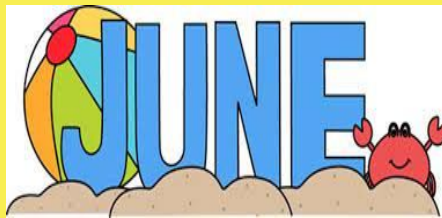


June 2025 Newsletter Smokey Drive Elementary School



Phone: 902-864-6838

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

Principal: K. Longard

Vice Principal: C. Garrett

Admin Assistant: L. MacNeil

Safe Arrival: 1-833-582-6940

In This Newsletter

- Important June dates
- Field Trip news
- Fun events in June

Important Dates

Last fire drill - Week of June 2nd.

Field Day - June 20th

Assessment and Evaluation Day-No
School June 27th

Last day of school-June 30th

***Dismissal at 10:35 am**

Principal's Message

As I sit down to write the last full newsletter of 2024-2025, it always surprises me how quickly the school year flies by. We have had a fantastic year with our students. Spending this time learning together has been invaluable and it's always amazing to look back on everything we have accomplished. Everyday at Smokey Drive brings learning, wonder and friendship.

June is shaping up to be a very exciting month with a number of school-wide events to celebrate our students and this school year. More details and dates for these events are on page 3.

As we approach the end of the school year, we will be communicating more with you regarding the beginning of next year and supply lists, etc. Please continue to check your email and our school website for updates.

Thank you for your continued support!

Mrs. Longard

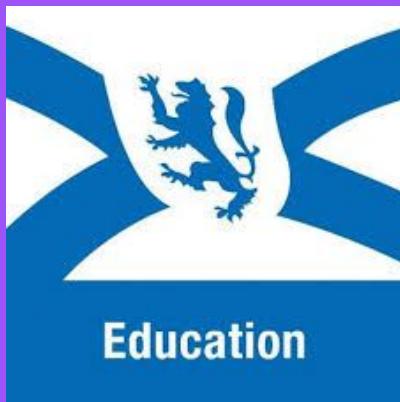
Reminders

- Do not send nut or peanut products to school (this includes Nutella)
- Please send a water bottle to school with your child each day.
- Do not drive onto the school property between 9 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. This includes the wall at the very front of the school.
- Check students' heads periodically for lice.



Ticks

It is the time of year when ticks are a bit more prevalent. Please remind your children to stay out of the long grass and to cover up when outside. For more information on ticks and protecting yourself, you can refer to the Nova Scotia Government website at [Tick safety - Government of Nova Scotia, Canada](#)



The Nova Scotia Regional Centres of Education have published the calendar/list of significant dates for the 2025-2026 school year. For your reference, the link is being provided here.

https://www.hrce.ca/sites/default/files/2025-05/Calendar_FIXED.pdf

More information about the start of school will be sent out toward the end of August, so please ensure that the email addresses that the school has on file are current.

Special School Events in June

We have been planning a number of school activities for the month of June. We are excited to share these opportunities with our students.

Tuesday, June 3rd: Our 1/2 and 2 classes are going on a field trip to the Discovery Centre.

Thursday, June 5th: A school visit from the Halifax Hoopers.

Thursday, June 12th: New Primary Orientation from 9:00-10:00 am.

Friday June 13th: Our Grade 3 classes will be heading on a field trip together to Hatfield Farms.

Friday, June 20th: Field Day for all grades. No rain date. Please send a full water bottle with your child.

Monday, June 23rd: The 4's and 5's will be visiting Hatfield Farms.

Thursday, June 26th: Daytime concert/treats for students, courtesy of the PTA and SAC. They will also be providing other special treats throughout the month of June.

Friday, June 27th: Assessment & Evaluation Day - No school for students

Monday, June 30th: Last day of school/Report cards sent out via email

***Dismissal to take place at 10:35 am.**

Grade 5's Preparing for Jr. High

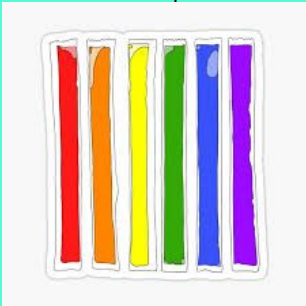
Our Grade 5 students have grown a lot and have been an important part of the Smokey Drive Elementary community over the years. They are now preparing themselves to transition to Leslie Thomas Jr High.

School staff will be taking the Grade 5's for a visit to the Jr High on Wednesday, June 11th at 9:30 am. Families of those students can expect to receive a permission slip soon.



Freezie Sale

For the first three Friday's in June (6th, 13th and 20th), the Grade 5's will be having a freezie sale to raise funds for a few special things to celebrate the end to their years in elementary school. Freezies will be \$1.00 each. Exact change only please.



Grade 3 Provincial Assessment in Literacy and Math

For 2 weeks in May, our Grade 3 students wrote provincial assessments in literacy and math. These assessments provide schools with information on how our students are progressing and they assess skills learned from Primary to Grade 3. As we receive the results from this assessment, we will share information with families.



School Registration

Registration for next year is well underway. 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. 31st, 2025, please let them know that we are accepting registrations for Pre-Primary and Primary. They can follow the Student Registration Process link on the HRCE website. <https://www.hrce.ca/families/student-registration-updates>

Out-of-area requests for the 2025-2026 school year opened in April. Parents/guardians may seek placement for their child in a school outside of the neighbourhood in which they reside under the guidelines of the Student Registration Policy. Out-of-area requests can be made for students in Grades Pre-Primary to 12, **however there is no guarantee that they will be accepted. The out-of-area transfer is permanent. Decisions on all out of area requests will be made in June and families who have applied will be contacted.** By accepting an out-of-area transfer, families are responsible for transporting their child to and from school. Please contact the Student Transportation Team if you have questions about bus eligibility. **To make an Out-of-Area request, [click here](#).** If you have any questions about the registration process, please contact the school office at 902-864-6838.



Primary Orientation

We are very much looking forward to welcoming new Primary students and their families this coming Fall at Smokey Drive Elementary. To prepare for this transition, we would like to invite those students who will be attending Primary in September to come to the school on Thursday, June 12th from 9:00-10:00 am. They will be taking part in a variety of activities that will help us to get to know them a bit better. Please bring your child to the main doors. Those students who already attend Smokey Drive in Pre-Primary will automatically be enrolled for the visit.

If your child does not already attend our Pre-Primary program, we would appreciate you letting us know if they will be able to join us on June 12th. You can do so by **sending a message to sdes@hrce.ca by Tuesday, June 10th**. We look forward to your visit!

What does Grade Primary look like? Visit our [Welcome to Primary](#) site.



Supply Lists for September 2025

Supply lists for September will be sent out via email to families later this month. After that, they will be posted on our school website for your reference.



Last Day of School

The last day of school for students will be on Monday, June 30th. We will begin at our usual time and will dismiss students at 10:35am. Please let your child's teacher know if they will not be attending on the last day.

Please be aware that there is no school for students the Friday prior (June 27th) as it is an Assessment & Evaluation Day for staff.



Field Day

This will be taking place during the morning of Friday, June 20th (no rain date). Mr. Jupp is in the midst of planning a fun time for all of our classes. On that day, please ensure that your child comes to school dressed appropriately for the weather. This includes proper shoes for active play. Please apply sunscreen prior to bringing your child to school and ensure that they come with a full water bottle. We are looking forward to having a great time together!

Construction Update

Work on a new playground on the side of the building is still scheduled to take place sometime this summer. This may also involve some paving in the driveway/parking lot. Please be mindful of this if you choose to access the playground over the summer months.



Staffing Update

We have a few staff changes coming to Smokey Drive next year and will unfortunately be saying goodbye to the following people. They are all on to new opportunities and we wish them well. They will certainly be missed here at Smokey Drive!

Mr. Jupp, Ms. Ball, Ms. Tyndall, Mme Bernon, Mrs. Glasgow, Ms. Dean

SchoolsPlus supports for summer

Did you know? SchoolsPlus operates 12 months of the year! SchoolsPlus is a confidential, free service available to every school in Nova Scotia. Families and students (12+) can self-refer to SchoolsPlus by contacting the SchoolsPlus facilitator for Smokey Drive, April Peckham (april.peckham@hrce.ca). You can learn more about how Schools Plus can support by clicking [here](#).



2025-26 Bus Information

Information about student transportation for the 2025-26 school year will be available to view online through the BusPlanner Parent Portal later in July.

- Families eligible for transportation will receive an email to access the Parent Portal to view their child's bus information once it is available.
- Once you receive the email, you must follow the instructions to activate your new Parent Portal account and create a password. Using previous Parent Portal login information will not work.
- If you can't find the email, please contact transportation@hrce.ca or 902-431-4723 for assistance.

Over the summer, the HRCE Student Transportation team will also reach out to new HRCE families and those families who may require special needs transportation for their children with more information about busing.

Reminder: The Student Transportation team is available to assist you and answer questions about busing all summer at transportation@hrce.ca or 902-431-4723. When contacting the team, please ensure you have your child's name, grade, school name and student ID number ready. Your child's student ID number can be found in PowerSchool or on the top of your child's report card.

Tips to support reading and writing at home

As parents and caregivers, you play one of the most important roles in helping your child become a strong, confident reader and writer. What you do at home can make a big difference in your child's success in school and beyond. When reading and writing become part of family routines — like bedtime stories, writing notes to each other, or making shopping lists together — children see them as enjoyable and meaningful activities.

Here are some ideas and tips (continued on the next slide):

1. Create a dedicated writing space

Set up a quiet, well-lit area where your child can focus. Stock your writing center with essentials like paper, pencils, crayons, and even fun extras like family photos and old magazines to spark creativity.

2. Read often

Reading is one of the best ways to become a better writer. When children read a variety of books, they naturally absorb vocabulary, grammar, and different writing styles. Encourage daily reading to build their language skills and inspire their own writing.





3. Encourage reflective journaling

A journal is a great outlet for expressing thoughts and feelings. Prompt your child to write about everyday events at home and school. Suggest using sensory details — what they saw, heard, or felt. This helps develop descriptive writing. Provide real-life experiences that they can later write about. Remember, only read their journal if invited — and always respond with encouragement and thoughtful feedback.

4. Offer real-world writing opportunities

Help your child see writing as a practical skill. Let them write thank-you notes, grocery lists, birthday invitations or letters to family. Consider finding a pen pal to make writing feel more authentic and fun.

5. Be a writing role model

Let your child see you writing too! Whether it's a grocery list, an email or a note to a friend, show how writing fits into everyday life. Talk about the purpose of different types of writing and their audiences. Try having a “family writing night” where everyone writes and shares together.

6. Start a vocabulary notebook

Introduce a few new words each week and encourage your child to use them in writing and conversation. Turn it into a game for using words creatively.