



November 2025

"Care, Share, Learn"

Bell and Lunch Schedule

7:40 am - School Opens
8:00 am - Classes Begin
10:00 - 10:15 am - Recess
11:30 am - 12:20 pm - Lunch
1:50 pm - Dismissal

Calendar of Events

Nov 8 - Indigenous Veterans Day
Nov 11 - Remembrance Day (no classes)
Nov 20 - SAC Meeting
Nov 21 - Assessment & Evaluation Day (no classes)
Dec 3 - Holiday Concert
Dec 4 - Parent Teacher Interviews
Dec 19 - Last day of classes before Christmas break

Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It is hard to believe that we are past the 2 month mark of the school year and teachers are starting to prepare their first term reports. We are very proud of our students and the learning that is taking place in our classrooms.

Please reach out if you have any questions or concerns.
Carole DesBarres

Holiday Concert

Ms. Landry, our music teacher, is beginning preparations for the Holiday Concert on **Wednesday, December 3**. We are planning both a daytime and an evening performance, and more details will be shared as plans are finalized. Please note that each family will receive a limited number of tickets for the evening performance to ensure we comply with Fire Marshal seating regulations.

Parent Teacher Interviews

Our teachers look forward to meeting with parents to discuss students' academic progress and any concerns. Meetings can be held **in person, online, or by phone**—please indicate your preference when booking.

Parent/Teacher Meetings will take place on **Thursday, December 4**, from **1:00–3:00 p.m.** and **6:00–8:00 p.m.** To book an appointment, please call the office or email atvs@hrce.ca with your preferred time slot.

Inclement Weather

Lunch Monitors

We are still in need of Sub-Lunch Monitors! If you, a family or community member are interested in lunch monitoring on a part time/on call basis please contact the school at 902-464-5245. Hours for this position are **11:25am - 12:25pm**.

Allergy Awareness

We promote an allergy aware school environment and ask that students follow these guidelines:

Do not bring food that contains peanuts/nuts.

Do not SHARE food

ASK QUESTIONS if you are unsure of "Safe" Foods

Thank you for helping to provide a safe environment for students with food allergies!

Did you know? HRCE takes great care when making the decision to alter the regular operations of schools and school buses in the event of severe or inclement weather.

It is HRCE's goal to communicate any changes to the regular operations of schools and/or buses as close to 6:00 a.m. as possible. A 6:00 a.m. announcement could be:

- All schools are delayed in opening by two hours and bus pickups are delayed by two hours; or
- All schools are open, but some or all busses are not operating for the day; or
- Some schools (either individually or by family) are closed for the day; or
- All schools are closed for the day.

If weather deteriorates, or is forecasted to worsen throughout the morning, an 11:00 a.m. announcement could be:

- Bussed students will be picked up two hours earlier than their regular dismissal time; and
- Walking students will be dismissed at their regularly scheduled lunch hour.

How will I find out?

- By email to the addresses in PowerSchool
- By text message, if you have opted-in. If you aren't sure if you have opted-in, text Y to the following number: 978338
- On the HRCE website
- On Instagram

It's important to always have a plan in place for childcare in the event of any cancellation. Please remember: As a parent or guardian you always have the choice of whether or not to send your child to school.

For more information on how HRCE manages during inclement weather, visit hrce.ca/families/cancellations.

Lost & Found

Our Lost and Found is quickly filling up with unclaimed items. We encourage families to take a moment to check it the next time you're in the building—it's a great chance to see if anything belongs to your student. Thank you for helping us keep our school organized!.

School Milk Program

The school milk program provides 237ml cartons of milk to students for **\$0.40**. Milk Tickets can be purchased as sheets of 10 for \$4.00. Please send exact change as the classroom teachers do not have a means to provide change.

Tickets are then redeemed for milk on a daily basis at the office. It is the parents responsibility to send a milk ticket with their child on the days that they would like milk.

Reporting an Absence

If your child will be absent, please let us know by using one of the following methods:

Toll-Free Number - Call 1-833-582-6940 to report an absence

PowerSchool Parent Portal- Log into <https://sishrsb.ednet.ns.ca/public>

SchoolMessenger App- Download the SchoolMessenger app

For more information about reporting your child's absence and a list of frequently asked questions, visit: <https://www.hrce.ca/safearrival>

Learning more about Student Attendance & Engagement Policy

Did you know? The Student Attendance and Engagement Policy guides our approach to attendance and is in place to support all students.

The policy states that regular, punctual attendance supports academic success, responsibility, and preparation for the future.

Ensuring regular attendance is a joint effort between students, families and schools. As a parent/guardian, you play an important role by monitoring attendance, communicating with the school when your child is absent, and supporting your child's regular attendance.

What Should You Know?

- Communication about absences
 - Schools will monitor attendance and lateness.
 - All absences must be communicated to the school, following the school's procedure.
 - If absenteeism or lateness reaches 10% of class time, the school will begin to engage more actively with the student and family.
 - If it goes beyond 15%, more targeted supports may be used (counselling, referrals, community supports).
- High school credit requirement
 - For Grades 10-12, students must attend at least 80% of class time to earn the credit.
 - If more than 20% of class time is missed, and efforts to improve attendance haven't succeeded, the teacher may recommend "loss of credit." The principal makes the final decision.

What Can You Do?

- Monitor and encourage punctual, consistent attendance
- Maintain open communication with the school when absences or challenges arise

- Work with school staff to understand supports or accommodations for your child
- Be aware of the thresholds (10%, 15%) and possible consequences (intervention, loss of credit in high school)
- Remember: the policy allows flexibility. If your child has a legitimate reason for missing school (health, family issue, etc.), schools are encouraged to take a supportive approach.

November 8th is Indigenous Veterans Day



Indigenous Veterans Day is an important occasion to honour the sacrifices and contributions of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples who have served in the Canadian Armed Forces. Recognizing this day in schools is especially significant, as it provides students with the opportunity to learn about the often-overlooked histories and experiences of Indigenous veterans. By commemorating Indigenous Veterans Day in our schools, we ensure that younger generations understand the vital role Indigenous peoples have played in defending Canada, while also promoting respect, reconciliation, and a more inclusive understanding of Canadian history. This recognition helps strengthen empathy, respect for diversity and a greater appreciation for the many ways in which Indigenous peoples have shaped our country.

November 11th is Remembrance Day



Remembrance Day holds an important place in our schools as it provides a meaningful opportunity for our students to learn about the sacrifices made by veterans and all those who have served in times of conflict. Through ceremonies, discussions and creative projects, we demonstrate respect and gratitude for the freedoms Canadians enjoy. Observing Remembrance Day also helps students connect with Canada's history and reinforces the values of peace, tolerance and community responsibility.

November 13-19 is Transgender Awareness Week



Transgender Awareness Week provides an important opportunity to strengthen understanding and respect for the transgender community, to encourage inclusivity in our schools and to promote safe environments where all students feel valued and supported.

AI and your child's learning

HRCE teachers and staff are introducing students to artificial intelligence (AI) in safe and meaningful ways that build awareness, creativity, and critical thinking. Together, we can help our learners understand how to use AI responsibly and confidently in their education and everyday lives. This informational sheet provides you with starting points for conversations about AI and learning. Please see the attached Quick Reference guide for more information.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) AND YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING

A QUICK GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND
GUARDIANS IN HRCE



WHAT IS AI?

Artificial Intelligence (AI) means computers that can learn from information and find patterns to help make decisions. AI doesn't think or feel like people—it uses data to make connections that led to informed responses.

HOW IS AI USED IN SCHOOLS?

- Teachers choose if and how AI is used in the classroom.
- Some lessons may include AI tools for learning or creativity.
- Students learn how to use technology safely and responsibly.



HOW AI CAN HELP LEARNING?

AI can:

- Give students quick feedback.
- Help with idea generation when a child is stuck.
- Adjust lessons to fit different learning needs.
- Change reading levels of text so it is more easily accessible.



Remember, teachers will always tell students when they can or cannot use AI for school work.

AI PRIVACY AND SAFETY TIPS:

- Never share personal info with AI tools.
- Only use apps approved by your school or regional centre.
- Look closely at the age restrictions of AI tools.
- Talk with your child about what's real, what's private, and what's fair online.



AT HOME YOU CAN HELP BY:

- Setting screen time limits and tech-free times.
- Talking about what your child does online.
- Reminding your child to check if AI answers make sense.
- Asking teachers about the AI usage guidelines.
- Reviewing classroom/school academic integrity guidelines.

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Scan the QR code for a list of approved learning tools and information about technology in education.



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