



Harrietsfield Elementary School

Info for Families: September 2-6

Important Dates:

September 3

Organization
Day (no classes)

September 4

Professional
Learning Day
(no classes)

September 4

Open House
6-7pm

September 5

First Day of
School!

September 12

Pink Shirt Day

September 19

Picture Day!

September 27

Orange Shirt
Day

September 30

Truth and
Reconciliation
Day (no school)

We are in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaw people. This territory is covered by the treaties of peace and friendship. We acknowledge that people of African descent have been in Nova Scotia for over 400 years .

Open House

We will be having a drop-in open house on the evening of Wednesday, September 4th, prior to the first day of school. This will be an opportunity for you to receive some information about the curriculum that will be covered this year and see where your child will be spending their school year. The open house will be from 6-6:45pm. We hope you will drop by to meet your child's teacher/s. Ice cream will be served outside from 6:45-7:00 pm.

First Day of School

The first day of school is Thursday, September 5th. Teachers will be on duty at 7:40 am. If you are choosing to drop off your child that day, please refrain from using the bus loop. Your child's teacher will be in contact with you prior to our open house, to introduce themselves and to let you know where your child's classroom is.

New Staff

We have had a couple of changes to our staff over the summer months. We would like to welcome Liz Polley, who will be filling in for Ms. Tara for some time this year. We are happy to welcome Britney Whitehead back to our school, who will be supporting our students this year as an Educational Program Assistant (EPA). Ms. Ashley will be joining Ms. Jessica in pre-primary while Ms. Christie is off.

School Supplies

This year, we are collecting \$40 from each child for school supplies, in lieu of having families purchase supplies. In June, many of you used School Cash online to pay for supplies. If you haven't already done so, you can still pay for supplies until the end of September. If the cost of school supplies is an issue, the school is happy to cover the cost.

Visit <https://hrce.schoolcashionline.com/> and click Register to get started.

Need support? Connect with the SchoolCash Online help desk at schoolcashionline.com/Home/Support .

October 1

Treaty Day
(Schools Open)

Lunch Program 🍎

As you likely already know, a provincial lunch program is set to begin in HRCE schools that include elementary school grades (pre-primary/primary to Grade 5) this October. The province has launched www.NSLunch.ca, where you can find up-to-date information about the program as well as answers to frequently asked questions. Once the ordering window opens, you will also be able to order your child(ren)'s meals on this website. We will keep you updated on when this happens for our school.

We will not be using Healthy Hunger as this provincial program will replace it. Please send snacks and lunch with your child every day until the lunch program starts.

Lunch Hour Changes

We have made a small change to our lunch hour for this year. All students will eat their lunch from 11:30-11:55 and then go outside to play from 11:55-12:20. We will no longer have a "split lunch".

Cell Phones 📵

As you may be aware, the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development has recently announced a Provincial Directive on Cell Phones in Schools. This directive recognizes the importance of maintaining a learning environment that is free from unnecessary distractions so that students can focus, feel safe and be successful in school.

As a school, we welcome this announcement as we know from experience that cell phones and other related devices are often a source of distraction. They are also known to contribute to feelings of anxiety, can be used to bully and negatively impact students' overall feelings of well-being.

What does this mean for students at our school this year?

- Students may still carry a cell phone to and from school, if necessary.
- Should a child require a cell phone for medical reasons, they will continue to use it for this purpose.
- Students in Grades PP-5 may not use their cell phone at any time during the day.
- At no time are cell phones permitted in washrooms.
- Parents and Guardians will need to call the office (902-479-4230) to pass along important messages.
- Bus transportation is an extension of the school day and subject to the Provincial Code of Conduct Policy. Personal use of mobile devices while waiting for, or riding the bus needs to align with the expectations. Students may not record or take pictures while on the bus.

SAC

School Advisory Councils play an important role in supporting student success at the school community level. A School Advisory Council is an advisory body to the school principal on a range of issues related to the school and the school system. Membership can vary, but generally consists of the school principal, parents, teachers, and other community members.

Our School Advisory Council (SAC) is looking for parents and community members who would be interested in serving on this committee. This requires a very limited time

commitment. If you are interested in being part of our SAC, please email Mrs. Little at plittle@hrce.ca. Please click [here](#) for more information.

Registration Forms

Forms that are usually sent home as a paper copy will be coming to families electronically this year. Please keep an eye on your email as they will be coming through this way.

Stand Up Against Bullying Day – Thursday, September 12

On the second Thursday of September, we recognize Stand Up Against Bullying Day. This day, happening on September 12 this year, is an opportunity for us to start the school year off right – by celebrating inclusivity, kindness and friendship.

All schools in HRCE are focused on ensuring all students have a safe and welcoming environment in which to learn and thrive.

Please join us and wear pink if you're able on September 12 to take a stand against bullying.



Playground Access

A reminder to families that our big playground is only for children who are 5 and older. Our primary students will not be using this playground until after Christmas.

Picture Day 📷

Pineapple Studios will be taking our school pictures again this year. Picture day will be **Thursday, September 19th**. More information will be coming for families as we get closer. Pineapple Studios asks students to not wear green on picture day. If students are absent on picture day, they will be able to get their picture taken on October 1.

Nut Aware School 🥜

We ask that all families take care in not sending snack or lunch items that contain nuts of any kind. This helps to ensure that our students with allergies are safe and healthy.

Breakfast Program

Thanks to our wonderful parent volunteer, Ashley Cassibo, we are able to offer a breakfast program at our school. This program is for all students, regardless of if they have had breakfast at home before school or not. If you are able to spare an hour or two a week, we are always looking for volunteers to help with this important program. Volunteer time can be very flexible and does not need to be before school. Please reach out to the main office if you are able to lend a hand. :) Our breakfast program will begin on the first day of school.

Drop-off Loop 🚗

A reminder to families that the drop off loop must not be entered when school buses are present. For your child's safety, please allow them to exit your vehicle on the playground side, rather than into the road where cars are moving. We also ask that parents do not park their vehicle and get out as this can quickly cause congestion to form.

Safe Arrival

A reminder to **please use the safe arrival process to let us know if your child/ren will be absent. Please do not call the school to report an absence.** To report your student absent, you can use any of the following methods:

1. 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.

2. SchoolMessenger App

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

3. Toll-Free Number

Parents/guardians can call 1-833-582-6940 to report future absences using an automated system. All three methods are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Absences can be reported at any time before the start of school on the day the student will be absent. Up to five consecutive absences can be recorded at once.

Please report your child's absence no later than 8:00 am on the day of their absence.

Purple Tag Program for Bussing

All students in grades pre-primary to 2 **must be accompanied by an adult** at the bus stop before and after school. Children in pp-2 will have a purple tag put onto their backpack to identify them.

Transportation

If you require information about bussing, please reach out to HRCE transportation at 902-431-4723 or transportation@hrce.ca.

Wela'lioq/Merci/Thank you,

Mrs. Little & Ms. Welsh