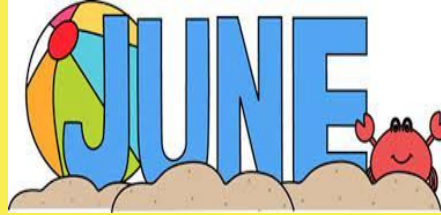


June 2026 Newsletter Smokey Drive Elementary School



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

In This Newsletter

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

Important Dates

Last fire drill - Week of June 1st.

Field Day - June 19th

Assessment and Evaluation Day-No
School June 29th

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 2025-2026, 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 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

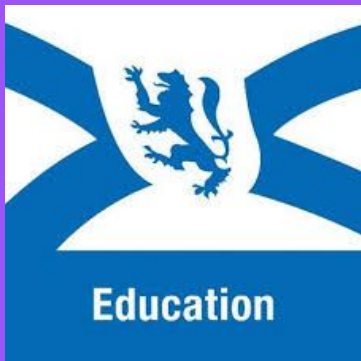
Reminders

- 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 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. 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 2026-2027 school year. For your reference, the link is being provided here.

<https://www.hrce.ca/sites/default/files/2026-05/2026-2027-Year-at-a-Glance%20Calendar.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.

Wednesday, June 3rd: Primary Garland and P/1 Cody to the Beaty Aquarium

Thursday, June 4th: 1T, 1/2 W-WC and 2 WC-VP to Uniacke House

Thursday, June 11th: Grade 6 Orientation at Leslie Thomas Jr High

Saturday, June 13th: Spring Fling from 11-2

Monday, June 15th: 4/5A to Uniacke House

Wednesday, June 17th: Visits from the Sackville Public Library

Thursday, June 18th: Primary Orientation

Friday, June 19th: Field Day for all grades. (**Rain date Monday, June 22nd**)
Please send a full water bottle with your child.

Friday, June 26th: Daytime concert with Mr. O'Connor, courtesy of the PTA and SAC.

Monday, June 29th: Assessment & Evaluation Day - No school for students

Tuesday, June 30th: Last Day of School/Report cards sent out via email/Grade 5 Clap Out
***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 Thursday, June 11th at 9:30 am. Families of those students can expect to receive a permission slip soon.

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 in the Fall, we will share information with families.

SAC/PTA

Our last SAC meeting will be taking place this Wednesday, June 3rd, 2026 at 6:00 pm. Following that meeting, we will be having a PTA meeting at 7:00 pm. We welcome all parents/guardians to attend. If you haven't had the opportunity to volunteer this year, please consider being a part next year.



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, 2026, 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 2026-2027 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 18th. 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. More information to follow as we get closer to the event.

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 18th. You can do so by **sending a message to sdes@hrce.ca by Tuesday, June 16th**. We look forward to your visit!

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



Supply Lists for September 2026

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 Tuesday, June 30th. We will begin at our usual time and will dismiss students at 10:35am, following our Grade 5 Clap Out. 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 day before (June 29th) as it is an Assessment & Evaluation Day for staff.



Field Day

This will be taking place during the morning of Friday, June 19th (rain date of June 22nd). Mr. P 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!



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!

Mrs. Britton, Mme. Buffett, Mrs. Williams-Cooper, Mrs. Doncaster and Ms. Slaunwhite.

On a similar note

I wanted to take this opportunity to let the Smokey Drive Community know that I too will be embarking on a new professional adventure and will be leaving Smokey Drive as Principal. I would like to extend a sincere thank you to the staff, students and families of this wonderful school for welcoming me back and for working so hard alongside me over the past two years. I will take many wonderful memories with me and I wish you all a wonderful summer and upcoming school year.

Lots of love,
Mrs. Longard

2026-27 Bus Information

Information about student transportation for the 2026-27 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.

Nova Scotia Loyal Farmers' Market Voucher Program

Once again this year, students across the province will receive a \$10 Nova Scotia Loyal voucher to use at participating farmers' markets. The program encourages young people and families to explore local markets, support Nova Scotian growers and producers, and learn more about where their food comes from. From fresh produce and baked goods to locally made products, the initiative helps connect students with their communities while supporting small businesses and strengthening the local economy. Families are encouraged to visit participating markets over the summer months and discover all that Nova Scotia has to offer through the [Nova Scotia Loyal program](#). Watch for these vouchers coming home soon!

Listen to Lead: Year 2

Listen to Lead, HRCE's annual consultation, is more than just a survey. It is an ongoing commitment to partnership, continuous improvement, and ensuring our schools reflect the voices and experiences of the communities they serve.

Please take the opportunity to share your thoughts, feedback and vision for HRCE anonymously through ThoughtExchange: [Participate here](#) The consultation will be open until June 4.

Operation Landline by Unplugged Canada

[Unplugged Canada](#) has launched a new resource called [Operation Landline](#), designed to help families reconnect kids with safe, healthy communication, without the pressures and distractions of smartphones. The initiative encourages families to bring back the family landline as a simple way for children to build independence, strengthen social skills and stay connected with friends and neighbours in a safer, more intentional way.

Created in partnership with the Institute of Child Psychology, the [complete guide](#) includes practical tips for setting up modern landline options, teaching phone safety and etiquette, and even creating a family phonebook together. Families are also invited to sign the [Unplugged Canada](#) pledge to help create a new community norm around delaying smartphones and supporting connected childhoods.

The infographic is titled "Operation Landline Reconnecting the Neighbourhood" and features a red rotary phone icon. It is divided into four numbered sections: 1. Sign the Pledge, 2. Phone Safety and Literacy, 3. Make your Phonebook, and 4. Hardware and Setup. Each section contains specific advice and a small icon. At the bottom, there is a call to action to join the movement and a QR code to access the complete guide.

1 Sign the Pledge
A Commemorative Unplugged Canada Pledge
• Help children & teens learn to use technology safely by choosing landlines as a safer way to connect for stay connected.
• Learn pledge resources, tips, & encourage others to sign up, too.
[SIGN THE PLEDGE](#)

2 Phone Safety and Literacy
Teach your child how to safely use working-only phones.
• Respond to the phone when parents are not home.
• Trusted contacts only.
• How to answer and ask for a friend.

3 Make your Phonebook
Buy or make a physical, paper phone book with your child. Teach them how to put names and addresses with numbers. **Swap numbers with trusted friends and family members.**

4 Hardware and Setup
You don't need a laptop, wires to have a landline. Make it internet home phones are simple and affordable.
• Fungo
• The Call
• Check, making sure you'll use new services properly.
Great Resources
Visit the parent resource page and learn, explore what to do also visit our Unplugged Canada website.

Join the movement to delay smartphones and bring back the neighborhood connection.
Share with your community today!

Find our complete guide to Operation Landline here.

Created by Unplugged Canada in partnership with the Institute of Child Psychology.

Tips to support reading and writing at home

As parents, guardians 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.

Spring Fling

We are very excited that our wonderful PTA will be hosting a Spring Fling here at the school on **Saturday, June 13th from 11:00am-2:00pm**. We have so many fun activities planned for the event...bouncy castle, petting zoo, face painting and a food truck to name just a few.

Here are some important things to know as we make our way toward this fun-filled day:

- Most items can be accessed by purchasing tickets, which will be \$1.00 each. The tickets can only be paid for with cash. The food truck will accept cash, debit or Visa.
- We are looking for **donations for our 'Cake Walk'**. Cakes, cookies, pies, cupcakes..would all be acceptable. Both homemade and store bought would work. **You can drop those donations off at the school during the day on Friday, June 12th.**
- Each class is being asked to bring in **items for a basket that will be raffled off at the event**. Please see the next couple of slides for more details. **Donations are due by Friday, June 5th.**
- We are looking for volunteers to help, both with set up and on the day of the event. If you are interested in helping, please be on the lookout for another message coming soon!

We are looking forward to a fun day and hope to see you all there!



Class Baskets

Pre-Primary Elaine/Mary – Arts and Crafts (markers, crayons, glue, scissors, paper, craft kits, etc.)

Pre-Primary Jamael/Irean – Beach Bash (beach toys, sunglasses, goggles, lip balm, sand molds, towels, etc.)

P Garland – Outdoor Fun (balls, kites, bubbles, backyard games, jump rope, drinks, Nerf balls, glow sticks, s'mores kit, etc.)

P/1 Cody – Snack attack (anything yummy; veggie straws, gummies, bulk barn gift card, dip mix, popcorn and seasoning, etc.)

1 Toner – Family Fun Night (puzzle books, cineplex gift card, board games, cards, snacks, puzzles, etc.)

1/2 Walker/WC – Chocolate Lovers (bars, candy, hot chocolate mix, cake, brownies and cookie mixes, etc.)

2 WC/VP – Bakers Delight (cake mix, cupcake liners, cookie sheets, cooling rack, decorating tools, sprinkles, mixing spoons, etc.)

2/3 Garrett/Mole – Gardening (plants, seeds, watering can, gloves, herbs, garden tools, planters/pots etc.)

Class Baskets continued

3 Sparkes – Sensory Basket (fidgets, squishies, touch/feel items, kinetic sand, etc)

4 Hiltz – Movie Night (Movie passes, popcorn, comfy blanket, candy, popcorn bowls, cans of pop, fuzzy socks etc.)

4/5 Aucoin – Tea and Coffee (variety of coffees or teas, whole beans with grinder, mugs, flavored syrups, books etc.)

5 O'Toole – Backyard BBQ (BBQ tools, seasonings, condiments, grocery gift cards, outdoor dinnerware, sauces, apron, etc.)