

Friday Memo

November 1, 2024

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/> .

A beautiful Diwali display was created by students at the front entrance of the school. Students learned about Diwali through lessons in their classrooms throughout the week. *Happy Diwali to our families who celebrate!*

Important dates in October:

- **November 8: Indigenous Veterans Day**
- **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)**

Nova Scotia School Lunch Program Started (edited 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. The next order cycle is open now.

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

Indigenous Veterans Day November 8

Indigenous Veterans Day, observed on November 8, acknowledges the unique contributions and sacrifices made by Indigenous soldiers. This day highlights the bravery and commitment of Indigenous veterans, who have served with distinction despite facing historical and ongoing challenges.

Remembrance Day November 11

Every year on November 11, we observe Remembrance Day to commemorate the sacrifices of the armed forces during World War I, World War II, and other conflicts. This solemn day is marked by ceremonies, moments of silence, and the wearing of poppies in honour of those who have served and fallen.

Together, these days remind us of the courage and resilience of all who have served.

Inclement Weather (Will School Be Cancelled?)

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.

School Advisory Council (SAC)-edited information

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.

Members of the public/school community who wish to address the SAC are asked to inform the SAC through the chair or school principal in writing at least two weeks prior to the meeting. The SAC email is hrce-sac-wmt@gnspes.ca .

November Theme at Westmount Elementary

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.

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.

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>