

HPCS

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER
2025

Reminders

Visitors Protocol

For the safety of our students and staff, we kindly ask that all visitors, including volunteers and guests, sign in at the office and obtain a visitor's tag from our administrative assistant. Please also remember that the side door is reserved for EXCEL and staff entry only. All visitors must enter through the front doors and check in at the office upon arrival.

Please Bring your Water Bottle

A reminder to parents to make sure that your student brings their water bottle to school every day as we do not have extras in the office.

Label your Students' Items

Please help us return lost items quickly by clearly labeling all student belongings, such as lunch boxes, jackets, mittens, hats, snowpants, shoes, and water bottles, with your child's full name. Labeled items are much easier to track and return!

Upcoming Events

***First week of December: Report cards go home.**

Dec 1st – 8th Book Fair

Dec 4th – PD (AM), Parent Teacher Interviews (PM)

Dec 2nd – 12th – SOCK Drive

Dec 10th – Int. Human Rights Day

Dec 14th – First Day of Hanukkah

Dec 17th & 18th – Holiday Concert

Dec 19th – Last day for Students before Winter Break

Dec 25th – Christmas Day

Dec 26th – Kwanzaa Begins

Dec 31st – New Years Eve

Jan 5th – First Day back for Students after winter Break

Contact Info

Email: hpcs@hrce.ca

Website: <https://hpc.hrce.ca/>

Phone: 902-832-8412

HOLIDAY CONCERT

LIGHTS AND CANDLES

We are excited to welcome you to our Holiday concert. Students have been busy working on their performances and are excited to share with all of you. We would like to invite grandparents, preschoolers, relatives, etc. to our dress rehearsal at 1:15 (tickets are not required for this show!)

We will also have an evening performance at 6:30 p.m., which will be for two guests. Two tickets will be sent home the week of the concert, we will be carefully monitoring numbers as our gym is very small and we have to adhere to the fire regulations. Everyone in attendance must have a ticket.

Wednesday, December 17th, 2025 @ 1:15 & 6:30 p.m.

Primary Dennis, 1 MacIntyre, 1 Morgan, 1 MacDonald,
1/2 LeBlanc, 1 Pyatt-Ring, 2 Taneja, 2 MacLean, 4
Nickerson, 4/5 Perry, 5 LeBlanc and 5 Hasler

Thursday, December 18th, 2025 @ 1:15 & 6:30 p.m.

Primary Redding, Primary MacNeil, Primary Walsh, 2
Geneau, 2 Pooler, 3 Barkhouse, 3 Dean Levy, 3 Monette,
3/4 Hickey, 4 Bowers, 4/5 MacCallum and 5 Fraser





WINTER WEATHER

A quick heads-up: the weather is changing! Please ensure your child is dressed appropriately in layers and warm outerwear (including coats, hats, and waterproof gear when necessary) for the cooler temperatures and potential rain.

Please pack a complete and labeled change of clothes (shirt, pants, socks, underwear) to keep at school.

This step is essential to quickly address accidents, spills, or getting wet during outdoor play, saving us from calling you during the day. Keeping a dry set of clothes here ensures your student stays comfortable!



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 forecast 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, 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.



Grade 5 Leadership SOCK DRIVE

Our Grade Five Student Leaders are warming hearts (and feet!) this winter again by organizing a Sock and Personal Care product drive!

Please help us collect new warm socks and unopened personal care products for those in need in our community. Socks are one of the most requested items at local shelters.

When: The drive runs from December 2nd to December 12th.

Where: Students can bring items into their classroom teachers.

Thank you for helping our leaders make a difference!



Holiday Help for Our Furry Friends:



SPCA DONATION DRIVE!



This December, let's share the holiday spirit with animals waiting for their forever homes! We are collecting pet-related items to donate to the local SPCA just in time for Christmas.

Please consider donating new or gently used items like:

- Pet Food (unopened dry or canned)
- Blankets and Towels
- Toys and Stuffies
- Treats and Supplies



Drop-Off Dates: Now through December 18th

Where: Look for the marked donation boxes near the school office!

Your generosity will bring comfort and joy to the dogs and cats at the shelter this holiday season.

Thank you for helping us support the SPCA!



Thank You



FOR A SUCCESSFUL SANTA SOCIAL!

A huge THANK YOU to all the families who joined us for the PTA Santa Social on November 29th! It was a wonderful success filled with laughter, festive cheer, and great memories. We appreciate your support and hope you had a fantastic time. We look forward to seeing you all again next year!

FRENCH CORNER



Le Coin Français – French in Nova Scotia!

Did you know that French has a long and proud history in Nova Scotia? French settlers arrived here more than 400 years ago, and their influence is still felt all over the province today. Many of our communities, like Clare, Argyle, Chéticamp, and Isle Madame, are home to vibrant Acadian cultures where French is still widely spoken. Nova Scotia even has its own French school board—CSAP—which offers French-first-language education in 22 schools across the province.

French remains an important part of life here: more than 30,000 Nova Scotians speak French as their first language, and over 100,000 can speak French well enough to carry a conversation.

Here are a few more French words to try at home!

Bonjour – Hello

Salut – Hi

Merci – Thank you

S'il te plaît – Please

Au revoir – Goodbye



More Than Just Snow: Celebrate All the Wonderful Days in December!

December is a spectacular month filled with light, joy, and global traditions! Read on to explore how our community and the world celebrate during this special time of year!



St. Nicholas Day (December 6th)

A Christian feast day celebrated in many European countries. It honors the historical Saint Nicholas, known for his generosity. Children often leave shoes out the night before to be filled with small treats or gifts.



Hanukkah (Festival of Lights) (Starts December 14th): This holiday is celebrated by lighting the menorah, sharing delicious foods, and playing games. It is an important time for Jewish families to remember the miracle of the oil and celebrate the theme of light and perseverance.



Las Posadas (December 16th – 24th)

A novena (nine-day) religious festival celebrated primarily in Mexico and parts of Central America. It commemorates the journey of Mary and Joseph seeking lodging (posada) before the birth of Jesus. Celebrations often include processions, singing, and breaking open piñatas.



Winter Solstice / First Day of Winter (Around December 21st) ❄️

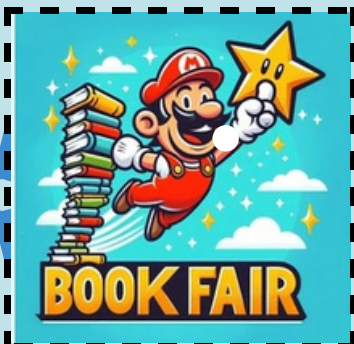
This is the shortest day and longest night of the year! It's celebrated around the world as the official start of winter, a time for reflection, and welcoming the gradual return of longer daylight hours

Christmas (Day of Joy and Giving) (December 25th): This special day is celebrated by Christians and many others around the world, focusing on themes of love, hope, and generosity. Families enjoy traditions like decorating trees, singing carols, and spending time together.



Kwanzaa (A Celebration of Principles) (Starting December 26th): Starting on December 26th, Kwanzaa is a holiday observed by many people of African descent. It is a time to celebrate African heritage, unity, and community. Each of the seven nights focuses on a different guiding principle, like faith and self-determination.





Scholastic Book Fair

Monday December 1st - Monday
December 8th

MONDAY 1st & TUESDAY 2nd: Viewing
Days 9:10-2:35

WEDNESDAY 3rd: Buying Day 8:40
-2:35

THURSDAY 4th: Parent/Teacher
1:00-3:00 *** no evening Book Fair

FRIDAY 5th: Buying Day 8:40 -2:35
Monday December 8th: Buying Day
8:40-11:10

VIEWING DAYS

Students will have a scheduled time to come down to the library to look at all the amazing new books and create a wish list of books they would like to have.

BUYING DAYS

Students will have an opportunity to buy books, posters and Knick Knack items such as bookmarks, pencils, erasers and more during their scheduled buying day.

PARENT/TEACHER AFTERNOON

Be sure to stop by and check out our new selection of books, posters and Knick Knacks either before or after Parent/Teacher from 1-3 only. No evening Book Fair.

Thank you for your support of this great literacy fundraiser. A percentage of the profit come directly back to our school library.

Thank You, Mrs. Gaudet Library Support
& Book Fair Chairperson

BOOK FAIR

SCHOOL WIDE BEHAVIOR MATRIX HIGHLIGHT

Respect for self

- Respect equipment and space
- Play safely
- Stay in designated play areas
- Discuss concerns with an adult

Respect for Others

- Respect personal space
- Use appropriate language
- Practice fair play
- Keep hands and feet to yourself
- Keep rocks, sticks, snow or other objects on ground

Respect for Learning

- Follow instructions and rules
- Be positive with others

Respect for Environment

- Place litter in garbage cans
- Take care with school property and equipment
- Obtain permission to enter the building

Field/Playground

Report Cards

Please be advised that all First Term Student Report Cards will be sent out electronically via email during the week of December 1st.

Please check your inbox, and if you have any questions regarding your child's progress, we encourage you to use the upcoming Parent-Teacher Interviews (December 4th) as an opportunity to connect with their teacher.



PTA NEWS

Upcoming fundraiser: Holiday Concert Front Row Seat Raffle. Information will be sent home soon on how to purchase tickets to enter to win one of three sets of front row seats at each of the holiday concerts coming up on December 17th and 18th. These front row tickets will replace your general admission tickets. The winners of the front row seats for those that volunteered at our fundraising events will be announced then as well.

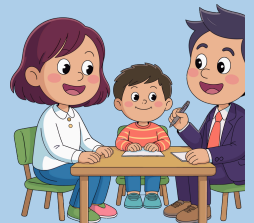


PTA Meeting: We do not have a meeting in December. Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 13th at 6:30pm. The meeting will take place online; a link will be shared on the HPCS PTA Facebook page. Everyone is welcome to attend and participate!

Thank you all for your generous support so far this school year! We look forward to many exciting fundraisers in the new year!



Parent Teacher INTERVIEWS



Please note that our fall Parent-Teacher Interviews will take place on Thursday, December 4th, during the afternoon and evening. This is a valuable opportunity to connect with your child's teacher and discuss their progress. To secure your time slot, please click the link below to sign up for an appointment with your student's teacher:

[Optis Parent Teacher Portal](#)

Schools Plus

SchoolsPlus is a confidential, free service available in every school in Nova Scotia. Our goal is to build positive relationships between families, schools, and communities.

Parents, guardians and students (12+) can self-refer to SchoolsPlus 12 months a year! Just contact the SchoolsPlus Facilitator at your school. Call 902-464-2000, ext. 2331 or email schoolsplus@hrce.ca.



New educational technology resource for families

We're excited to share a new online resource designed to help families understand how technology supports student learning in HRCE. This page provides an overview of how tools like Chromebooks and Google for Education are used in classrooms, what provincially approved online platforms students may access, and how student privacy is protected. You'll also find information about Nova Scotia's guidance on the provincial cell phone expectations, tips for supporting online safety and digital citizenship at home, and an introduction to how students are learning about artificial intelligence in a thoughtful and responsible way. It also includes answers to common questions about screen time, passwords, communication during the school day, and more.

You can find the webpage here
<https://www.hrce.ca/students/general-information/educational-technology-ai>

Resources for Parents from Unplugged Canada

If you're concerned about your kids' screen time, smartphone use, or social media pressure, there are some wonderful resources below to help parents and caregivers navigate the challenges of raising kids in a digital world.

For parents: *The Anxious Generation* by Jonathan Haidt highlights the research and evidence behind how early smartphone and social media exposure have shaped a generation over the last 10–15 years. *Ten Rules for Raising Kids in a High-Tech World* by Jean Twenge offers practical, actionable guidance to help parents set healthy boundaries and support their kids' digital wellbeing.

For kids: *The Amazing Generation*, written for pre-teens and teens and co-authored by Jonathan Haidt, will be released on December 30. It explains the impact of today's digital environment in an engaging, age-appropriate way. All of these books are available at your local library or bookstore.

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.

