

Friday Memo

December 13, 2024

We hope you have a wonderful weekend! Reminder that the last day of school for 2024 is Friday, 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:

- **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**

December Theme at Westmount Elementary (updated information)

As part of the theme this month, Grade 6 Myette are working on a schoolwide display. To represent the Eagle and love, each student in the school is decorating a feather and adding a message about peace, kindness and love. These feathers are being used to create wings. This is a wonderful way to represent the theme this month.

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.

Lost and Found (updated information)

Our Lost and Found is overflowing! The Lost and Found is located by the front entrance of the school. We will wash and save some items for student use and donate remaining items on Thursday, December 19. Please stop by and have a look by Thursday!

December Activities (repeated information)

Lots of fun activities are planned during the days leading up to December 20! Holiday and Christmas themed games and activities through STEAM activities (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math), theme days, read alouds, cross-age buddy activities and more. This is a great way to build school community and learn about traditions and celebrations.

Winter Indoor Soccer (updated information)

Mr. White's Winter Indoor Soccer League has started with two games this week. The schedule varies by week (week 1: Monday and Wednesday; week 2: Tuesday and Thursday). Next week is week 2 so games will be Tuesday and Thursday at lunch. This information is shared with players using a posted schedule on the gym door and over announcements.

Reminders about games will be made on announcements. We are looking forward to lots of fun competition!

SchoolsPlus is Here to Support You (repeated information)

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 .

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.

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>