
September, 2020 Newsletter



Admiral Westphal Elementary School

[School's Website](#) T: 902.435.8305

Twitter @AWES_official

September Dates to Remember:

16- Picture Day! ☺

25 - Professional Development Day (no classes for students)

Message from the principal

Hello Admiral Westphal School families!

We had a great first week of school! I hope your child(ren) had a positive start to the 2020-21 school year. It takes some time to settle into September routines following the summer months. After six months apart, it may take a little longer this year, but we will get there.

The most important routine for all of us is to practice public health protocols. Nova Scotia's *Back to School Plan* includes multiple public health measures that are most effective when they're layered together and followed consistently. ***Our shared health depends on our shared actions at home, on the bus and in school.*** Attached, you will find a visual reminder of these measures. I have also attached a COVID -19 daily checklist and procedures we will follow if your child is unwell at school.

Please take a few minutes to review and reinforce this information with your child(ren).

Our staff has gone above and beyond this week to ensure a successful start. Our **AWES** students were **AWES**ome at learning new routines and expectations. We really appreciate our families' efforts to prepare their smooth transition back to school. Your patience, understanding and support have gone a long ways to set us up for such a positive start. I hope you take time to rest and recharge this weekend – next week will be even better.

We truly are in this together!

With thanks,

Sherri MacDonald

shmacdonald@hrce.ca

Admiral Westphal Elementary School

Staff Updates

Please join me in welcoming our new staff members:

Caretaker Mr. Brian Deveau (caretaker)

Ms. Jenny Redman (grade 1/2)

Ms. Danielle Sauter (grade 5/6)

Mme. Allison McLay and M. John Maccoomb (French)

Mr. Matthew Foot (Physical Education)

Mr. Patrick Forde (Grade 6 band teacher)

Ms. Leeann LeBlanc (Learning Center Teacher)

Ms. Anne Gatto (EPA)

Ms. Jan MacDonald (EPA)

Ms. Tracey Grouse (Guidance Counsellor), and,

Ms. Kirsty McRae (child and youth care practitioner)

Please know that we are all here to support our students and families in any way we can. We strive to be approachable and accessible. If you have any questions or concerns that we may be able to help you with please do not hesitate to contact us.

There is a lot of start-up info in this newsletter making this the longest newsletter of the year! We will post all newsletters on our website as well.

Safe Arrival - Please call the Safe Arrival number 902-435-8305 or the main office line 902-435-8305, or send a note if your child is going to be absent or late. If sending an e-mail or a note, please remember to contact the main office as well.

Updated Student Registration Forms - Please ensure that your contact information is up-to-date. Forms were sent home Wednesday. In the event of school closure, we must call parents / guardians before releasing students. Information regarding school closure can be found at <http://www.hrce.ca/> or by phoning 464-info (4636). Schools are sometimes cancelled based on the Family of Schools to which they belong. We are part of the Prince Andrew High school Family of Schools.

Student Entry and Dismissal – until further notice we will have a soft entry to avoid gathering in the playground.

Doors open at 8:40 and students are invited to come straight in to their classrooms where their teachers will be waiting for them. At the end of the day students will be dismissed from their designated doors and are expected to leave the yard to avoid gathering outside their classroom cohorts.

Please note, entrance to the school yard is via the gate beside the play structure not the parking lot. The parking lot is for HRCE vehicles only. We want to keep everyone safe.

Picture Day – Picture Day is on September 16. This year we will do individual photos only. We will have a composite of individual photos rather than class group pictures. Please see attached information from Adams Photography.

Admiral Westphal Elementary School

Milk and Pizza Programs – At this time we will not have any food programs at Admiral Westphal. We are looking into setting up a contactless ordering system and individualized delivery system. Stay tuned!

Masks - Grade 4-6 students are required to wear masks inside when social distancing is not possible. Grades pre-primary to 3 are not required to wear a mask at school (but must wear them on the bus). Students do not require masks outside. If you are sending your child with a mask, a place for them to put the mask when they are playing outside is very helpful. A 'fanny pack' or lanyard that attaches to the mask can be helpful for this purpose.

Request from Music Teacher– Mrs. Marshall-Casavechia, our upper elementary music teacher, is looking plastic for fillable Easter eggs and 250 ml sour cream, cottage cheese containers with the lids (cleaned out or well rinsed) for the music program. Any donation of these items would be greatly appreciated to make individual instrument bags for the students to use in music class.

Library – This year library borrowing will look different. Every Wednesday, our librarian, Ms. Casey, will be bringing a selection of books for younger grades (Primary-grade two) to check out. This will be 'Ms. Casey's Book Mobile' with a selection of books students can choose from (by sanitizing their hands first).

For our grades 3-6 students, Ms. Casey will teach our students how to use our online school library to browse and reserve books .Each Wednesday she will pick up the returns and bring the reserved library books to the students.

Twitter - Just a reminder that Admiral Westphal is on Twitter! The account is managed by school admin and is used to share important information about the HRCE, school cancellations, great stories about our school, etc. Admiral can be found at @AWES_official. You don't have to have a Twitter account to view what's been posted you can see our Twitter posts on our school's website.

Lost and Found - Please label your child's belongings.

School Website - Please visit our school website for up-dates throughout the year. You can find our school website at <https://awe.hrce.ca/>.

Communication – our teachers and staff can be reached via email and their addresses are found on our school website. You may call our school line at 435-8305 to leave a message. Correspondence to staff via email/phone etc. will be answered within a 48 hour timeframe.

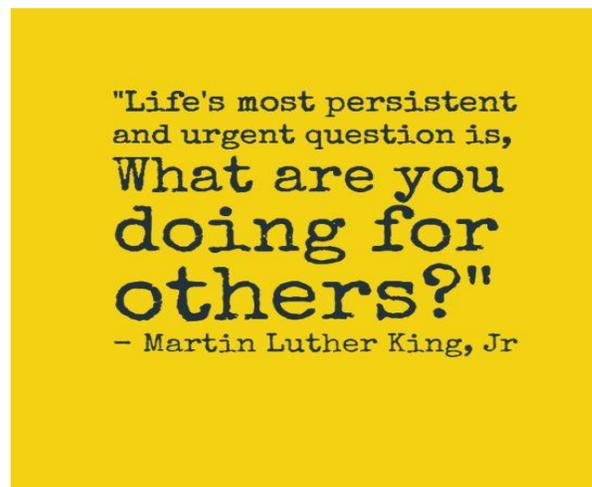
Allergies - We are a nut and scent aware school. We ask your cooperation in not sending products containing nuts to school as we have a number of students and staff members with life-threatening allergies. Please avoid wearing scented products as they may cause breathing problems for others. If your child has a **severe or life threatening allergy or medical condition**, a photograph of them and an alert will be posted in the office and staff room to ensure all staff members are informed. It is also important that you call the school to obtain the appropriate medical forms. This is important to ensure all staff are aware of any conditions or allergies so they can respond appropriately in the case of an emergency.

Admiral Westphal Elementary School

Medication – In order to dispense medication we need a parent or guardian to fill out an *Administration of Medication* form. This includes over the counter medications, puffers, Tylenol, allergy relief etc. These forms are available at the office. If your child requires an Epi Pen, they **are required to** wear their Epi Pen on their person. If you want to send in a second Epi Pen, it can be stored in our Learning Centre.

The Road to Resiliency: Skills and Strategies - This series is a partnership between IWK Health's Mental Health and Addictions Program and the Nova Scotia's Department of Early Education and Childhood Development (EECD). Intended for parents, caregivers and families of school-aged children, the series tackles common issues that families should prepare for in advance of the school year.

<http://www.iwk.nshealth.ca/mental-health/parents/road-resilience-webinar-series>



Our kindness tree is starting to bloom! We are noting kindness and adding the leaves to our tree. #kindnessmatters