

Admiral Westphal Elementary School

An AWESome place to learn!

N. MacDonald
Principal

S. Blair
Admin Assistant

C. MacNeil
School Counsellor



6 Fourth Street
Dartmouth, NS
B2X 3A5

Email: awes@hrce.ca
Tel: 902-435-8305
<https://awe.hrce.ca>

September 2025

Hello Families,

On behalf of the AWES staff, I wanted to reach out and say welcome back! We are excited to begin the 2025-2026 school year and look forward to working with you in support of student growth and success!

As Principal, I am so excited to be joining the AWES team! I am looking forward to getting to know all of the members of our school community.

We will be hosting our [Curriculum Night on Wednesday, September 3rd from 5:30-6:30 PM](#). We invite our families to come by, meet our staff, and chat with teachers about their grade level programs while enjoying an ice cream treat! Students are also welcome to drop off their supplies. We hope to see you there!

As we prepare for the first day you'll find a great deal of information in this month's newsletter! Please take some time to review it and feel free to reach out at any point should you have questions or concerns.

All the best,

Nick MacDonald

Important dates to remember in September:

- **Wed., Sept. 3:** Curriculum Night, 5:30-6:30 PM
- **Thurs., Sept. 4:** First day of school for students!
- **Thurs., Sept. 11:** [Stand Up Against Bullying Day](#)

- **Fourth week of September:** [Gender Equality Week](#)
- **Friday, Sept. 26:** **Observe orange shirt day**
- **Monday, Sept. 29:** Professional Development Day – No classes PP-12
- **Tuesday., Sept. 30:** National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (No classes)

Who's who at AWES in 2025? *(Subject to change)*

Administration

Name	Role / Department
Blair, Stacy	Administrative Assistant
MacDonald, Nick	Principal
MacNeil, Cheilidh	Guidance

Teaching Staff

Name	Role / Department
Condon-Oldreive, Stefanie	Grade Primary/One
Corrigan, Rhonda	Music
Foot, Matthew	Physical Education
Galante-Ward, Anna-Marie	Core French
Griffith, Joy	Physical Education
Humeniuk, Jocelyn	Resource
Laventure, Holly	Early Literacy Support Teacher
Liu, Kexin	Prep Coverage
McRae, Katie	Grade Primary/One
Moore, Natalie	Grade Five/Six
O'Neill, Jayne	Grade Three/Four
Redman, Jennifer	Grade Two
Smith, Lindsay	Learning Center

Support Staff

Name	Role / Department
Barnes, Dale-Marie	Pre-Primary (Support Instructor)
Basque, Kimberley	Educational Program Assistant (EPA)
Dollimont, Jillian	School Social Worker
Garf, Erik	Child & Youth Care Practitioner (CYCP)
Guildford, Patti	Educational Program Assistant (EPA)
Healey, Lori	Educational Program Assistant (EPA)
Ibrahim, Mujeeb	Custodian
Jalali, Elham	Educational Program Assistant (EPA)
MacDonald, Jan	Educational Program Assistant (EPA)
MacKinnon, Tina	Pre-Primary (Lead Instructor)
Marriott, David	Caretaker
Martin-Wells, Jennifer	School Pschyologist
Meagher, Rachel	Educational Program Assistant (EPA)
Riorden, Christine	Assistant Lead - SchoolsPlus
Sebastian , Matt	Speech Language Pathologist
Stevens, Annik	Library Support Specialist (20%)

A few items of note...

Bell Schedule

8:30 AM: Supervision begins soft entry/student preparation

8:50 AM: Morning classes begin

10:20-10:35 AM: Recess

11:50 am-12:40 PM: Lunch

12:40 PM: Students return to class/prepare for afternoon classes

12:50 PM: Afternoon classes Begin

2:50 PM: Dismissal for all students

Water bottles - Please ensure students arrive with a full water bottle each day.

Non-Staff adults in the school - Keeping students safe is our top priority at AWES. To support this, we ask that all non-staff adults visiting our school check in with the main office. Parents, Guardians and visitors are asked to make every

effort to avoid being in the school hallways. Should students arrive late or need to be picked up early, they must transition through the main office. Your support with this is greatly appreciated!

Volunteering - We recognize our responsibility to ensure that all students attending our school are protected by taking reasonable precautions to screen volunteers who may be working with students without direct supervision of staff. In accordance with Nova Scotia's Provincial Volunteer Background Check Policy, prior to volunteering with the Halifax Regional Centre for Education, all volunteers will provide:

A completed Child Abuse Register search, which can be found [here](#). As of June 2025, digital confirmations are available for Child Abuse Register checks. For more information, click [here](#).

A certified and true copy of a Criminal Records Check with Vulnerable Sector Check available [here](#), from your local Police or RCMP detachment or through online organizations endorsed by Nova Scotia law enforcement agencies

Please note: the Child Abuse Register Search and Criminal Records Check must be issued in the three months preceding volunteering and updated every three years. For more information on volunteering, click [here](#).

Emergency Drills - Over the course of September we will be practicing our emergency drills (Fire, Lockdown, and Hold & Secure). These drills are important pieces of ensuring a safe school environment and please be assured that staff at our school will spend time discussing the importance of these procedures with students prior to running a drill. We will also take time after the drill to remind them that it was only a practice and there was no danger. Our first set of drills will take place as follows...

Week of September 7th - Fire drill

Week of September 14th - Lockdown drill

Week of September 21st - Hold & Secure drill



A reminder that school is a no-phone zone.

Thank you for your support on this important initiative!

School Advisory Council

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, Regional Centre for Education, and the Conseil scolaire acadien provincial on a range of issues related to the school and the school system.

Our first SAC meeting will take place on Tuesday, September 23rd at 6:00 PM.



Stand Up Against Bullying Day is September 11

On the second Thursday of September, we recognize Stand Up Against Bullying Day.

On Thursday, September 11, we will celebrate inclusivity, kindness and friendship. All HRCE school teams 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 11 to take a stand against bullying.



Join us in observing National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

Each year on September 30, National Day for Truth and Reconciliation honours the children who didn't return from residential schools, as well as survivors, their families, and communities.

Orange Shirt Day, led by Indigenous communities, aims to raise awareness about the inter-generational impacts of residential schools and allows us all to show our support for the Every Child Matters movement.

As there are no classes on Monday, September 29 and Tuesday, September 30, we welcome staff and students to wear orange on Friday, September 26.

Provincial Safe Schools Strategy

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development works with Regional Centres for Education, the Conseil scolaire acadien provincial, school staff and many other partners to make sure Nova Scotia schools are places where students can focus on learning and staff can safely do their jobs.

Nova Scotia's safe school strategy ensures schools have policies, procedures and resources that support our commitment to safe and supportive schools.

For more information please go [here](#).



Nova Scotia's schools need to be places where students can focus on learning and staff can safely do their jobs.

The Provincial School Code of Conduct Policy supports safe learning spaces. It defines acceptable and unacceptable student behaviours and guides schools in responding to unacceptable behaviours in a consistent and fair way.

Role of Parents and Caregivers

Student success and well-being is best supported when everyone works together. You have a role to play in making sure schools are safe and supportive places to learn:

- speak with your child about appropriate school behaviours
- understand the Code of Conduct and how it applies to your child
- speak to your child's school if you have any questions about the Code of Conduct or safe behaviours
- work with school staff to respond when unacceptable behaviours happen
- model good behaviour

Guiding Principles

- 1 Responsibility:** Everyone in the school community has a responsibility to keep schools safe.
- 2 Equity:** Responses to unacceptable behaviour are fair and consider student's needs and circumstances.
- 3 Restorative and Relationship-Building:** Responses to unacceptable behaviours include action to restore positive relationships.
- 4 Clarity and Consistency:** There is a shared understanding of what behaviour is acceptable and how unacceptable behaviours will be responded to.

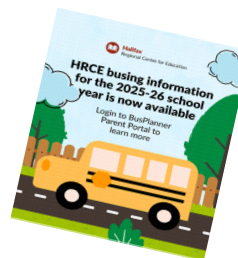
Learn More

Nova Scotia School Safety:
ednet.ns.ca/school-safety

Provincial School Code of Conduct Policy:
ednet.ns.ca/docs/provincialschoolcodeofconduct.pdf

Contact your Regional Centre for Education:
ednet.ns.ca/eecd-contacts/regional-centres-education-csap

Prepared by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Education, April 2025.



Using BusPlanner

Everything you need to know about student transportation including eligibility, stop times and stop locations can be found on BusPlanner. Once you register and subscribe, you can choose to receive email and/or text message notifications on changes to routes, bus delays or cancellations.

To sign up, go to BusPlanner at hrce.mybusplanner.ca and click on Parent Portal. Follow the instructions to create an account.

Don't have a BusPlanner Parent Portal account? Need help logging in? Please contact the HRCE Student Transportation Team at transportation@hrce.ca or call 902-431-4723.

PowerSchool Opens for Families on September 3

PowerSchool will open to families on Wednesday, September 3 at 3 p.m. In PowerSchool, you'll be able to view your child's teacher(s) and/or class schedule.

Demographic Form Updates

On September 9, the Demographic Updates Form will be available to families in the PowerSchool Parent Portal. This form should be updated by every family to ensure all information about your child is current, including contacts, medical information, consents and demographics. Even if there are no anticipated changes, please still review this information and submit the form. This information will then be reviewed by the school before updates are finalized. The deadline to submit the form is October 6, 2025.