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# May 2026 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

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## Message from the Office

As we head into May, we are excited to see the continued growth and energy in our school community. With the warmer weather arriving, students are enjoying more outdoor learning opportunities and active play, which supports both their well-being and learning.

This month, we will continue focusing on respect—respect for ourselves, others, our learning, and our environment. We encourage students to take pride in their school by keeping our spaces clean and treating materials and shared areas with care.



## Upcoming Dates

May is Asian Heritage Month

May is Canadian Jewish Heritage Month

May is Polish Heritage Month

May is Speech and Hearing Month

May 4 -May 8 Teacher Appreciation Week

May 5 is Red Dress Day

May 11 -22 LM3 Assessment

May 15 is Black Excellence Day

May 17 is International Day against

Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia

May 18 is Victoria Day (No classes - all schools)

May 31 to June 6 is Access Awareness Week

## Reminders

- Do not send any nut or peanut products to school (this includes Nutella).
- No pets on school property between 8:00 am-3:00 pm.
- **Respect “No Parking” and “No Stopping” signs when dropping off and picking up your students.**
- **Please do not enter the school parking lot after 8:00 am as we have many students/families arriving. If you need to drop a student off, please park on the road.**
- Check students’ heads periodically for lice.
- Please send enough food for snack time(s).



## Registration for new students 2026-2027

If you have a child eligible for primary or pre-primary next September, please register them as soon as possible. Having registrations done now helps ensure that we have the appropriate staffing in place for September. Please pass this information on to anyone you know who is eligible to register.

<https://www.hrce.ca/families/student-registration-updates>

## Student Assessment and Evaluation

The Literacy and Math Provincial Grade 3 Assessment will take place for 4 days during the weeks of May 11 and May 19.

This is a snapshot assessment that guides provincial understanding of student success.

The results will come back to Smokey Drive which will help guide our understanding of our student success. The results of this assessment **do not** factor into grade 3 grades.

## Vehicles in Parking Lot, Bus Lane and Road Concern

**Please do not enter the school parking lot between 8:00 am and 3:00 as we have many students/families arriving. If you need to drop a student off, please park on the road.**

**Please do not park in the LC bus lane or double park on the road to let students out.**

**Due to recent safety concerns of parents, staff and students having close calls because of people not following proper protocol the HRP will now have a more consistent presence at Smokey Drive.**



## Weather Notes

We recommend tucking a change of clothes in your child's backpack in the event they get wet or dirty while playing outside. This will help us to avoid calling you to drop off clean, dry clothes.

### SAC (School Advisory Council)

Our SAC meets 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 meeting will be held on in our school library on May 6th at 6:00 pm.

### PTA (Parent/Guardian Teacher Association)

Our PTA meets most months, and all school parents/guardians are welcome to attend.

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

Our next PTA meeting will be held on May 6th in our school library, following our SAC meeting.

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

## Safe Arrival

If your child is going to be late or absent, please remember to call our Safe Arrival program, instead of calling the main office. Excuse them for the day and if they arrive during the day, the system will be updated upon their arrival. The more notice given about a student's absence will enable us to prevent the system from notifying you.

1-833-582-6940 (Toll Free)



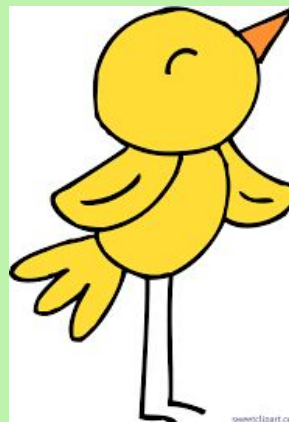
## Lost and Found

If your child is missing an item, please take the opportunity to have a look through our school's lost and found table, located outside of the library.



## Lunch Orders

A reminder that the next ordering window for lunches opens on May 8th for the dates May 17th -May 30th



## Do you know how to raise a concern?

Did you know that there's a protocol in place to help families contact schools, or HRCE Central Office, when you have concerns about your student's education or well-being?

- All concerns should first be shared with your child's teacher.
- If your concern is not resolved, you should then contact the principal.
- If your concern remains unresolved, you can reach out to [HRCE's Parent Navigators](#) who can provide information about a wide range of supports and resources or connect you with the school supervisor.
- If your matter continues to be unresolved, you can then initiate a formal review process in which the matter will be investigated by the appropriate HRCE Directors.
- The final step is for your concern to be passed on to the Regional Executive Director.

Click here to view the [Parent/Guardian Concern Policy](#).



# Nova Scotia School Lunch Program

A reminder of the [Nova Scotia School Lunch Program](#)! With nutritious, balanced meals prepared daily, the program ensures students have the energy and focus they need to succeed in the classroom and beyond. The School Lunch Program is designed to provide accessible, affordable, and appealing meals that feature a variety of foods from all food groups, following Canada's Food Guide. By participating, families can help their children develop lifelong healthy habits while making mornings a little less hectic.

Together, we can make small changes that lead to healthier futures for our families and communities.



## Mental Health Week

May 4th- May 8th is Mental Health Week across Canada. At Smokey Drive this week we will be actively having class discussions and activities around feelings, recognize feelings, talking about feelings and ways to manage feelings in a safe and healthy way. If you would like to continue those discussions at home this is our weekly schedule:

Monday: Noticing Feelings

Thought of the day: think of ways you feel your emotions in your body?

Tuesday: Noticing Thoughts

Thought of the day: Are all of our thoughts helpful?

Wednesday: Making Connections  
you belong.

Thought for the day: think a person iwho makes you feel connected and like

Thursday: Sensory Super Powers

(is it something that you see, hear, touch, taste or smell)

Thought for the day: What is a sensory feeling that makes you feel calm

Friday: Glimmers

healthy and comfortable? How can you use that glimmer in the future?

Thought of the day: What is something that has happened to make you feel safe,

# Unplugged Webinar on Smartphones, Social Media and More

Unplugged Canada is hosting a LIVE webinar on May 6 every parent and caregiver needs to hear. We're talking smartphones, social media, the research — and most importantly, what we can do about it.

Hosted by Kirsten Sweet, educator and National Program Director with Unplugged Canada with Tania Johnson, Co-founder of the Institute of Child Psychology and Dr. Michele Locke, Clinical Psychologist, learn about the impact of smartphones and social media on youth and how the Unplugged Canada Pledge and our resources can spark meaningful conversations in your home, school, and community.

We'll also introduce two new initiatives: the National School Champion Program and Operation Landline — a summer campaign helping families delay smartphones and reconnect in simpler, more intentional ways.

Come ready to learn, connect, and be part of the movement. Register [here](#).

*Free Live Event*

## UNPLUGGED CANADA



### *A National Conversation*

*with Unplugged Canada Ambassadors*

*Tania Johnson,  
M.C.*

Co-founder of the Institute  
of Child Psychology  
Award-Winning Author

*Dr. Michele Locke,  
Ph.D.*

Clinical Psychologist  
Toronto Chapter  
Co-founder

*Kirsten Sweet,  
M.Ed.*

National Program Director  
Alberta Chapter  
Co-founder

- ✔ Explore the research: Smartphones and Social Media
- ✔ Review the Unplugged Pledge and Resources
- ✔ Join our National School Champion Program
- ✔ Check out our new resource: Operation Landline
- ✔ Invite all parents and caregivers in your school community

*Wednesday,  
May 6th*

5pm PT | 8pm ET

## May 15 is Black Excellence Day

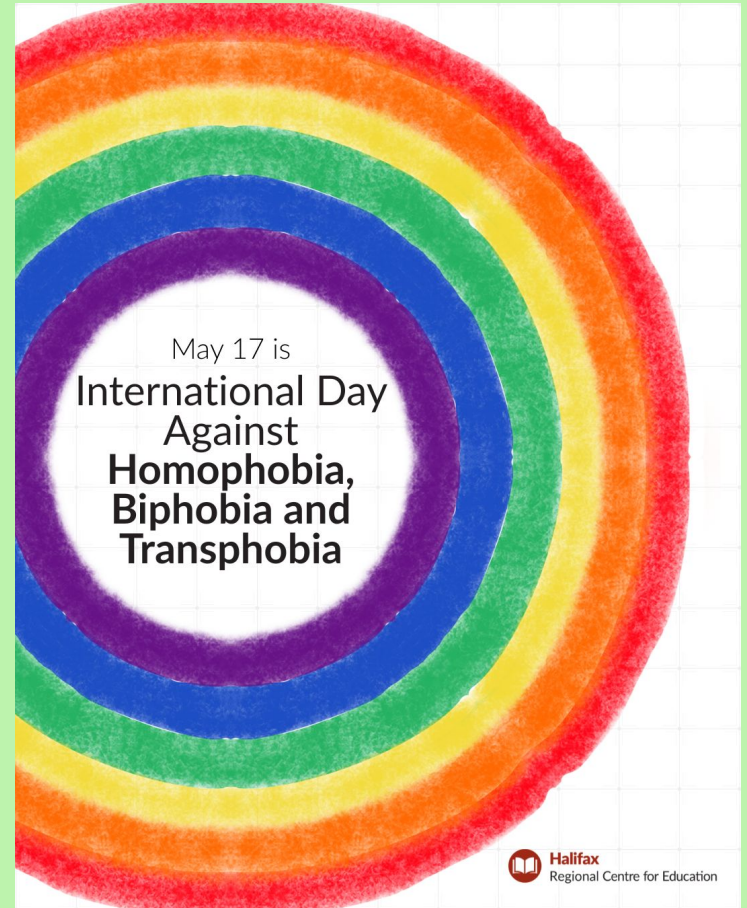
Black Excellence Day 2026 in Nova Scotia is an opportunity for schools to reflect on the learning and exploration of Black people and culture over the past year. It recognizes, celebrates, and supports learning from the achievements, contributions, and leadership of Black individuals and communities. More than a single-day celebration, Black Excellence is the recognition of meaningful steps toward strengthening inclusive learning environments where all students see themselves reflected in curriculum materials, through the stories we tell and the histories we honour.

The purpose of celebrating Black Excellence in our schools and classrooms is to affirm students' identities, build confidence, and inspire futures by highlighting role Black people have made in education, science, arts, leadership, and community advocacy. It reflects and celebrates thoughtful conversations in schools about equity, representation, and the ongoing work to remove systemic barriers.

We welcome everyone to wear a black shirt, if you're able, on May 15 to show your support for Black Excellence Day!



The provincial Inclusive Education Policy is a commitment to ensuring a high-quality, culturally and linguistically responsive and equitable education to support the well-being and achievement of every student. All students should feel that they belong in an inclusive school—accepted, safe, and valued—so they can best learn and succeed.



## **Screen Free Summer: Digital Diet Guidance**

As summer approaches, many families are thinking about screen time. This article introduces the idea of a “digital diet,” encouraging a focus on the quality and purpose of screen use rather than just limiting it. It offers practical ways to help children build healthier, more balanced habits with technology. Read more [here](#).

## **Access Awareness Week - May 31 to June 6**

Access Awareness Week in Nova Scotia, taking place May 31–June 6, 2026, is an opportunity to recognize the importance of accessibility, inclusion, and the leadership of people with disabilities. This year’s theme, “Disability Justice: Stronger Together, First Voice Leading Change for Collective Action,” emphasizes the importance of centering lived experience and working collaboratively to create meaningful, lasting change.

In schools, this week is a powerful reminder that inclusion is everyone’s responsibility. Classrooms are where understanding begins — through learning, conversation, and action. By listening to diverse voices, removing barriers, and fostering accessible learning environments, educators and students help build school communities where all learners feel valued and supported.

## 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 6:00 am as possible. Here are some ways you can find out:

- HRCE Website at [www.hrce.ca](http://www.hrce.ca)
- 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 12:05 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 12:05 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 and dismissal times will not be affected in this case.