

Admiral Westphal Elementary School

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2025

Hello AWES Families...

It is so hard to believe that we are entering the month of December! We are a short three weeks away from the holiday break but those weeks will be busy!

Teachers have spent a great deal of time crafting term one report cards which will go home this week. Progress conferences are scheduled for Thursday and our Holiday Concert will take place on the 9th. Please take a look at the other upcoming dates including our spirit week and school wide turkey dinner.

As we head into the holidays, the AWES staff wishes everyone a restorative, restful break.

Please reach out should you ever have questions or concerns.

N. MacDonald

Contact AWES...

902-435-8305

awes@hrce.ca

<https://awe.hrce.ca/>



Upcoming...

December 2nd - Report Cards sent home
December 4th - Student Progress Conferences
December 9th - Holiday Concert 1:45 PM
December 19th - Last day before break
January 5th - First day back after break

Whats happening in December...

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	2 Report Cards sent home	3 Volleyball Club Tournament at Hawthorn Elementary.	4 Progress conferences (No classes)	5
8 Plaid Day!	9 Fancy Festive Day! Holiday Concert 1:45 PM	10 Red & Green Day!	11 Festive Sock Day!	12 Festive Friday!
15 Blue & White Day! Festive School turkey dinner.	16 Holiday Bling Day! P/1M & 2R visit to Admiral Long Term Care Centre	17 Holiday Headwear Day! Trinkets to Treasures.	18 Holiday Sweater Day!	19 PJ Day! Last day students
22 PD Day (No classes)				

It's that time of year...



Guidelines for school and/or bus cancellations due to weather

It is HRCE's goal to communicate any changes to the regular operations of schools and/or school 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 buses 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:

- Bused 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.



- If there are any changes to our regular operations, we will communicate in the following ways:
- 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 our website www.hrce.ca
 - On X (formerly Twitter) at twitter.com/hrce_ns
 - On Instagram at [instagram.com/hrce_ns](https://www.instagram.com/hrce_ns)



How does Halifax Regional Centre for Education (HRCE) decide on school and/or bus cancellations?

- By 4:30 a.m., HRCE staff begin to gather information from:
 - A contracted weather service that provides radar and satellite imagery, real-time road conditions and weather warnings;
 - A meteorologist who provides forecast details, level and type of precipitation and impact on road conditions;
 - HRCE's transportation service providers, who provide updates on road conditions in their area;
 - Municipal and provincial transportation staff; and
 - Other local weather services, including Environment Canada and The Weather Network. By 5:30 a.m., HRCE staff make recommendations to the Regional Executive Director (or designate), who then makes the final decision. This decision is communicated as close to 6:00 a.m. as possible.

Remember: Parents/guardians always have the right to keep their child home from school if they believe that the travelling conditions are unsuitable.

Most days, students will be spending time outside at recess & lunch. As the weather begins to turn, it is important that students are dressed appropriately with jacket, hat, mittens, etc. We keep many items on hand at the school. Please do not hesitate to reach out if your child requires items.



[Please click here For further information on these guidelines.](#)



**Connect
with us!**

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. We can help families navigate complicated situations when they are involved with many different services.

**Schools
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NOVA SCOTIA / NOUVELLE-ÉCOSSE

Phone: 902-464-2041
Email: schoolsplus@hrce.ca

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.

Learn more about SchoolsPlus [here](#).



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](#).

WE NEED YOUR VOICE!

Have you considered joining our School Advisory Council?

What is a School Advisory Council (SAC)?

The SAC group is made up of staff, parents/guardians, and community members. The SAC serves as an advisory group to school administration and provides an important voice that helps support student success and well-being.



When does the SAC meet?

We generally meet monthly at 6:00 PM. Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 18th.



If you would like to know more about the SAC, please reach out to the school.

