

HPCS NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2025

Upcoming Events

November 8 - Indigenous Remembrance Day

November 10 - Remembrance Day Assembly for Students

November 11 - Remembrance Day (No school)

November 18 - SAC Meeting (5:30) & PTA Meeting (6:30)

November 21 - PD Day (No school for students)

November 29 - PTA Santa Social 1pm-3pm



Important Information

Important Pick-Up Reminder for Parents who have students in the new modular

Please remember that the procedure for signing your student out early remains the same, even if their class is currently located in the new modular classrooms.

If you need to pick up your child before the regular dismissal time, you must still:

1. Report to the Main Office first.
2. Sign your student out using the standard early dismissal log.
3. The office staff will then call your child from their class (modular or main building) to meet you.

Reminder

Please ensure that all personal toys and electronic items are left at home.

Students should only bring toys to school if their teacher has specifically requested them for a classroom activity.

Thank you for helping us minimize distractions and conflicts!

Contact Info

Email: hpcs@hrce.ca

Phone: 902-832-8412

Check out our school website at hpc.hrce.ca



Success! Thank You, Parents!

What a night! A huge shout-out to the PTA, all of our volunteers, and to every parent, family member and friend who attended our TURKEY BINGO.

We also want to give a massive round of applause for the incredible generosity shown with the Turkey Bingo donations. The success of the night, both in attendance and donations, was all thanks to you.

We're thrilled with the outcome. The St. Margaret's Bay Food Bank would also like to say thank you for the donation from our school community.

Important Reminder for School Volunteers: Required Background Checks

Thank you to all parents interested in volunteering and chaperoning! Your support is invaluable to our school, and we appreciate your willingness to contribute.

As a reminder, all prospective volunteers and field trip chaperones must have two mandatory background checks on file with the school before they can participate:

1. Criminal Record Check with Vulnerable Sector (VSC)
2. Child Abuse Registry (CAR) Check



Please note the following requirements for submission:

- **Submission Deadline:** Checks must be submitted to the school office within three (3) months of their completion date.
- **Validity Period:** Once submitted, the checks are valid for three (3) years.



If you plan to volunteer this year or act as a chaperone, we encourage you to start this process now.

Unsure if your checks are current or on file? Please contact your student's teacher directly. They can confirm the status of your documentation.

Thank you for helping us maintain a safe and supportive environment for all our students!



Seasons are changing...



A Gentle Reminder About Seasonal Changes 🍂

As the weather begins to shift, we want to remind everyone to dress children for the season! Please ensure your child comes to school prepared for both indoor and outdoor play in the current conditions. This means sending in appropriate layers, jackets, snowpants, hats, mittens, and footwear. Additionally, we ask that you send in a full, weather-appropriate change of clothing (socks, pants, shirt, and underwear) to keep at school. This saves us from having to call you at home or work for a change of clothes!

Finally, please take a moment to label all items—especially outerwear, lunch bags, and change of clothes. Labeled items make their way back home much faster!

Thank you for your help in keeping all our students comfortable throughout the day!



Indigenous Remembrance Day, observed on November 8th in Canada, honors the contributions and sacrifices of Indigenous veterans. It's a time to reflect on their unique experiences and the resilience of their communities, while also committing to support Indigenous rights and reconciliation.





LE COIN FRANÇAIS

THE FRENCH CORNER

Bonjour families!

Each month, we'll explore a few fun facts about the French language and culture. The goal is to help families connect with what students are learning in class and maybe even pick up a few French words along the way!

Did you know?

- French is spoken on five continents and is an official language in 29 countries.
- There are over 320 million French speakers around the world!
- French is one of the official languages of the United Nations, the Olympics, and the European Union.
- Canada is the second-largest French-speaking country in the world, after France.
- About 30% of English words come from French! Words like restaurant, ballet, garage, chauffeur, and bouquet all have French roots.

French questions to try at home here are a few easy French phrases you can use with your child – don't worry if your pronunciation isn't perfect!



French	Pronunciation	English
Comment ça va?	koh-mahn sah vah	How are you?
Comment était ta journée?	koh-mahn ay-tay tah zhoor-nay	How was your day?
Qu'as-tu appris aujourd'hui?	kah tew ah-pree oh- zhoor-dwee	What did you learn today?



SCHOOL WIDE BEHAVIOR MATRIX HIGHLIGHT



the BUS

This month, we're putting a spotlight on an important part of how we get to and from our school: the BUS.

We're asking for your help to reinforce our school-wide behavior expectations with your children, especially while traveling to and from school.



Respect for self

- Travel safely
- Sit appropriately
- Walk safely to bus lines

Respect for Others

- Keep hands and feet to yourself on bus and in bus lines
- Follow driver's rules
- Use appropriate voice and language

Respect for Learning

- Use inside behavior rules
- Wait in designated areas

Respect for Environment

- Care for bus
- Wait in designated lines/areas
- Only bring appropriate/safe items on the bus



NOVEMBER 11 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.

Update on the Holiday Concert

We would like to extend a warm welcome to Nicole Keeping, who will be joining our staff as a temporary Music Teacher! Ms. Keeping is stepping in for the talented Kathy Cooke while Mrs. Cooke is away. A special thank you goes out to Ms. Keeping for immediately taking on the planning and coordination of our annual Holiday Concert! **Due to this staffing change and time constraints, our concert production will be shifting.** "A Pirate's Holiday Adventure" will be replaced with a beautiful, more concert-style performance titled "Lights and Candles." This change will allow Ms. Keeping to focus on the musical elements of the show rather than a large-scale stage production in a short timeframe. While the show format is changing, we are planning to maintain the same class line-up of performances that were previously scheduled. We are incredibly grateful to Ms. Keeping for her willingness to take on this big event!

SANTA SOCIAL

When?

November 29th 2025
1PM to 3PM

Where?

Hammonds Plains
Consolidated School



Join us for our annual Santa Social to welcome the holiday season! Keep an eye in your students backpack for the pre sale ticket sheet in the coming weeks. If you, or your business, would like to make a donation to the raffle baskets, please contact us via the HPCS PTA Facebook page or pta.hpcs@gmail.com

Are you interested or know someone who might be interested in joining our schools SAC? We are looking for a new member or two. We need a community member (cannot have a student at the school) as well as an a member of the African NS community.

Unplugged Together: Raising Connected Kids in a Digital World

Learn about the latest research on how smartphones are impacting kids, safer alternatives to consider and tools to navigate the digital world with your family.

📍 Hammonds Plains Community Centre (virtual/zoom option available)

📅 Sunday, November 2, 2025

🕒 6:30pm - 8pm

📄 Register: <https://UnpluggedTogether.eventbrite.ca>

UPCOMING FREE EVENT!

Unplugged Together:

Raising Connected Kids in a Digital World



Learn about the latest research, safer alternatives to consider and tools to navigate the digital world with kids

When: Sunday, November 2nd @ 6:30pm ADT

Where: Hammonds Plains Community Centre
(Virtual Zoom option available)

Register: UnpluggedTogether.eventbrite.ca

Connect with other parents!



LEARNING MORE ABOUT THE STUDENT ATTENDANCE AND ENGAGEMENT POLICY

Learning more about the Student Attendance and 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.