



In October's newsletter, you will find the information below. These hyperlinks will take you directly to the section stated.

- [Important dates](#)
- [A note from Mr Williams](#)
- [Mi'kmaq History Month and the Treaty of 1752](#)
- [Diwali](#)
- [Picture day](#)
- [Safe Arrival](#)
- [Bus safety week](#)
- [Literacy Tips for Reading to your Child at home](#)
- [What is SchoolsPlus?](#)
- [Head Lice Policy](#)
- [Lunch Program](#)
- [We're Hiring](#)
- [Halloween](#)

Important dates in October

[October is Mi'kmaq History Month](#)

October 1	Treaty Day
October 4	National Day of Action for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls
October 10	World Mental Health Day
October 11	Professional Learning Day (no classes for PP-12)
October 14	Thanksgiving (no classes for PP-12)
October 16	World Food Day
October 21	BLT.Jr Picture Day
October 24	United Nations day
October 25	NSTU Conference Day (no classes for PP-12)
October 21	BLT.Jr Picture Day
October 31	Happy Diwali
October 31	Halloween
November 5	Picture Retakes

Principal's Message

We are delighted to report that we had another busy and productive start to our school year. We celebrated Anti-Bully Pink Day and participated in Terry Fox activities. On September 28th we acknowledged Orange Shirt Day to honour and remember the victims of the Residential School System. In follow-up, teachers engaged students in discussions, curriculum resources and learning opportunities centered on the history and culture of the Mi'kmaq people.

October Is Mi'kmaq History Month



Each October, community activities, events, sharing, and showcasing the Mi'kmaq history takes place across Nova Scotia. Everyone is encouraged and welcome to participate in Mi'kmaq History Month events.

Treaty of 1752

When the English arrived in Mi'kma'ki (the Mi'kmaq homeland that includes present-day Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, central, and eastern New Brunswick, the Gaspé Peninsula and Newfoundland) the Mi'kmaq and the Crown signed treaties of peace and friendship so they could live in harmony and peace.

The 1752 Treaty showed the Crown's intentions to make peace, provide trading posts, and protect the land and way of life for the



Mi'kmaw people. The Treaty also designated October 1st as the date on which the Mi'kmaw people would receive gifts from the Crown to "renew their friendship and submissions."

Happy Diwali



The festival gets its name from the row (*avali*) of clay lamps (*deepa*) that people light outside their homes to symbolize the inner light that protects them from spiritual darkness. Diwali is an autumn holiday. The dates vary each year. In 2024, Diwali falls on the same day as Halloween.

Diwali symbolizes the spiritual victory of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance.

Student Pictures

School pictures will be taken on Monday, October 21st, 2024. Retakes will be on November 5th.

Parents are to closely review the options for ordering. The purchase of school pictures is, of course, optional.



Safe Arrival

If your child will not be attending school or will be late, it is imperative that you call the school's safe arrival line at **1-833-582-6940** or visit <https://sishrsb.ednet.ns.ca/public/> to record them as absent. The automated system will call out for all unaccounted absences.

If your child will be arriving late, please record them as absent, and the office will mark them present once they have arrived at school. The automated system is not set up to account for half day absences. Daily attendance and prompt arrival at school ensure your child(ren) and all other students in the class a successful start to their day. Missing even 10 minutes of a morning routine can interrupt student learning. We encourage parents to call the safe arrival line rather than calling the school.

Literacy Tips for Reading to your Child at home



- Read to your child frequently
 - Re-read the same books
 - Pause to talk about the story
- Ask questions to check for understanding
- Ask “why” questions to encourage problem solving
 - Explain new, unfamiliar words
- Draw your child’s attention to letters, and the sounds that the letters make

- Reading with your child each day can make a world of difference!!!!

School Bus Safety Week

October 21-25, 2024 is School Bus Safety Week in Nova Scotia! Did you know that more than 30,000 HRCE students ride the school bus every day? School Bus Safety Week is a great time to remind students, families and schools of a few daily safety tips that everyone can follow to ensure all students get to school safely.



Bus Stop Safety

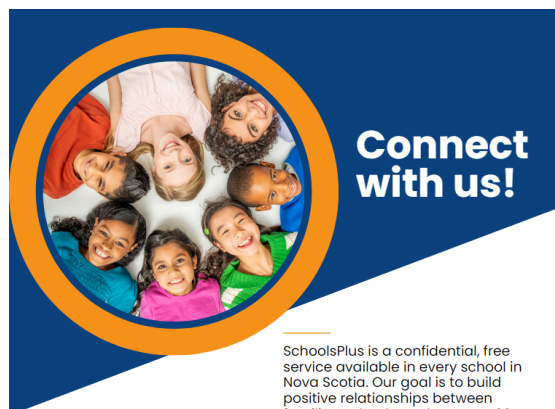
- Be on time for the bus and please don’t run to/from the bus.
 - Stand back off the road and don’t push or shove when waiting at a stop.
- Always cross in front of the bus. Walk three metres (10 feet) in front of the bus to a point where you can see the driver and wait for the driver's signal to cross. Proceed to the centre of the road, STOP, LOOK & LISTEN and cross the road when it is safe.
 - Never crawl under a school bus or cross the road behind the bus.
 - Know the danger zones around the bus.

School Bus Safety

- Please respect and listen to the driver and avoid distracting them.
 - Please keep noise levels to a minimum.
 - Do not stand or move seats while the bus is in motion.
- Never put your hands, arms, feet or head out of the bus window.
- Ask the driver for permission before you open the bus windows.
 - Do not throw anything inside the bus or out of the windows.
 - Keep the aisle clear at all times when the bus is in motion.

You can find out more information about School Bus Safety Week, including more safety tips, [here](#).

What is SchoolsPlus?



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
Écoles Plus**
NOVA SCOTIA / NOUVELLE-ÉCOSSE

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

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. This helps ensure everyone is communicating clearly and working on shared goals. SchoolsPlus can also help connect families to community resources and offers mental health support in schools. Contact the SchoolsPlus Facilitator for your school to make a referral. You can find additional information [here](#).

Head Lice

Head lice are tiny insects and parasites that live on the human body and are most often attached to clean hair. Their eggs, also called nits, stick to the hair shaft, very close to the scalp. Head lice are spread most easily through direct head-to-head contact or through personal items used on the head or in the hair (e.g. hats, combs, brushes, ponytail holders). Nova Scotia Public Health recommends two head lice treatments to completely break the head lice cycle. The second treatment should be used 7 to 10 days after the first or as directed by the product. The first treatment kills live head lice. Some lice may hatch after it, but they are adolescent nits and cannot lay eggs.

Combing your child(ren)'s hair and removing nits is a daily requirement. The second treatment kills the adolescent nits and breaks the head lice cycle. Check your child(ren)'s head(s) and hair regularly. Teach your child(ren) not to share personal items that have touched their head. Please keep the school informed about head lice issues as they arise. Additional information on how to prevent, find, and treat head lice is available at

www.novascotia.ca/dhw/publications/public-health-education/07135-head-lice-pamphlet-en.pdf

Nova Scotia School Lunch Program



The NS School Lunch Program is just around the corner. In anticipation of its launch, we would like to provide you with the link so that you can familiarize yourself with the site, read the FAQs, and take a look at the upcoming menu. <https://nslunch.ca/>

Ordering will open on Friday October 18th, at which time families will be able to login and order meals. The first day of the program will be on Monday October 28th.

Here is a link put out by the EECD with a step by step guide to logging in and ordering.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j_z25C_3YBs

We're hiring!

We are still in need of Lunch Monitors! If you, a family, or community member are interested in lunch monitoring on a regular or part time/on call basis please contact the school at 902-876-3236.

Full time Cook/ Manager for the cafeteria at BLT Elementary School, 7:00-2:30 Mon-Fri during the school year. Must have food safety course, criminal record check with vulnerable sector search & child abuse registry, and cooking experience. Starting hourly rate \$16.50.
Please send resume to cindy@mcfoodservice.com or call 902-483-1336.

General kitchen workers, 7:00-2:30 Mon-Fri during the school year. Must have food safety course, criminal record check with vulnerable sector search & child abuse registry. Starting hourly rate \$ 15.50.
Please send resume to cindy@mcfoodservice.com or call 902-483-1336.

Halloween

More details to follow this month regarding Halloween at school.