

October News



Dear families,

As we welcomed students back to school this month, we were excited to reintroduce a learning space in our school, Paula's Place. This space was revitalized and renewed over the summer and will be an alternative learning space for all students in the school – with a big connection to safe and positive learning environments and a place where students can show their learning in inclusive and creative ways.

Paula's Place opened on December 6, 2006 – with more than 400 people in attendance. The community was deeply moved to see this beautiful, creative space established within BLT Sr, honoring the memory of Paula Gallant – a devoted educator who once taught at the school and whose life ended far too soon. The development of this project included many volunteers, family and friends who spent months building this room with many donations from the community and sponsors.

One of Paula's joys was art, and this room, and its supplies will pass on her passion. Art will be a central focus for this space and is an incredible way to improve student well-being and achievement. Engaging in art – through literacy, mathematics and now technology, will allow students to develop self-confidence, take risks, and build relationships in a safe environment. Paula's Place will allow for accessible learning opportunities so that every student will be engaged, challenged, and inspired.

Students have been thoroughly enjoying this space and eagerly anticipate many more enriching learning experiences throughout the year.

Remembrance Day Ceremony

Our Remembrance Day Ceremony will take place on **Monday, November 10th at 10:30am**. We are looking for military and retired military members to attend our event. If you are such a person and would like to attend, please contact Amber at ACollins-Grimmer@hrce.ca.

October 6
SAC

October 7
Bus Evacuation

October 13
Thanksgiving

October 15 and 16
Picture days

October 24
Provincial Conference Day
(no school)

November 10
Remembrance Day
Ceremony

November 11
Remembrance Day
(no school)

November 21
Evaluation Day

November 25, 26, 27
Music Concerts

December 4
Progress
Conferences/Teacher PD

December 19
Last day for students
before Holiday Break

Toys from Home

- This is just a friendly reminder that toys, stuffies, and trading cards should be left at home. These items can be distracting during class time and sometimes lead to conflicts between students.
- If there's a special day when students are invited to bring in these items, teachers will inform families in advance. We appreciate your support in helping us maintain a focused and positive learning environment for all! Thank you for your understanding!

Halloween Activities

- Students can wear their costumes (no masks or weapons) to school Friday, October 31st.
- Alternatively, students can wear orange and black.
- Each classroom will have their own activities, and you'll receive more details from the teachers closer to Halloween.

Raising Concerns

Communication with your child's classroom teacher is key to staying informed about what's happening in class. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to your child's teacher first.

If you need to raise a concern, here are the steps to follow:

1. Share your concern with your child's teacher.
2. If the concern is not resolved, contact the school administration.
3. If the issue remains unresolved, you can reach out to HRCE's Family Navigators, who can provide support and connect you with the school supervisor.
4. If the matter is still unresolved, you can initiate a formal review process outlined in the Parent/Guardian Concern Policy. This will involve an investigation by the appropriate HRCE Directors. To begin, please complete the Parent Concern Reporting Form on page 3 of the Policy.

Picture Day

- **School photos will be taken over two days, October 15th and 16th.**

October 20-24 is School Bus Safety Week

- Student safety is a shared responsibility! During School Bus Safety Week, everyone can work together to ensure the safety of students on and around the school bus.

- Did you know that HRCE has more than 33,000 students who ride the school bus every day?

Morning Arrival: Thank you!!

- A huge thank you for helping to keep our morning arrival running smoothly! All buses arrived and unloaded on time this week, allowing our instructional day to start at 8:35.
- The safety of our students is our top priority, the bus loop is closed to all non-designated vehicles during morning arrival. With our growing student population and arrivals from both buildings, this measure is essential to ensuring a safe and orderly process for everyone.

Couple Reminders

- Please remember to bring a water bottle daily
- Cutlery each day if needed for lunch

School Bell Schedule

- 8:15 AM: Soft Start, Students Come into Building and go to Class
- 8:35 AM: Morning Announcements and Attendance
- 10:05 - 10:20 AM: Recess
- 12:05-1:05 PM: Lunch (ALL CLASSES)
- 2:35 PM: Dismissal



School Closures

You can receive updates on any school closures through the following methods:

- **Email:** Sent to the addresses listed in PowerSchool.
- **Text Message:** If you've opted in. Not sure if you have? Simply text **Y** to **978338** to confirm.
- **Website:** Visit www.hrce.ca for updates.
- **Instagram:** Follow us at www.instagram.com/hrce_ns for updates