



May 2025 Newsletter

Smokey Drive Elementary School

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

Safe Arrival: 1-833-582-6940

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

Principal's Message

Welcome to May! We have two months of school left and lots of fun and learning to experience.

May is Asian Heritage Month in Canada. Asian Heritage Month has been celebrated in May since the 1990s and was officially declared in 2002. It is also Canadian Jewish Heritage Month, an opportunity to discover and celebrate Jewish culture, faith and history, as well as the tremendous contributions of Jewish communities to our country's social, political and economic fabric. The month of May has special significance for Jewish communities around the world. It often coincides with the holiday of Shavuot, the "Feast of Weeks," which celebrates the spring harvest and commemorates the gift of the Torah.

We continue to celebrate all of the wonderful people and cultures that make up our school community!

Mrs. Longard

Upcoming Dates

May 12-16 - Fire Drill #5

May 14/15 - Grade 3 Literacy Assessments

May 15 - Black Excellence Day

May 19 - Victoria Day (No School)


May 21/22 - Grade 3 Math Assessments

June 27 - Assessment & Evaluation Day
(No classes for students)

June 30 - Last day of school

Mark these important HRCE dates on your calendar!

UPCOMING EVENTS	MAY 19	NO CLASSES Victoria Day
	JUNE 26	NO CLASSES High school students only for assessment and evaluation
	JUNE 27	NO CLASSES PP-12 for assessment and evaluation
	JUNE 30	LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

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Lost and Found

We have accumulated quite a few items in our school's lost and found. Please take some time over the next couple of weeks to come in and take a look. Any items left over after the Victoria Day holiday on May 19th will be donated.

Reminders

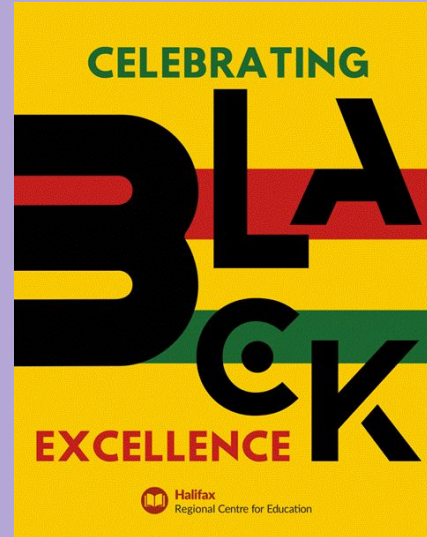
- Please send students with a water bottle each day.
- Do not send nut or peanut products to school (this includes Nutella).
- No dogs on school property between 8:15 am-2:30pm.
- Do not drive onto the school property between 8 am and 3 pm. Park and stop only in appropriate spots on the street.
- Respect "No Parking" and "No Stopping" signs when dropping off and picking up your students.
- Check students' heads periodically for lice.



May 15 is Black Excellence Day

Celebrating Black Excellence Day on May 15, 2025, within Halifax Regional Centre for Education is important for several reasons:

1. Representation and Recognition
2. Empowerment and Inspiration
3. Education and Awareness
4. Equity and Inclusion
5. Community Engagement



Overall, celebrating Black Excellence Day is important for fostering a culture of inclusivity, empowerment, and appreciation for the diverse talents and contributions of Black individuals. At Smokey Drive, we are committed to continuing to learn about and celebrate this rich part of our school's culture.

Homework Hub: Finish the year off strong!

Did you know your student has access to Homework Hub? Finish the year off strong with the help of experienced tutors!

GNSPES Access:

Easy access to online resources and tutoring through your GNSPES account (gnspes.ca) by clicking on the Nova Scotia Homework Hub icon.

24/7 Access:

Anytime access to video tutorials, practice questions and vocabulary review.

Bilingual tutors available for students in:

- Grade 4-6 Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Watch this video

to learn more about Homework Hub!



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→ **24/7 Access**

Anytime access to video tutorials, practice questions and vocabulary review.

→ **Bilingual Tutors**

Tutors available for students in:

- Grade 4-6 Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
- Grade 7-12 on school nights 5:30 to 9:30 p.m.

**Find the Homework Hub at
gnspes.ca or call 1-888-444-6607**



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NOVA SCOTIA
NOUVEAU-ÉCOSSE

2025-26 EXCEL Registration

The EXCEL Before and After Program is a recreation based, fee-for-service before and after school program run by Halifax Regional Centre for Education. At each school site where EXCEL is offered, the dedicated staffing teams plan games and activities that suit the needs and interests of all registered students. Since EXCEL began more than 25 years ago, staff have continually enhanced the program based on experiences and feedback. Today, with more than 4,000 participating students, EXCEL is one of the largest programs of its kind in the Maritimes, providing inclusive and engaging programming for participants.

Smokey Drive has before and after school EXCEL programs available. For more information about registration, fees and programming, please [click here](#).

If you have additional questions, please contact the EXCEL Before and After Program Registrar's Office: Kimberly Lozon at 902-464-2000 ext. 2787 or excelregistrar@hrce.ca and Gail Hartling at 902-464-2000 ext. 2236 or excel@hrce.ca.



Celebrating Education Week 2025

Education Week 2025, May 11 to 17, is a special opportunity to acknowledge educators, school support staff and partners for their outstanding work. This year's theme, *Empowering Futures: Innovation in Education*, celebrates educators who have gone above and beyond in their efforts to infuse innovation into their classrooms and schools.

We applaud educators, school staff, and partners who embrace innovation in meeting the evolving needs of students in preparing them for a rapidly changing future.



Please take a moment, if you feel inspired, to send a note of appreciation to an educator in your child's life who is having a positive impact. I am grateful to work with such an amazing group of educators who go above and beyond each day!

Playground News!

As you may already know, HRM owns and maintains all playground equipment located on school grounds. Smokey Drive is on the list for a playground update and will be getting one in the next few months! Work is scheduled to begin sometime this summer. The current plan is for the front playground to remain and for two new structures to replace the side playground and the swing set on the side of the building. When construction begins, safety fencing will be installed. You may also notice some paving/resurfacing of the driveway/parking lot as a result of this work. Future updates will be provided as they become available.



Access Awareness Week

Access Awareness Week takes place annually during the last week of May to raise awareness about disability, access and inclusion. This year, Access Awareness Week runs from May 25-31, and the provincial theme is "Our Voices, Our Votes: Disability Rights in Action."

The provincial Accessibility Directorate is providing all HRCE schools with posters to help bring attention to the importance of removing barriers for people with disabilities. The posters are being mailed directly to schools from the directorate and should arrive in the coming days.

For 38 years, Nova Scotians have organized community events, flag raising, forums, and concerts during Access Awareness Week to bring attention to the importance of removing barriers for people with disabilities. More information can be found [here](#).

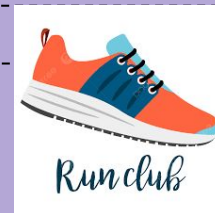
Smokey Drive Run Club

Students in **Grades 3 to 5** are invited to join the **Smokey Drive Run Club** this May!

The club will meet on Fridays during the first part of lunch (weather permitting). All runs will take place on school grounds, and students are welcome to run or walk at their own pace. For those who'd like to keep track of their laps, staff will be available with washable markers to tally laps on students' arms.

We're excited to share that Doctors of Nova Scotia is generously sponsoring our club and will be providing fun gifts for participants. If you have any questions, please reach out to Mr. Jupp (OJupp@hrce.ca).

The first run is planned for Friday, May 2nd.



Volunteering and Field Trips

Classes are beginning to prepare for school trips as we head into the end of the school year. If you would like to volunteer as a chaperone, it is a requirement of HRCE to have a recent Child Abuse Registry Check and Criminal Records Check with Vulnerable Sector on file within 3 months of date of issue. We can provide you with a letter that gives a discount on the Criminal Records Check with Vulnerable Sector fee so please contact the office if you are interested. If any associated fees are a concern for you, please reach out to us.

The Child Abuse Registry application form is free and can be completed on-line.

You can contact Ms. Lesley in the office for more information.

Class Placements

We will soon begin the process of configuring classrooms for next year, while acknowledging there may be changes due to the fluctuation of enrollment numbers. The process of creating the classes is a well-thought-out process with many staff members involved who work with that grade level. This includes but is not limited to classroom teachers, specialist teachers (Phys. Ed., Music and French) and support staff (Learning Center, Resource, Early Literacy Support and EAL).

Our goal is to create balanced classes with consideration to academic achievement, supports required, etc. We ask that you please trust our professional judgment that we will make the best decisions for your child's placement based on their needs, learning profile and friendships. If there is anything that you feel we need to know regarding class placements, please inform your child's teacher. We cannot accept requests for specific teachers. Thank you for your continued support and understanding in this matter.