

Admiral Westphal Elementary School

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2026

Hello AWES Families...

Well, March is only a few days away! Let's hope spring is not far behind! I know many of us are looking forward to some warmer weather, but the snow has certainly been enjoyed on the playground. As we head into March teachers will be beginning their work on term two report cards. We are also looking forward to chatting with families at progress conferences on April 2nd.

With March, also comes March break! However the break might look for you, we hope all of our families enjoy the week!

As always, please reach out should you ever have questions or concerns.

All the best,

N. MacDonald

Contact AWES...

902-435-8305

awes@hrce.ca

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

MARCH 21
International Day for the
Elimination of Racial Discrimination



 Halifax
Regional Centre for Education



**Happy Lunar
New Year!**

Upcoming...

Mar. 13th - Assessment Day (No School)

Mar. 16th -20th March Break

Apr. 2nd - Progress Conferences

Apr. 3rd & 6th - Holiday

Responding to Technology-Facilitated Harms Among Young People

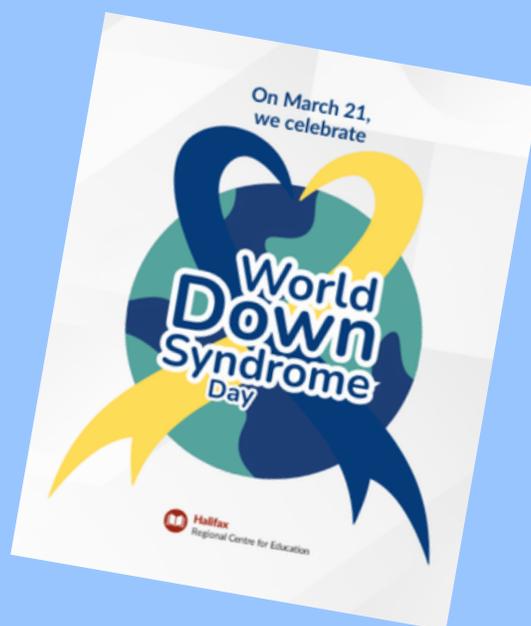
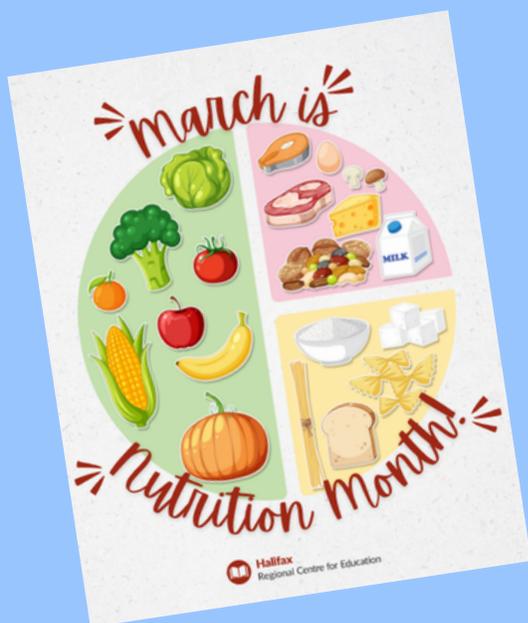
Unplugged Canada is hosting a free community event at the Canada Games Centre on Thursday March 5 at 7 p.m., available both in person and virtually. Join to learn from Dr. Alexa Dodge, Assistant Professor of Criminology at Saint Mary's University and a leading Canadian researcher on technology-facilitated sexual violence.

This session will explore cyberbullying, the sharing of intimate images, and other online harms youth face, along with research on the support and responses young people need when problems arise online. This presentation will be valuable for any caregiver or adult supporting young people as they navigate the challenges of their digital social lives.

Thursday, March 5, 2026, at 7 p.m.

Canada Games Centre Boardroom - 26 Thomas Raddall Drive, Halifax

Please register for in-person or virtual [here](#).



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



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.](#)

Safer Internet Day 2026: Navigating the Internet Safely

As our kids and teens spend more time exploring, creating, and learning online, it's natural to wonder how we can best support them – especially with emerging technologies like artificial intelligence becoming part of their digital world. On Safer Internet Day 2026, Google shared helpful updates and tools designed to make it easier for families to guide, protect, and empower young people as they navigate the Internet safely. Learn more here.



Amazing art inspired
by Mi'Kmaq artist
Alan Syliboy.



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* Effective in September 2025.

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