



In October's newsletter, you will find the information below

- Important dates
- Treaty Day
- Mi'kmaq History Month
- Picture day
- Safe Arrival
- Supporting Your Child's Reading Journey: Universal Screening in Grade 1 and 2
- Bus Safety Week
- October is Canadian Library Month
- Head Lice Policy
- We're Hiring

#### **Important dates in October**

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

[October is Canadian Library Month](#)

October 1	Treaty Day
October 3	Bus Evacuation Drill
October 9	BLT Jr Picture Day
October 13	Thanksgiving (no classes for PP-12)
October 20	Happy Diwali
October 24	NSTU Conference Day (no classes for PP-12)
October 30	BLT Jr Picture Retakes
October 31	Halloween

#### **October 1 is Treaty Day**

Celebrating and recognizing Treaty Day is an important way we can strengthen understanding and respect for Indigenous cultures and histories. It highlights the significance of treaties as living agreements that shape relationships between Indigenous peoples and the



government. By educating students about Treaty Day, we promote awareness of Indigenous rights and contributions and encourage reconciliation. This celebration helps build a more inclusive and respectful society, where students learn the importance of honouring commitments and working together for a better future.

## October Is Mi'kmaq History Month



October is Mi'kmaq History Month, a time to celebrate and recognize the rich culture, history, and contributions of the Mi'kmaq people. In our schools, we can honour this month by incorporating Mi'kmaq stories, traditions and teachings into our curriculum. Activities such as guest speakers, art projects and cultural events can help students appreciate and understand the significance of Mi'kmaq heritage. Please join us in offering our respect, awareness and appreciation for the Mi'kmaq community and their enduring legacy. Learn more [here](#).

## Student Pictures

School pictures will be taken on Thursday, October 9th, 2024.  
Retakes will be on October 30th.

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



## O Canada in Schools

In September, the Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Development shared a new provincial policy about the playing of our national anthem in schools. You can read it [here](#).



In keeping with this policy, we play O Canada at the beginning of each school day in our school.

If you have any questions, please reach out to the school office.

### **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.

### **Supporting Your Child's Reading Journey: Universal Screening in Grade 1 and 2**

- In September, classroom teachers spend time getting to know their students — not just who they are as individuals, but also how they learn best.

As part of this, schools will be using Universal Screening in Reading for students in Grades 1 and 2. This is just one of the ways teachers gather information to support each child's learning.



#### **What is Universal Screening in Reading?**

Universal Screening is a short activity (usually 1–5 minutes) that gives teachers a quick snapshot of your child's reading development. Think of it like a map check — it helps us see where your child is on their reading journey and what might help them move forward.

#### **Why is it important?**

This screening helps teachers:

- Identify each child's reading strengths
- Spot areas where extra support may be helpful

- Plan targeted instruction that meets individual learning needs

What should families know?

- It's not a test — there's no "pass" or "fail."
- It's simply a tool to help teachers better support your child.
  - Your child doesn't need to prepare for it.
- This early check-in helps ensure all students get what they need to succeed in reading.

## October 20-24 is School Bus Safety Week



Student safety is a shared responsibility! During School Bus Safety Week, everyone can work together to ensure the safety of students on and around the school bus.

Did you know that HRCE has more than 33,000 students who 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.

Remember: In Nova Scotia, it's illegal to pass a school bus when its red lights are flashing and the stop arm is extended.

You can find out more information about riding the school bus in HRCE [here](#).

### **October is Canadian Library Month**

October is Canadian Library Month, a time to celebrate our wonderful libraries and the Library Support Specialists who support our students. The third Friday of the month is Canadian Library Workers Day and the fourth Monday is Canadian School Library Day. Please join us in thanking our school library workers for all they do every day in creating safe and welcoming spaces, encouraging a love of reading and helping students succeed in school and beyond.



### **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](http://www.novascotia.ca/dhw/publications/public-health-education/07135-head-lice-pamphlet-en.pdf)

**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 part time/on call basis please contact the school at 902-876-3236.