

Please check out our new website. If there is something you would like to see there, please email the school at wmount@hrce.ca . The website can be found at: <https://wmt.hrce.ca/> .

Important dates in October:

- **October is Mi'kmaq History Month (see below)**
- **October 28: WSA (6pm) and SAC (7pm) meetings**
- **October 28: start of NS Lunch Program meal deliveries**
- **October 30: Picture Retake Day**
- **October 31: Diwali and Halloween**
- **November 11: Remembrance Day (no school)**
- **November 22: Assessment and Evaluation Day (no school for students)**
- **November 28: WSA Bingo Night (more details to follow)**

WSA Movie Night

Our students had a lot of fun at the WSA Movie Night last evening! Thank you to families for attending and thank you to our incredible WSA who organized this event. Fundraised money through snack sales will be put back into the school for things like field trips, classroom materials, presentations and more.

A student is missing a special stuffie. If you ended up with a plain brown dog with floppy ears stuffie after the movie night, please let us know!

The next WSA event is Bingo Night scheduled for Thursday, November 28.

Diwali

Diwali is recognized on October 31 this year. Our students who celebrate Diwali will be creating a rangoli display at the main entrance of the school. Students will be learning and sharing about Diwali in their classrooms during the week!

[Binny's Diwali Read Aloud](#)

Here's a link to a video from last year where students share what Diwali is and how they celebrate it.

[Westmount Diwali Video](#)

Halloween

Students and staff can come dressed in Halloween costumes on October 31! Many learning activities throughout the day will be connected to the Halloween theme and we will end the day with a dance in the gym.

Please ensure costumes are comfortable for the day and that students do not require adult help to put on or take off their costume. Masks and toy weapons will need to stay home.

If your child does not participate in Halloween or does not want to wear a costume, no problem! Costumes are not required.

School Advisory Council (SAC)

A School Advisory Council is an advisory body to the school principal, Regional Centre for Education, and the Conseil scolaire acadien provincial on a range of issues related to the school and the school system. -HRCE website

You can learn more about the roles and responsibilities of SACs at <https://www.hrce.ca/about-hrce/about-us/school-advisory-councils-sac>

We do not have any membership openings for the 2024-2025 school year. Current SAC Membership is on our school website. We will be

looking for membership for 2025-2026. Meeting summaries will be added to the website throughout the year.

The SAC email is hrce-sac-wmt@gnspes.ca . You can use this email to contact our SAC Chair once we select our executive during the October 28th meeting.

Lost and Found

Our Lost and Found is overflowing! Please put your child's name in their clothing and all lunch containers to help return items to their owners. The Lost and Found is located by the front entrance of the school. Please stop by and have a look! We will donate items to charity on a regular basis throughout the year.

Nova Scotia School Lunch Program Start (repeated information)

The Nova Scotia School Lunch Program is a provincial lunch program that offers public school students across Nova Scotia nutritious lunch every school day. Families can go to <https://nslunch.ca/> to set up their online accounts and order their lunches.

Meals for our cycle will be delivered to the school starting Monday, October 28.

October is Mi'kmaq History Month (repeated information)

2024 Theme for Mi'kmaq History Month Poster: Mijipjewey Na Mawa'luksi'k / Food gathers us together

Food and its significance in Mi'kmaw culture: Food gathers us together for celebration, nourishment and comfort. It is central to our ceremonies, considered part of our medicines, and key to our resiliency. Sharing freely honours each other and blesses our families and communities so no one is harmed or struggles. The long-ago treaties with the first plants and animals of Mi'kma'ki require us to love and to protect msit no'kmaq (all our relations). Living through the values and ways of netukulimk over

thousands of years has carried our communities through times of abundance and scarcity.

Water is life! Our cultural practices protect the shorelines, estuaries, and aquatic habitats, where so much of our food is harvested. This protection is extraordinarily important to the ongoing treaty relationships among all living beings in Mi'kma'ki ([Mi'kmaq History Month 2024](#)).

Concepts celebrated in this year's poster:

Msit No'kmaq - We are all connected.

Netukulimk - We are ensuring community nutrition and well-being without damaging the environment.

Tpi'tnewey - We do good things for others and acknowledge that intent. Sharing freely honours each other.

For more information, please visit:

- [Learn about Mi'kmaw History Month](#)
- [Learn to say Mi'kmaw History Month](#)
- [Treaty Day](#)

With gratitude,

Brittany Sue Pennell, Regional Coordinator of Mi'kmaw Education-HRCE

Are You Interested in Becoming a Lunch Monitor? (repeated information)

We are looking for Lunch Monitors! This is a paid position from 11:35-12:35 daily (or a flexible schedule) and is a wonderful way to be involved in the school supporting students. Please call or email the school for information.

Reporting an Absence from School (repeated information)

SchoolMessenger's SafeArrival is an absence-management system that improves student safety and makes it easy for you to let the school know about your child's absence.

To learn more, go to

<https://www.hrce.ca/families/general-information/safe-arrival>

Information About Volunteering (repeated information)

To volunteer at the school (i.e. helping with safe arrival) and/or chaperone field trips, individuals are required to complete and submit to the school a Criminal Records Check and Child Abuse Register Search as part of the provincial Volunteer Background Check Policy. This policy can be found on our school website.

For school purposes, checks are valid for a maximum of three years and must be repeated and resubmitted once expired if the individual wishes to remain a registered volunteer with the school.

Here are links to complete the required paperwork:

Child Abuse Register Search- <https://beta.novascotia.ca/apply-child-abuse-register-search>

Criminal Records Check- <https://www.halifax.ca/fire-police/police/criminal-record-check>