

September 2023

Smokey Drive Newsletter

Smokey Drive Elementary School

School Phone: 902-864-6838

Principal Mrs. J. Miller

School Website: <https://sde.hrce.ca> Vice Principal Ms. E. Quigley

Safe Arrival: 1-833-582-6940

Admin Assistance Ms. L. MacNeil



Principal's Message

September is a month of positive beginnings. Last week was a great start to the year here at Smokey Dr Elementary. Lots of positive interactions and relationship building is happening both inside and outside of classrooms. This allows everyone to feel safe and valued and creates optimal learning environments. I look forward to another fantastic year with this incredibly warm and welcoming school community!



Important Dates:

Sept 11-15 – Fire Drill

Sept 13 – SAC meeting 6pm/PTA meeting 7pm

Sept 14 – Stand Up to Bullying Day-wear pink/PTA Ice Cream Social 6-7pm

Sept 18-22 Lock Down Drill

Sept 21- Picture Day – bring your smiles 😊

Sept 25-29 Hold and Secure Drill

Sept 29 – Orange Shirt Day

Sept 30 – Truth and Reconciliation Day

Oct 1- NS Treaty Day

Oct 2 – Truth and Reconciliation Day recognized – No School

Upcoming Safety Drills

The safety and security of our students and staff is a top priority for ***Smokey Drive Elementary*** and the Halifax Regional Centre of Education. This week we will have our first of six *fire drills* of the school year. Another of the procedures our school will be practicing is a lockdown drill. During a *lockdown drill*, classroom doors are secured, and the students remain inside the room until instructed by the teacher to resume their activities. All exterior doors are locked, and no one is permitted to enter or leave the building. Students are kept inside the school and classrooms when circumstances make it safer to stay in the classroom rather than evacuate. Just as we prepare our students to properly respond to a fire drill, they also need to be aware of the proper response during a lockdown drill.

Another practice drill to be conducted is a *hold and secure drill*. During a hold and secure students remain in their classrooms continuing to learn but movement is not permitted in the hallways. The entrances will be locked, and no one will be permitted to enter or leave the building during this drill.

Please be assured that staff at our school will spend time discussing the importance of this procedure with students prior to running a drill. We will also take time after the drills to remind them that it was only a practice and there was no danger. When possible, our School Liaison Officer may assist us in conducting the lockdown drills just as the Fire Department assists with evacuation drills.

Lockdown and Hold and Secure drills are announced ahead of time, so students and staff know they are practice drills. The focus is on practice of the drills, instead of a surprise drills. We practice these drills to ensure our school remains a safe place for teaching and learning.

PTA News

Our first PTA meeting of the year is Wed, Sept 13 at 7pm.

Please join us as we make plans for upcoming school events and fundraisers. PTA will host an Ice Cream Welcome to School Social on Thurs, Sept 14 6-7pm.

Families are invited to stop by for an ice cream and social time. The event is being planned for outside. We will keep a watchful eye on the weather and adjust as necessary.

SAC- School Advisory Council

The first meeting of our School Advisory Council (SAC) is Wed, Sept 13 at 6pm in the library. If you are interested in more information regarding the SAC please reach out to Mrs. Miller at jean.miller@hrce.ca.

Head Lice Prevention and Treatment

With the beginning of a new school year, we often see cases of head lice quite early. By working together, we can all help prevent head lice. Please notify the school immediately if your child has head lice.

If you do discover that your child does have head lice, they must be treated. Consult with your family doctor or pharmacist for treatment options. Here are some tips to remember and share with your child:

- Never share hats, combs, clips, bands or any type of head gear.
- Put hats and scarves in coat pockets or sleeve, not on a shelf.
- Check your child's head regularly.

Orange Shirt Day- Every Child Matters

On September 29th we will observe “Orange Shirt Day”. We encourage all staff and students to wear orange shirts. Classes will be learning about the significance of the day. Sept 30 is National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, a day of reflection and further learning to honor those who attended residential schools and the intergenerational impacts of trauma on their families. Treaty Day is October 1 in Nova Scotia, and it kicks off Mi’kmaq History Month.



SchoolsPlus Message

We want to introduce ourselves as your SchoolsPlus team at Smokey Drive Elementary.

We have a few different roles in SchoolsPlus: Assistant Lead – Jen Fougere, Community Outreach Worker – Michelle Boudreau, and Child and Youth Care Practitioner – Charlotte Pike

What is SchoolsPlus? SchoolsPlus is a free, confidential service that is now available in every school in HRCE. You may have heard of us but didn't really know what we do.

What can SchoolsPlus offer? Some of what the SchoolsPlus Assistant Lead and Community Outreach Worker do focus on 3 main areas:

- 1. Help build and support good relationships** with families, schools, and the community.
- 2. Connect parents, students, and families with programs, resources, and support.** Some examples are: help find social or recreation programs for kids/youth (and the funding, if needed), help connect to/apply for supports that can provide other assistance (i.e., access to tutoring, support with eyeglasses), and navigate systems to get the services you need.
- 3. Programming for parents and students.** Some examples are: Handle with Care, The Incredible Years, Rainbows, Voices, Roots of Empathy, social skills groups, and more.

We can help support your student/family with connections to what they may need to succeed – from home, to school, and back again.

How do I get connected with SchoolsPlus? You can get connected with SchoolsPlus by contacting Jen Fougere (Assistant Lead) at 902-483-8367 (call or text) or by emailing her: jfougere@hrce.ca

Reminders

- Please use the entrance on Smokey Dr when arriving each day.
- SDE is a peanut and nut free, and scent aware site. Please do not send nut or peanut products to school.
- Visitors must check in at the office.
- Supervision of students does not begin until 8:15, so they should not arrive until that time.
- Please label clothing items, water bottles, etc.
- Please send water bottles and cutlery each day with your child.
- If you child is absent from school please call the Safe Arrival Line at **1-833-582-6940**