November Newsletter 2026-27

Hammonds Plains Consolidated School

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

October was a busy month! In classrooms we took the opportunity to deepen our understanding of Mi'Kmaq history and contemporary culture, reinforcing the idea that we are all treaty people.

Now that November is here and routines are well-established, we will not only continue to prioritize high-quality learning experiences but also encourage students to build upon and showcase their knowledge across the various topics they are exploring in class. Our school remains committed to excellence in instruction and is dedicated to achieving our goals in literacy and math.

As fall has fully set in and colder weather becomes more frequent, we remind everyone that we go outdoors as much as possible. Be sure to dress warmly for chilly mornings and consider packing an extra pair of mittens or gloves for unexpected cooler temperatures.

This time of year also presents a wonderful opportunity to reflect and be thankful for the peace and sense of community we share. We remember and honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice to protect our peace, as well as those who have served and continue to serve.

On Remembrance Day, please take a moment to reflect, honor, and give thanks to those who have given us the gifts of freedom, peace, and security.

Sincerely,

Tom Cleary and Ian Mugford



November Dates

November 2

School Photo Re-Takes

November 8

Indigenous Veterans Day

November 10

In-school Remembrance Day assembly

November 11

Remembrance Day – No School

November 17

SAC/PTA

November 20

Assessment & Evaluation Day – No School for Students

November 28

PTA Holiday Social

November 30

Report Cards are sent home

Remembrance Day Ceremony

We would like to invite all service members, past and present, to attend our Remembrance Day Assembly on Monday, November 10th at 10:45am. This is a special occasion to honor the courage and sacrifices of those who have served, or currently work in service of our country. We will share tributes, reflections, and moments of silence to commemorate the bravery of our veterans and active-duty service members.

The presence of those who have/do serve our country will add great meaning to our assembly and we would like to take this time to show our appreciation in person.

Kindly RSVP by Friday, November 6th to Mr. Cleary – tcleary@hrce.ca. Thank you for your service; we look forward to coming together to honor our community heroes.

Parent/Teacher Interviews

We will be sending home report cards via email on November 30. Parent/Teachers meetings will be held in the evening of December 3rd and afternoon of December 4th. There will be no school for students on December 4th as there is Professional Development Sessions happening for staff in the morning. More information on how/when to sign up for Parent/Teacher meetings will be sent out later in the month.

Winter Concerts in December

We are excited to let everyone know that people can plan early, the details of our Winter Concerts which will showcase what students are learning in Music class this year.

Our holiday concerts will be on Tuesday, December 8th and Wednesday, December 9th.

Classes performing on the 8th are: 3 Monette, 4 Bowers, Pr. Walsh, P/1 McNeil, 2 Williams-Cooper, 1 Morgan, 1/2 Fawthrop-Pooler, 4/5 Swan, 5 LeBlanc, 5 Perry

Classes performing on the 9th are: 3 Barkhouse, 3 Mitton, 2 Abboud, 4 Milne, Pr. Dennis, Pr. Redding, 2/3 Dean-Levy, 1 Pyatt-Ring, 1/2 MacDonald, 4/5 McCallum, 5 Fraser

December Dates

December 3

P/T Conferences (pm only)

December 4

PD Day / PT Conferences (afternoon only) – No School for Students

December 8

Winter Concerts

December 9

Winter Concerts

December 10

Concert Snow Date

December 18

Last day of School for students.

January 4

First day back for students

More details to follow later this month.

PTA News

Save The Date – Holiday Social

We're getting ready for our **Annual Holiday Social**, and we'd love to celebrate with our HPCS families!

- **Saturday, November 28**
- **1:00 PM – 3:00 PM**
- **Visit with Santa**
- **Enjoy hot chocolate & cookies**
- **Bake Sale, Silent Auction & Raffle Baskets**

Want to help make the event a success? We're looking for donations of **baked goods, auction items and raffle basket items!**

If you'd like to donate, please email us at **pta.hpcs@gmail.com**

We also wanted to say thank you to all of those who volunteered to make our annual Halloween Dance a HUGE success. We were able to raise over $2000.00 to support PTA funded initiatives/activities for our school this year! Not only was it a wonderful fundraiser, but a Spooktacular time for all!

SAC News

Community Members Needed

We are still looking for community members (not parents/guardians) to volunteer to be part of our School Advisory Council. If you know a neighbour, extended family member, staff from community-based businesses – please have them reach out to Mr. Cleary tcleary@hrce.ca

Student Drop Off

Please feel free to drop students off at the side door of the school at the Kiss and Go, which operates each day from 8:20-8:40am. With weather getting a little more unpredictable, students can be met by an Administrator, exit their vehicle, and enter school right away. For safety reasons, we ask for students not to be let out of the vehicle before the dropoff area.

There is NO parking/stopping allowed in the marked bus lanes.



Reminders:

- Weather in November can be especially unpredictable. Please make sure to send appropriate outdoor clothing.
- Supervision starts at 8:20am each day. There is no supervision after school by staff.

Safe Arrival: 1-833-582-6940

If your child will not be at school, please call the safe arrival line to report that they will be absent. Please call this number before 9:00am

November 8 is Indigenous Veterans Day

On November 8, we recognize Indigenous Veterans Day and honour the First Nations, Inuit and Métis people who have served and continue to serve in the Canadian Armed Forces. Indigenous veterans have made significant contributions to Canada's military history, serving with courage and dedication while often facing discrimination and barriers to recognition when they returned home.

This day is an opportunity to learn about their stories, recognize their sacrifices and reflect on the importance of ensuring their contributions are remembered and honoured.

We encourage families to take a moment to learn about Indigenous veterans and share their stories with the next generation. Learn more here

Happy Diwali

Diwali, also known as the Festival of Lights, is celebrated by millions of people around the world, including Hindus, Sikhs, Jains and some Buddhists. The celebration carries different meanings across traditions, but often centers on themes of light overcoming darkness, good overcoming evil, and hope, renewal and new beginnings.

Celebrations may include lighting diyas (small oil lamps), decorating homes, sharing special foods, exchanging gifts and gathering with family and friends. Diwali is an opportunity to learn about the diverse traditions and cultures represented in our school communities and to celebrate the many ways people find meaning, connection and joy.

We wish all those celebrating a happy Diwali!

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
- Non-bussed 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.

Unplugged Canada

Please find information shared by the Communications team at the Regional Center regarding this parent-led initiative on our school webpage. The monthly information can be found under "Students and Families" and "Our School" or by clicking on the following link:

- https://hpc.hrce.ca/hpc/our-school/unplugged-canada-updates

See What We Are Learning

Mi'Kmaq Eight-Point Star – 1/2MacDonald

Students in 1/2 MacDonald have created their own versions of the eight-point star as part of their learning during Mi'Kmaq Heritage Month in October.

The eight-point star is used today as not only as a cultural symbol, but as design emblem. Many Mi'Kmaq artists use the star to decorate their blankets, baskets, drums moccasin and many other things. For hundreds of years, the Mi'Kmaq have been celebrating the eight-point star as a symbol of their nation.



Our Acadian Flag Rug Hooking Project



In the spring of 2026, students from across our school came together to create this Acadian flag using the traditional craft of rug hooking. While learning about Acadian culture and history, students also had the chance to learn this traditional craft. A Grade 4 class helped get the project started by learning the technique and sharing it with others. Students from many classes and grades then joined in, adding their own stitches and working together to complete the flag.

A Nova Scotian Tradition

Rug hooking has a long history in Nova Scotia. In the past, people used wool and recycled fabric to make warm, useful rugs. The craft became especially well known in the Acadian community of Chéticamp, Cape Breton, where families passed the skill down through generations.

This project gave our students a chance to learn a traditional Nova Scotian craft, celebrate Acadian culture, and work together to create something for our whole school community.

Notre projet de tapis hooké du drapeau acadien

Au printemps 2026, des élèves de toute notre école se sont réunis pour créer ce drapeau acadien avec la technique traditionnelle du tapis hooké. En découvrant la culture et l'histoire acadiennes, les élèves ont aussi appris à faire du tapis hooké. Une classe de 4e année a commencé le projet en apprenant la technique et en la partageant avec d'autres élèves. Des élèves de plusieurs classes et de différents niveaux ont ensuite participé en ajoutant leurs propres points pour compléter le drapeau.

Une tradition néo-écossaise

Le tapis hooké fait partie de l'histoire de la Nouvelle-Écosse depuis longtemps. Dans le passé, les gens utilisaient de la laine et de vieux morceaux de tissu pour faire des tapis chauds et pratiques. La communauté acadienne de Chéticamp, au Cap-Breton, est particulièrement connue pour ses tapis hookés.

Ce projet a permis à nos élèves d'apprendre une tradition de la Nouvelle-Écosse, de célébrer la culture acadienne et de travailler ensemble pour créer quelque chose que toute notre communauté scolaire peut apprécier.