

January News



Dear families,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone back to school and wish you all a Happy New Year! With winter now in full swing, please remember to ensure your children are dressed appropriately for the weather each day, as students spend time outdoors in the morning and at lunchtime.

Reminder: Morning Arrival Procedures Remain the Same, Even as Weather Gets Colder

As we move into colder weather, we want to remind families that our procedures for student arrival and dismissal remain unchanged.

The safety of our students continues to be our highest priority.



The bus loop remains closed to all non-designated vehicles during morning arrival. With our growing student population and students arriving from both buildings, this is necessary to maintain a safe and orderly process for everyone.

To help ensure smooth arrivals, please remember to:

- Park only in designated areas on neighborhood streets.
- Avoid stopping or parking in front of the school driveway, as this can block buses and delay the arrival of designated vehicles.

Thank you for your continued cooperation in keeping our students safe. Your support helps make arrival and dismissal efficient for all.

Volunteer Checks Information

In accordance with HRCE'S Student Protection Policy, prior to volunteering with the Halifax Regional Center of Education, all volunteers will provide:

1. A completed Child Abuse Register Search (C A R) with Dept of Community Services and is free, it can be found at:

<https://beta.novascotia.ca/apply-child-abuse-register-search> but can take a week to process.

2. A certified copy of a Criminal Records Check (CRC) with the Vulnerable Sector Search (VSS) is available from your local Police or RCMP detachment or through online organizations endorsed by Nova Scotia law enforcement agencies.



January 12

SAC meeting

January 27

Family Literacy Day

February 16

Heritage Day: no school

March 13

Assessment and Eval.
Day: no school

March 16-20

March Break

If you email our school, we can send you an invite for the discounted rate through mybackcheck.com. If you would rather not do this on-line then we can provide you a letter to take to the Tantallon RCMP for the volunteer discounted rate.

Please email Mrs. Butler JButler@hrce.ca or Ms. Amber Collins-Grimmer acollins-grimmer@hrce.ca

Parent-Teacher Committee: Looking for Members

- We are currently looking for volunteers to assist with the Parent Teacher Committee (PTC), which organizes school events outside of school hours and fundraising initiatives.

We are also seeking one or two individuals who would be interested in taking on a lead role. If you're interested, please reach out to Ms. Butler our administrative assistant at jbutler@hrce.ca

Planning for Inclement Weather

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.

Online Platform Risks From Unplugged Canada: *Sharing on behalf of Unplugged Canada*

- Many digital platforms today, including social media, online gaming and AI chat tools, are designed to keep kids scrolling and engaged, often exposing them to addictive features, adult content, and interactions they may not be developmentally ready to handle.
- Below is a resource that outlines some of the most common social media, gaming, and AI chat platforms, helping families better understand the risks, start meaningful conversations at home, and consider delaying smartphones and access to these apps until kids are more developmentally ready. You can access the full resource [here](#).



Unplugged Canada is a parent-led, national movement advocating for healthier childhoods by delaying smartphones and social media until kids are more developmentally ready. Join thousands of Canadian families choosing to delay by taking the Unplugged Canada Pledge at unpluggedcanada.com/sign-pledge.

Power Outage Information for Families

As we move into the winter months, we want to share how decisions are made when a school experiences a power outage.

Our priority is always to keep schools open safely when possible. A power outage does **not** automatically mean classes are cancelled – even if it happens during the school day. The decision depends on when power is expected to be restored.

Here's what happens:

- When a school loses power, HRCE's Operations Team contacts Nova Scotia Power to gather available details on the cause and an estimated restoration time.
- Once we have this information, we consider:
- **Before school starts:** Have buses begun their routes? If so, we wait until students arrive before making a decision. If classes are cancelled, elementary families will be contacted before dismissal.
- **During the school day:** How close is dismissal? What is the temperature in the building? Does the school rely on power for water or septic systems? These factors, among others, help us decide whether to stay open or close. Often, power returns faster than we could safely send students home.

If classes are cancelled:

- HRCE will notify families by email and text.
- Families of elementary students will also receive a phone call before dismissal.

Deciding to close schools during a power outage is never simple, but safety is always our top priority. We understand that cancellations can be inconvenient, and our goal is to keep students learning in class whenever possible.

More information about school cancellations for any reason can be found [here](#).

Learn About the Influenza Vaccine

Fast Facts about the Flu Vaccine

- Influenza (the flu) is virus that peaks in transmission in the fall and winter months
- Most people are mildly ill when they contract the flu but sometimes the flu can be serious and require admission to the hospital
- Children under 6 years are at the highest risk of serious complications from the flu
- The flu and RSV can occur at the same time making children more at risk of needing hospitalization
- The flu vaccine is recommended yearly for children 6 months and older to protect against serious complications of the flu



For more information, [click here](#).