Drive is in need of additional lunch monitors. If you are interested in this paid position, please contact the office at 902-864-6838 for more information.

Lunar New Year

Lunar New Year, also known as Chinese New Year or Spring Festival, will be celebrated on January 29.

It marks the beginning of the Year of the Snake, an animal sign that symbolizes wisdom, intuition, and renewal. It's a time for families to come together, honour their ancestors, and welcome the new year with hopes of prosperity and happiness.



January 27 is Family Literacy Day

Did you know? January 27 is Family Literacy Day! This special day is meant to raise awareness about the importance of reading and engaging in other literacy-related activities as a family.

This year's theme is "Learn to be Green, Together!" Make a pledge as a family to learn ways to be greener. Use less electricity, commute together, and reuse items. Being green together is a fun way to learn as a family while being kind to the environment.



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. We will go out in all but extreme conditions. It's also a great idea to keep a change of clothes in your child's backpack in case they need them.

Lice

Please remember to check your student's head periodically for lice. Students who have lice may return to school after they have been treated and there are no live lice on their heads. If you need support through this process, let us know and we can send home some information.

Water Bottles, Snacks and Cutlery

It is very important that students bring a water bottle with them each day to school. Please remember to pack one in their bags. Also, please ensure that your child comes to school each day with their lunch and enough snacks for the day, including any cutlery they might need.

Upcoming Dates

- Feb 13th - PTA Bingo Event
- Feb 17th - Heritage Day - No Classes
- Mar 7th - Assessment & Evaluation Day - No Classes
- Mar 10-14th - March Break
- Mar 28th - Report Cards sent home
- April 3rd - AM Professional Practice Day and PM Parent/Guardian Conferences - No Classes
- April 18th & April 21st - No School due to the Easter Holiday

Safe Arrival

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

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-2:50 pm.
- Respect “No Parking” and “No Stopping” signs when dropping off and picking up your students.

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 that is not on your contact list, 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 and must come directly into the school upon arrival. There is no supervision for students arriving early to play before school. Any students staying after school to play must be with an adult.

February Is Registration Month

In the HRCE, February is traditionally registration month. Registering new students in February allows the system to ensure that staffing, done in the spring for the next school year, is accurate at each school. Families are required to register online.

All students who are currently attending Smokey Drive Elementary, do not need to re-register. If you know anyone with a child who will be 4 or 5 by Dec. 31, 2025, please let them know that we are accepting registrations for pre-primary and primary. They can follow the Student Registration Process link on our school website (smr.hrce.ca).

What's Pre-Primary all about?

Check out our [Welcome to Pre-Primary](#) site.

What does Grade Primary look like?

Visit our [Welcome to Primary](#) site.

Primary French Immersion Registration

For those families who are interested in their child attending the French Immersion program at Cavalier Drive Elementary, please contact that school at 902-864-7524 for more information.



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 pm 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.