

September Newsletter Smokey Drive Elementary School



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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

Upcoming Dates

- Stand Up Against Bullying Day - Thurs.Sept.11th
- Picture Day - Thurs.Sept.18th.
- SAC/PTA meeting on Wed. Sept. 24th (6:00-8:00 pm)
- Terry Fox Run - Thurs.Sept.25th
- Orange Shirt Day - Fri.Sept.26th
- PD Day - Mon.Sept.29th (No School)
- National Truth & Reconciliation Day
Tues. Sept. 30th (No School)

Reminders

- Do not send nut or peanut products to school.
- Students are not to arrive prior to 8:15 am as there is no supervision prior to that time.
- Please send water bottles and cutlery to school with your child.

A message from Mrs. Longard...

We had a very positive beginning to our school year. It has been so nice to meet students and their families and to see everyone coming in with big smiles on their faces. Staff are continuing to get to know and build relationships with their students and will be sharing about their learning as was indicated in their initial communications with you.

Thank you so much for all of your help with the transition back to school. We are looking forward to a great year at Smokey Drive!



Staff Info

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our new staff members at Smokey Drive this year.

Ms. Ainsley Buffett - Core French

Ms. Jennifer Britton - Music

Mr. Neil Pashkoski - Phys. Ed.

Ms. Nicole Amirault - Learning Centre



School Lunch Program and Milk

Our school lunch program is scheduled to begin on Monday, September 15th. The new vendor assigned to our school is The Lunch Lady. They will be preparing the meals off site and then will deliver them to the school.

A note that we will not be offering regular or chocolate milk for purchase at lunch. White milk will continue to be available as part of our breakfast program.

Please visit www.NSLunch.ca to explore the menu and get answers to frequently asked questions. If you experience any issues when ordering, you can also reach out to the school or our region's School Food Lead by creating a [Support Request](#) in the ordering system.

Arrival Procedures/Building Access

At 8:15, staff are on duty and that means that parents/guardians can leave students on the school grounds. You are welcome to stay with your child should you wish.

Students will play outside from 8:15-8:25. At 8:25, a bell will sound indicating that students can now enter the building.

During days of inclement weather or extreme cold, the doors will be opened at 8:15 and students will be allowed to enter the building and head straight to their classrooms.

All visitors, including parents/guardians, are asked to check in with the office upon arrival. They are not permitted to walk students to and from their classes for safety and security reasons.

Health Information

It is important that the school have access to the most up to date health information for your child. Please ensure to update records when requested and please inform us of any changes to your child's health. Medications cannot be administered at school without the proper documentation and they must be kept at the office. If your child requires medication while at school, please call the main office at 902-864-6838 and we will ensure that forms are made available for you to fill out and sign.

Emergency Drills

The start of a new school year requires us to practice being safe while at school. One way we do this is to practice exiting the building in case of a fire. School staff will be discussing this in their classrooms, at age-appropriate levels, this week and we will be doing our first drill later in the week. Another way we practice being safe at school is by participating in what we call Lockdown and Hold and Secure Drills. Look for a separate message with more information regarding this in the coming days. The third way that we practice safety is with bus evacuation drills. This is especially important when classes begin to take field trips. The date for this practice drill has yet to be determined but will be communicated as soon it becomes available.

Head Lice

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

Safe Arrival

If your child is going to be late or absent, please remember to call our toll free attendance line at **1-833-582-6940**. The only option available is to excuse the student for the day. If the student arrives later, attendance will be changed upon their arrival.

Curriculum Information

Classroom teachers will be sending home information to families about curriculum via email on September 23rd. This will be in place of an in-person curriculum night. Teachers will be communicating about the curriculum outcomes they will be covering, will discuss assessment processes as well as how they will be communicating student learning and progress with you. Once this information comes home and you have had the chance to review, please contact the appropriate teacher directly if you have any questions.

Picture Day

Picture Day will take place on **Thursday, September 18th**. Pictures will begin in the morning, with each class taking their turn. Information about ordering will come home with your child on that day and more specific information will be coming to you in a separate email.

Website

If you haven't already done so, please check out our school website at <https://sde.hrce.ca>. It is updated on a regular basis and contains a lot of useful and important information. You can also check out upcoming dates.

Breakfast Program

Having a solid breakfast in the morning before school is very important for your child's learning. For those students who may want it, items will be available to grab and go on their way into the building in the morning. Regular white milk will continue to be one of the available items.

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

The SAC is a group of parents, staff and community members who act in an advisory capacity to the school Principal and Regional Centre of Education on a range of issues related to the school and school system. SACs play an important role in supporting student success at the school community level. At Smokey Drive, our SAC works in cooperation with our PTA to support the learning of all students. We are currently looking for new parent/guardian members and would appreciate you considering to take on a role with either the SAC or the PTA...or both!

Our next SAC/PTA meeting will be on **Wednesday, September 24th** from **6:00-8:00** pm. All parents/guardians are welcome to attend. Please email the school if you have any questions about either of these groups.



Parent/Guardian Volunteers

HRCE values the many roles that volunteers play in our schools. We are in need of volunteers for a variety of different events throughout the school year.

In order to be able to volunteer, you must have a current Child Abuse Registry and Criminal Records Checks (with a Vulnerable Sector Check) completed within the last 6 months. We will gladly provide you with a letter to the Halifax Regional Police for a reduced cost for the CRC with VS.

Please click on the following link for more information or contact Ms. Lesley at the school office.

<https://www.hrce.ca/families/volunteering>

Stand Up Against Bullying Day

We will be recognizing Stand Up Against Bullying Day this **Thursday, September 11th**. Students, staff and families are invited to wear pink to show their support. Classroom teachers will be engaging students in a variety of different activities through the day, emphasizing the importance of treating each other with kindness and respect.



Code of Conduct

The Provincial School Code of Conduct that was released last spring is now in effect. To review the updated document, [click here](#).

The objective of the Provincial School Code of Conduct Policy (Code of Conduct) is to establish and maintain safe and inclusive learning and working environments in our school communities. The Code of Conduct establishes expectations for acceptable behaviour of children and students and provides guidance on how schools should respond to and accurately record incidents of unacceptable behaviour. The Code of Conduct supports well-being and achievement by promoting respect of the rights, property, and safety of all. It establishes predictable consequences and pathways for addressing unacceptable behaviour in schools, ensuring responses are clear, consistent, timely, restorative, and equitable.

As the school year progresses, additional information will be shared about how Smokey Drive will be working within the Code of Conduct. For now, I am pleased to share with you our school's new mission statement which will guide our work moving forward.

**At Smokey Drive Elementary, we are a kind and safe school
where everyone belongs, learns, and grows together
with respect everyday.**

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

Each year on **September 30th**, National Day for Truth and Reconciliation honours the children who didn't

return from residential schools, as well as survivors, their families, and communities.

Orange Shirt Day, led by Indigenous communities, aims to raise awareness about the intergenerational impacts of residential schools and allows us all to show our support for the *Every Child Matters* movement.

As there are **no classes on Monday, September 29th or Tuesday, September 30th**, we welcome staff , students and families to wear **orange** on **Friday, September 26th**.



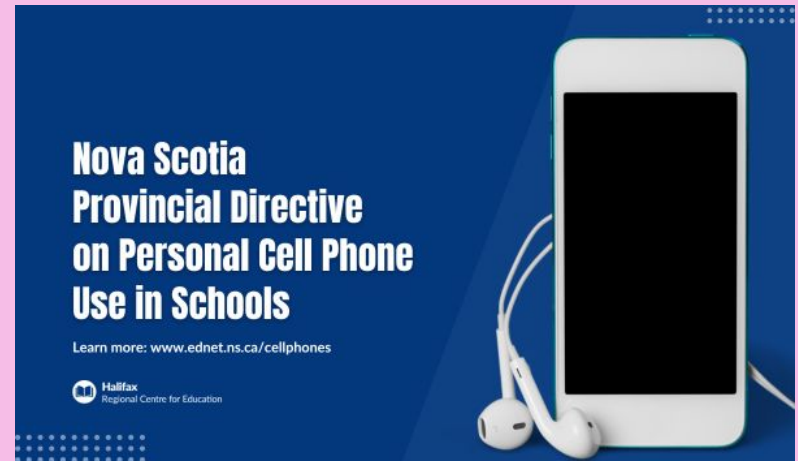
Cell Phones in Schools

The Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD) has come out with a new directive regarding cell phone use in schools.

Students in grades PP–6 will turn off and store their cell phones for the entire school day, including non-instructional times.

If you have any questions about this directive, please visit the link provided below. After that, you can certainly reach out to the school and we would be happy to provide you with further clarification.

<https://www.ednet.ns.ca/cellphones>



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 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 have previously identified.

If school is cancelled during the day, we will dismiss students as per their parent/guardian instruction at 11:30 am. If you can avoid it, do not come to pick your child up early as this will result in a number of parents/guardians in close contact. Parents, guardians and caregivers are requested to wait outside their regular dismissal door at 11:30 am for their children. All students who need to wait for a later pick-up will be supervised until they are picked up.

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 cannot arrive before 10:25 and classes will begin at 10:35. Lunch and dismissal times will not be affected.