

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2023

HORIZON ELEMENTARY NEWSLETTER

IMPORTANT DATES

SEPT. 7 - FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS
SEPT. 14 - STAND UP AGAINST BULLYING DAY/ WEAR PINK
SEPT. 29 - ORANGE SHIRT DAY
OCT. 2 - NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION (NO CLASSES)
OCT. 24 - SCHOOL PHOTOS
NOV. 2 - PHOTO RETAKE DAY
OCT. 9 - THANKSGIVING DAY (NO CLASSES)
OCT. 27 - PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE DAY (NO CLASSES)
NOV. 5 - DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS AT 2:00 A.M. MOVE CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR
NOV. 13 - REMEMBRANCE DAY OBSERVED (NO CLASSES)
NOV. 17 - ASSESSMENT & EVALUATION DAY (NO CLASSES)
NOV. 23 - PD DAY AM & PARENT-TEACHER 1:00-3:00 & 5:00-7:00 (NO CLASSES)
DEC. 12 & 13 - CHRISTMAS CONCERTS
DEC. 21 - FIRST DAY OF HOLIDAY BREAK
JANUARY 2, 2024 - CLASSES RESUME
FEBRUARY 1-29 - REGISTRATION MONTH
FEB. 19 - HERITAGE DAY (NO CLASSES)
MARCH 10 - DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS MOVE CLOCKS FORWARD ONE HOUR
MARCH 11-15 - MARCH BREAK (NO CLASSES)
MARCH 18 - ASSESSMENT & EVALUATION DAY (NO CLASSES)
MARCH 29 - GOOD FRIDAY (NO CLASSES)
APRIL 1 - EASTER MONDAY (NO CLASSES)
APRIL 4 - PD & PARENT TEACHER APPOINTMENTS (NO CLASSES)
MAY 20 - VICTORIA DAY (NO CLASSES)
JUNE 27 - ASSESSMENT & EVALUATION DAY (NO CLASSES)
JUNE 28 - LAST DAY OF SCHOOL



Welcome to

Horizon Elementary

Our team is excited about the 2023-24 school year! We have been busy preparing to welcome the children back to school. Be sure to check out our website hes.hrce.ca for up-to-date information about Horizon Elementary School and the Halifax Regional Centre for Education. If you have any questions or concerns, please call, email, or book an appointment to ensure we are available to meet with you. We look forward to our partnership with you and providing your child(ren) an enriching and inclusive education in a supportive learning environment.

New Team Members

The following staff members have joined Team Horizon this year:

Ms. Tanya McKay - Physical Education 10 %

Ms. Morgan Saturley - Grade Primary FI 20%

Ms Kira Clarke - Speech Language Pathologist (SLP)

Ms Cindy Carrington - Grade Primary-1 English

Ms. Gail Josey - P-3 Classroom support 30%

Ms. Brittany MacLeod - Grade P-1 FI

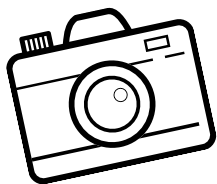
Ms. Michelle Secord - Pre-primary Lead

Ms. Alison Kinch - Grade 3 English

Ms. Kaeleigh MacCallum - Grade 1 FI 50%

Ms Janice Boucher - EPA

You can visit our *staff directory* on our school web site for contact information for all team members: hes.hrce.ca.



School Photo Day - October 24

Photomaster Photography will be taking student photos on Tuesday, October 24th. All students and preprimaries will have their photos taken. Retake day will be Thursday, November 2nd.



Dress for changes in the Weather

Children will be spending time outside while at school. Please pack a hat and sweater so they can be comfortable no matter what the weather. Please write your child's name on sweaters, jackets, hats and footwear. Students may not recognize their own clothing. Thank you! We have lost and found spots in the building where we place unclaimed clothing and lost items. If your child is missing something, please inform the teacher so we can locate it before items are donated to Value Village.

Stand Up Against Bullying Day



We know the importance of building healthy, safe and positive environments. The inspiration for the day came from the actions of Central Kings Rural High School Grade 12 students Travis Price and David Shepherd (<https://novascotia.ca/news/release/?id=20070925006>) who rallied behind a student who was being bullied simply for wearing pink. We encourage our students to wear pink on Thursday, September 14th and stand up against bullying .

Peanut & Nut Aware

Please do not send food to school that contains peanuts and/or tree nuts, including Nutella, which is made with hazelnuts. Students who bring sandwiches with WOW butter or other type of non-nut spread please indicate, with a note in your child's lunch bag, what the spread is and that it does not contain nuts. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

PTO

We are looking for members for our Parent Teacher Organization. Members plan fun events for the children throughout the year. The first meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 19th at 7:00 PM in the staff room at the school. We welcome new and returning members!



School Hours

8:15 am-8:25 am Students enter the school via their assigned door. Students traveling by bus enter through the Main Entrance.

8:25 am Begin morning routines

8:30 am Classes begin promptly

10:00-10:15 am Recess

11:30-12:20 am Lunch A

12:25-1:15 pm Lunch B

2:25 pm Dismissal

*If you are dropping your child(ren) off at school in the morning it is important that they arrive on time (by 8:25 am). Students who are late for class disrupt the flow of the learning environment and miss instructional time and important routines to begin their day. If possible, please schedule appointments for your child after 2:30 p.m.

Assigned Doors

If your child comes to school by **bus**, they enter the building through the **Main Entrance doors**. Walking students and those who get a drive enter their assigned door according to class. They will be dismissed from the same door at the end of the school day. The numbers are displayed on each door.

| DOOR #1 | DOOR #2 | DOOR #3 |
|--------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Pre-Primary | Primary-1 Carrington | 3 Hodder |
| Grade 1-2 Doiron | Primary Gordon/Saturley | 1 Boudreau |
| Grade 2 Pearson | Primary MacDonald | 3 Kinch |
| Grade 2-3 Wilhelm | Primary MacLeod | 2 Bigg |
| Grade 1 Haverstock | 3 Boudreau | 2 Comeau-Shantz |
| | | Grade 1 Animashaun/ MacCallum |

School Website

You can find lots of information on the school website: <https://hes.hrce.ca/>. Staff contact information is on the *Staff Directory* page. More information is located on the *Our School* page.

School Advisory Council - SAC

Our School Advisory Council invites you to attend our first SAC meeting on Wednesday, September 13th at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. The School Advisory Council, made up of parents, teachers and community members, plays an important role in supporting student success at the school community level. A School Advisory Council is an advisory body to the school principal and Regional Centre for Education on a range of issues related to the school and the school system. We have some returning members and welcome anyone interested in serving on the SAC to attend this meeting. Email Ms. Liberatore for the Zoom link, if interested: nliberatore@hrce.ca



Library Books

If you have found classroom or library books over the summer, please send them in with your child to give to their teacher. Thank you!



Parking Lot Safety

Please drive slowly and use extreme caution when entering and exiting the parking lot. There is a "kiss and go lane" to drop off students and proceed to exit the parking lot. If you are leaving your vehicle to walk your child to their assigned door, please park your vehicle in the marked spaces and watch for moving vehicles. The driveway loop at the front of the school is for buses.



Animals on School Property

Please do not bring pets on school property. Children and adults can be nervous around animals. We want to keep everyone safe, including your pet. Thank you for complying.

Lunch Monitors

We are looking for substitute lunch monitors. If you are interested in working one to two hours per day, one to five days per week, please call the office for details. New employees need to have their Criminal Record & Vulnerable Sector Check as well as a Child Abuse Register check and complete an application for lunch monitor. Please call Ms. MacKenzie at 902-465-8651 ext.0 for more information.

Breakfast Program

We offer a breakfast program at the school. In the next few weeks an email will be sent out to families looking for volunteers to help prepare breakfast and deliver it to the classrooms.



Curriculum Night

Curriculum Night was held on Tuesday, September 5th 6:00-7:00 pm. Many families attended the event and the feedback was positive. Thank you to the PTO volunteers who gave out popsicles during the event.

Administering Medication at School

In order to have medication administered to students while in school, parents/guardians need to drop off the medication and fill out the required forms. Medication needs to be in the original bottle with the prescription label. School staff can only administer prescribed medications. Please advise the school in advance of administering medication so that the appropriate forms can be sent home.

October is Mi'kmaq History Month

Culturally relevant pedagogy and inclusive education is central to teaching and learning at Horizon Elementary School and the Halifax Regional Centre for Education. Teachers regularly provide learning opportunities for students to share their culture and learn about other cultures. October is Mi'kmaq History Month. Students will be learning about Mi'kmaq history during the month of October and throughout the year. For more information follow this link: <https://mikmaqhistorymonth.ca/>

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

The purpose of the new statutory holiday is to honour First Nations, Inuit and Métis Survivors and their families and communities and to ensure that public commemoration of their history and the legacy of residential schools remains a vital component of the reconciliation process. There are no classes for students on October 2nd to observe this day.

Treaty Day

Treaty Day is held annually on October 1st. It marks the beginning of Mi'kmaq History Month in Nova Scotia, as proclaimed in 1993 by then Premier John Savage and Mi'kmaq Grand Chief Ben Sylliboy. The purpose of Treaty Day is to promote public awareness about the Mi'kmaw culture and heritage for all Nova Scotians.



Orange Shirt Day

Orange Shirt Day is a day when we honour the Indigenous children who were sent away to residential schools in Canada and learn more about the history of those schools. Staff and students are encouraged to wear orange shirts on this day. Orange Shirt Day will be held on Friday, September 29th since there are no classes on Monday, October 2nd. For more information follow this link: <https://www.orangeshirtday.org/>



Appropriate Bus Behaviours

The principal and teachers will be having conversations with students about bus safety. **Please reinforce with your child the importance of staying seated on the bus and not distracting the driver while the bus is moving. It is important that children treat each other with respect and keep their hands to themselves.**

Buses may return to the school if students are not acting appropriately therefore delaying their drop-off. Safety is our priority. Please speak with the bus driver or contact transportation@hrce.ca if you need to report a bus incident.

Safe Arrival

You can report future absences using the SchoolMessenger app, website, or toll-free phone number. If your child is absent and the absence has not been reported in advance, you will receive notifications via email, text, and phone calls from SchoolMessenger. If SchoolMessenger cannot reach you, office staff will follow up. To report your student absent, you can use any of the following methods:

PowerSchool Parent/Student Portal

Parents/guardians can log in to <https://sishrsb.ednet.ns.ca/public/> to access the SchoolMessenger website to report future absences.

SchoolMessenger App

Parents/guardians can download the SchoolMessenger app for Android and iOS devices and use their username and password for the PowerSchool Portal.

Toll-Free Number

Parents/guardians can call **1-833-582-6940** to report future absences using an automated system

HORIZON SAFE ARRIVAL

📞 1-833-582-6940

🌐 <https://sishrsb.ednet.ns.ca/public/>
Click School Messenger
Click Menu
Click Attendance

📱 Download the
SchoolMessenger app
for Android and iOS
devices

24 hours/day
7 days a week
For any school
day during the
current school
year



Utensils & Water Bottles

Students need to bring a clean water bottle to school each day. The school fountains no longer have a spout to get a sip of water. We have water bottle refill stations. Please ensure their name is on the bottle. Children need to bring the necessary utensils to eat their lunch. We purchase one time use forks and spoons in case it is forgotten.



You are going to love it here!

Would you like to volunteer at Horizon Elementary?

Follow the steps below



1

Fill out the online form for the Child Abuse Registry search:

<https://beta.novascotia.ca/apply-child-abuse-register-search>

2

For your criminal record check email horizon@hrce.ca and ask for an invitation to mybackcheck.com or go to your local police station

3

Share your results from mybackcheck.com

4

When you receive your C.A.R. clearance, bring it to the school main office to be copied.

For more information visit:
<https://www.hrce.ca/volunteer>