

Friday Memo

November 8, 2024

Reminder that there is no school on Monday, November 11 in observance of Remembrance Day. Through song, poetry and sharing information, our students participated in a respectful Remembrance Day ceremony today. Thank you to staff and students for sharing your learning.

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

School X: @WmountElem

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)**

Westmount Community Information and Remembrance Day

Did you know that before Westmount was a neighborhood and school, it was an airport? The airport opened in 1931 with flights between Halifax and Boston. This changed to a military airport during WWII. After the war, the airport land was used for the development of Westmount Subdivision. Part of the airport land is now Saunders Park. A strip of land along Chebucto Road is known as the “metal airplane” to remind us of the history of the area.

You can read more here:

<https://www.halifaxpubliclibraries.ca/blogs/post/halifax-municipalities-first-airport/>

Did you know the street names in the Westmount subdivision are in honour of veterans? The information below is from [Cultural Districts | Halifax](#)

In November 2013—in time for Remembrance Day—new street signs were installed in Westmount subdivision to honour the 10 servicemen after whom the streets are named. The street sign blades included a poppy and read “Lest We Forget.” They were mounted on top of the existing street signs.

The property now known as Westmount subdivision was turned over to the City of Halifax by the Canadian Army after the Second World War. The first sod on the 302-unit Westmount subdivision was turned in March 1948. At that time, an on-site factory was established in the former army drill hall to pre-cut construction materials on a mass scale. All units were built from four basic designs.

A unique feature of the subdivision was the layout of the houses. Wartime servicemen’s huts in the area were demolished during the construction of the subdivision and some materials from the demolition were used in the construction. Second World War veterans were given the first chance to purchase the homes. A Halifax architect and army veteran J. Philip Dumaresq was appointed by the city planner to develop the subdivision. As a veteran, Dumaresq lobbied to have all streets named after local service personnel that made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

The streets in Westmount bear the following names:

Doug Smith Drive, in memory of Flying Officer Douglas Archibald Smith, born 1914. An excellent pilot, and an instructor, he was posted to Beaufort Torpedo Squadron in the Italian theatre. He was shot down and injured, becoming a prisoner of war in December 1941 and later died of his wounds.

Edward Arab Avenue, in memory of Lieutenant Edward Francis Arab, born in 1915, a grandson of some of the first Lebanese settlers to Halifax who arrived in 1890. He graduated from Dalhousie University law school and practised until he enlisted in the army. He was wounded in the leg, recovered, and was killed in the Battle of the Scheldt Estuary, Holland, the day he rejoined his unit, 25 October 1944, at the age of 29 years.

George Dauphinee Avenue appears to be named in memory of two veterans: Flying Officer George Dauphinee, RCAF, and Lieutenant George Dauphinee, Royal Canadian Armoured Corps. George Alfred Osborne

Dauphinee died 16 March 1945 over Germany, age 24 years. George Wharton Dauphinee enlisted in 1939 and transferred to the Royal Canadians Dragoons, RCAC, and killed in Italy, 31 October 1944.

Jack Fergusson Avenue, in memory of Pilot Officer John Drummond Fergusson who joined the RCAF in 1940 and served with 407 Demon Squadron after arriving overseas in 1941. His plane crashed in the English Channel and the crew was killed on 30 April 1943; only two bodies were recovered. He was 22 years old.

Lloyd Fox Avenue, in memory of Gunner Lloyd Fox, 6th Field Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery, 6th Brigade, 2nd Canadian Infantry Division. He was killed in action on 13 August 1944, age 21 years.

Peter Lowe Avenue, in memory of Captain Peter Innes Lowe, 1st Halifax Coast Brigade, RCA who served with the British Expeditionary Force in France and was evacuated from Dunkirk. Serving with the Royal Artillery in Libya, he was wounded, recovered and volunteered for the 32nd Mountain Artillery of the Indian Army, part of the 14th Army in Burma. He was killed on 6 October 1944, age 29 years.

Ralph Devlin Drive, is named in memory of Corporal Ralph William Devlin, Royal Canadian Corps of Signals. He was killed in Sicily, 19 July 1943, just nine days after landing, age 23 years.

Robert Murphy Drive, in memory of Pilot Officer Robert Wakely David Murphy, born in 1922, who was in pre-med studies at Dalhousie when he enlisted in the RCAF. He became an air bomber with 343 Squadron and was first listed as missing in action over Germany, but later his family was informed he had been killed on 1 November 1944.

William Hunt Avenue, in memory of Lieutenant William Gordon Hunt. In England he joined the 1st Battalion Worcestershire regiment as a "Canloan" officer. In France, he became a prisoner of the Germans for four days but escaped. He was wounded by a mine, lost his right foot, and injured his left leg. He died of his wounds on 7 November 1944 at 29 years of age.

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.

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

Indigenous Veterans Day November 8 (repeated information)

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 (repeated information)

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.

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.

School Advisory Council (SAC) (repeated 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@gnspe.ca .

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>