

Sackville Heights Elementary School

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

It is hard to believe that it is already October! Our students have had a wonderful start to the school year and have settled into their new classrooms, routines, and learning environments. It has been lovely to see their enthusiasm, curiosity, and excitement as they reconnect with friends, build new relationships, and become comfortable in their daily routines. There is already such a positive energy throughout our school, and it is exciting to see our students learning and growing each day.

Our teachers and staff have been dedicated to building strong relationships with their students, taking the time to get to know them and understand their individual strengths and learning needs. Creating classrooms where every student feels known, valued, and supported is at the heart of what we do. We are proud of the care and commitment our staff bring to their work each day.

Throughout the school year, we have opportunities to reflect on the history and stories of the land and community we are part of. As we recognize Mi'kmaq History Month, our students will have opportunities to learn about Mi'kmaq history, culture, language, and contributions. Through classroom learning and school-wide activities, we hope to encourage our students to ask questions, make connections, and develop a deeper appreciation for the rich history and culture of the Mi'kmaq people.

October is a busy and exciting month at Sackville Heights Elementary, with lots of opportunities for our students to learn, get involved, and enjoy being part of our school community. We look forward to all the activities, celebrations, and everyday moments that make this such a special place for our students. Thank you for your continued support and for being an important part of our school community.

Sincerely,

Martha Walsh, Principal and Lisa Gray, Vice-Principal



Important Dates

October 2

PTO Veggie Box Orders Due

October 5

School Photos – Grades
Primary to Two

October 6

School Photos – Grades
Three to Five

October 7

PTO Veggie Box Order Pick
Up 6:00-7:00 pm

October 12

Thanksgiving Day – No School

October 20

SAC Meeting - 5:30 pm

PTO Meeting - 6:30pm

October 22

PTO Halloween Dance -
6:30pm-8:00pm

October 23

Provincial Conference Day
– No School for Students



PTO Halloween Dance

The PTO Halloween Dance will be held on Thursday, October 22nd. We invite all our families to put on their favorite costume (no weapons please) and come dance to some catchy (and maybe some spooky) tunes. All children attending must be supervised by a parent or guardian. More information will be sent out closer to the event. Admission will be by donation in support of PTO fundraising initiatives.

School Advisory Council

Our School Advisory Council is looking for a parent/guardian who would like to take on the role of SAC Chair.

The Chair represents the council and helps ensure open lines of communication among the SAC, HRCE, the school, parents/guardians, and the community. The Chair works collaboratively with the principal in an advisory role and, together, they establish the agendas for SAC meetings.

If you are interested in becoming the **SAC Chair**, please email shes@hrce.ca with your name and a brief paragraph explaining your interest by Friday October 16, 2026. If more than one individual is interested in the position, an election will take place in accordance with the SAC bylaws. Our next meeting will be held on October 20 at 5:30 pm.

In addition to a new Chair, we are also looking for **community members** to join our SAC.

Community members:

- must not be employees of Sackville Heights Elementary School;
- must not have children registered at Sackville Heights Elementary School; and
- must reside in the geographical area served by Sackville Heights Elementary School or provide a service to or within the geographical area served by the school.

If you know someone in our community who may be interested in joining the SAC, please encourage them to reach out to us.

Important Times to Remember

8:00 –Supervision Begins; students enter the building when they arrive. Staff are available in the Student Drop Off/Kiss and Go area.

8:20 – **Instruction Begins**

9:50 – **Recess (P-2)**

10:05- **Recess (3-5)**

11:20 – 12:20 – **Lunch**

12:20 – **Instruction Begins**

2:20 – **Dismissal**

** Please note there is no supervision of students provided after dismissal (except for students waiting for the bus). **

** Please note that if you are picking your child up early, please do so before 2:00pm as any closer to dismissal time causes challenges for staff. **

October 19-23 is School Bus Safety Week



Every school day, thousands of HRCE students rely on the bus to get to and from school safely.

School Bus Safety Week is a chance to highlight the simple habits that help keep everyone safe, from waiting well back from the road, to following the driver's instructions, to staying alert around stopped school buses.

With more than 33,000 HRCE students travelling on more than 400 buses each day, safety depends on all of us: students, families, drivers, schools and motorists.

This week is a good opportunity to review a few everyday reminders and help reinforce safe routines on the bus, at the stop and on the road.

Bus Stop Safety

- Be on time for the bus and please don't run to/from the bus.
- Stand back off the road and don't push or shove when waiting at a stop.
- Always cross in front of the bus. Walk three metres (10 feet) in front of the bus to a point where you can see the driver and wait for the driver's signal to cross. Proceed to the centre of the road, STOP, LOOK & LISTEN and cross the road when it is safe.
- Never crawl under a school bus or cross the road behind the bus.
- Know the danger zones around the bus.

School Bus Safety

- Please respect and listen to the driver and avoid distracting them.
- Please keep noise levels to a minimum.
- Do not stand or move seats while the bus is in motion.
- Never put your hands, arms, feet or head out of the bus window.
- Ask the driver for permission before you open the bus windows.
- Do not throw anything inside the bus or out of the windows.
- Keep the aisle clear at all times when the bus is in motion.

Remember: In Nova Scotia, it's illegal to pass a school bus when its red lights are flashing and the stop arm is extended.

You can find out more information about riding the school bus in HRCE [here](#).

October is Canadian Library Month



October is a chance to celebrate the important role libraries play in our schools — and the Library Support Specialists who bring those spaces to life.

Every day, our school libraries help students discover new interests, build literacy skills, find reliable information and, sometimes, simply find a welcoming place to spend some time. Our Library Support Specialists are an important part of making that happen.

Canadian Library Workers Day is recognized on the third Friday of October, followed by Canadian School Library Day on the fourth Monday. These are great opportunities to recognize the people who help make our libraries engaging, inclusive and supportive spaces for students.

Please join us in thanking our Library Support Specialist, Ms. Renee Parsons, for all she does to support the students and staff at Sackville Heights Elementary.

Do you know how to raise a concern?

Did you know that there's a protocol in place to help families contact schools or the HRCE office when you have concerns about your student's education or well-being?

- All concerns should first be shared with your child's teacher.
- If your concern is not resolved, you should then contact the principal.
- If your concern remains unresolved, you can reach out to HRCE's [Family Navigators](#) who can provide information about a wide range of supports and resources.
- If your matter continues to be unresolved, you can then initiate a formal review process in which the matter will be investigated by the appropriate HRCE Directors.
- The final step is for your concern to be passed on to the Regional Executive Director.

[Click here](#) to learn more.

