

Friday Memo

November 15, 2024

Reminder that there is no school for students on Friday, November 22 (Assessment and Evaluation Day).

School website: <https://wmt.hrce.ca/>

School X: @WmountElem

Important dates in October:

- **November 22: Assessment and Evaluation Day (no school for students)**
- **November 28: WSA Bingo Night**
- **Report cards: sending by December 3**
- **December 5: Progress Conferences with teachers (information to follow)**
- **December 20: Last day before Christmas Break**

Communication Plan 2024-2025

Attached is the Communication Plan for Westmount Elementary. It can also be found on our website under *Our School*. Information about assessment and report cards can be found here.

The Westmount Fall Family Bingo

The Westmount Fall Family Bingo will be taking place on Thursday, November 28th at 6:30pm. The WSA is seeking donations for prize baskets. A notice was sent home earlier this week detailing how each grade can help with donations.

Please see attached handout: [WSA Bingo.pdf](#)

Nova Scotia School Lunch Program Started (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.

If you would like to provide feedback about the program, you can email lunch@hrce.ca .

November Theme at Westmount Elementary (edited information)

We are using the Mi'kmaq Seven Sacred Teachings as the foundation for our monthly schoolwide themes. These monthly themes help students develop skills to navigate their emotions, build positive relationships, and make responsible decisions.

The theme for November is **MLKIKNO'TI -- COURAGE**

Courage is to have integrity and to live life with integrity. To do what is right no matter how hard or what the consequences will be. Courage is represented by the Bear (Muin) in the Sacred Teachings.

Students will spend time learning about the meaning of courage through lessons and activities and daily information on announcements.

Inclement Weather (Will School Be Cancelled?) (repeated information)

Did you know? HRCE takes great care when making the decision to alter the regular operations of schools and school buses in the event of severe or inclement weather.

It is HRCE's goal to communicate any changes to the regular operations of schools and/or 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 busses 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:

- Bussed 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.

How will I find out?

- 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 the HRCE website](#)
- [On X \(formerly Twitter\)](#)
- [On Instagram](#)

It's important to always have a plan in place for childcare in the event of any cancellation.

For more information on how HRCE manages during inclement weather, visit hrce.ca/weather.

This information can be found on the *For Students and Parents* tab on the Westmount Elementary website.

Lost and Found (repeated information)

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.

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>

