

Friday Memo

November 29, 2024

Thank you to our amazing WSA for organizing the Family Bingo Event last night. It was wonderful to welcome so many families and have a fun evening together. Thank you to the families that were able to join us.

Reminder there will be no school on December 5 as it is a Professional Learning Day in the morning and Progress Conferences in the afternoon and evening.

The last day of school for 2024 is December 20. The first day of school for students in the new year will be January 3.

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

School X: @WmountElem

Important dates:

- **Report cards: sending by December 3**
- **December 3: International Day of Persons with Disabilities**
- **December 5: Progress Conferences with teachers (see below)**
- **December 10: International Human Rights Day**
- **December 20: Last day of school for 2024**
- **December 25: Christmas Day**
- **December 25: First day of Hanukkah**
- **December 26: Kwanzaa**
- **January 3: First Day back for Students**
- **January 21: Grade P-3 Concert**
- **January 22: Concert Snow Date**
- **January 23: Grade 3/4-6 Concert**
- **January 29: Lunar New Year**

Progress Conferences (Parent-Teacher/Guardian Meetings)-Emailed to families Monday, November 25

Progress Conferences (Parent-Teacher/Guardian Meetings) will be held on Thursday, December 5 in the afternoon and early evening. These will be in-person meetings. These meetings are one way to communicate between home and school. Please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's classroom teacher at any time to discuss your child's progress.

We will use an online system for families to book meeting times. You can use the link below to select a meeting time with the teacher(s). Once you are on the site, it will prompt you to put in some information before selecting your classroom teacher and booking your meeting times.

You can book with classroom teachers, and any specialists you may want to meet with. Circuit Teachers: Mme. Nagle (Core French Grades 4-6) and Mrs. MacKenzie (one of our Resource teachers) will be available in the afternoon only. Mrs. Hollebhone (Resource teacher) and Noor Humadi (EAL) will be available in the evening only.

Here is the link to use for booking your meeting time: <https://schoolinterviews.ca/code/95gr3>

Please note that students will not have school on December 5th, as the morning will be used for staff professional learning and the afternoon/evening for Progress Conferences with families.

SchoolsPlus is Here to Support You

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. Parents, guardians and students (12+) can self-refer to SchoolsPlus 12 months a year! Just contact the SchoolsPlus Facilitator at your school. Call 902-464-2000, ext. 2331 or email schoolsplus@hrce.ca.

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 .

December 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 December is Love. **Kesaltultimk—Love:** To know Love is to know peace (kindness and unity) which is represented by the Eagle. Love is the gift from the Eagle. With love all things are possible. It is everyone's right to have and experience it. Many celebrations during December have love and peace at their foundation.

Students will spend time learning about this theme 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>