

Friday Memo

February 7, 2025

Today's weather made for a fun-filled (and wet) recess and lunch play time. Lots of snowmen were built and many forts were created. Thank you for sending your children dressed for the changing weather conditions. A change of socks and extra mittens/gloves are always a good ideas.

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

School X: @WmountElem

Important dates:

- February is African Heritage Month
- February is registration month
- February 14: Valentine's Day
- February 17: Heritage Day (in honour of Nora Bernard)
- February 21: Mother Language Day
- February 24: WSA and SAC meetings
- February 26: WSA organized school skate at the Oval 7:00pm
- February 28" Start of Ramadan

Westmount Basketball Team

Great first game on February 5 against Joe Howe Elementary! Lots of excitement during the game and teamwork from start to finish.

Students who are planning to cheer the team on during home games will dismiss at 2:40 as usual. They can return for the game **with caregiver supervision** (this is an after school event and students must be accompanied by an adult). Games will start around 3:30 (dependent on the arrival of the visiting team).

Excel and Grade 6 will run a canteen with fundraised money being used for the Grade 6 yearend trip. Powerade and chips will be available. Items will be \$2 each.

Game schedule below if you are interested in cheering Westmount on!

- February 12: Westmount vs. SJAM (at Westmount)

- February 20: Westmount vs. St. Stephen's (at St. Stephen's)
- February 26: Westmount vs. St. Catherine's (at Westmount)
- March 5: Westmount vs. Joe Howe (at Joe Howe)

Mother Language Day February 21

Did you know that we have at least 36 different home languages spoken by students at Westmount Elementary? This year, Mother Language Day is Friday, February 21. We are planning an event at Westmount for this day! This day is dedicated to promoting linguistic and cultural diversity, and it highlights the importance of mother languages in maintaining cultural identity and fostering inclusivity.

We are inviting parents to come into their child's class to read a picture book in their mother language. If you are available for this, please email the classroom teacher directly to plan a time that works best. Let the classroom teacher know your home language and we can provide a picture book.

Thank you for your support in making this a memorable experience for our students.

Please see letter from the Apostles Anglican Church regarding their parking lot use.

[Apostles letter to Westmount School re parking lot.pdf](#)

Celebrate African Heritage Month 2025 (repeated information)

African Heritage Month in Nova Scotia, celebrated each February, honours the contributions of African Nova Scotians.

This year's theme, Legacy in Action: Celebrating Black Brilliance, highlights the achievements and resilience of African Nova Scotians, who have shaped the province's history for more than 400 years.

In schools, recognizing African Heritage Month is crucial for promoting cultural awareness and inclusion. It fosters understanding of the diverse cultural landscape of Nova Scotia, empowering African Nova Scotian students by reflecting their history and heritage in their classrooms. Highlighting their achievements serves as a source of inspiration.

African Heritage Month 2025 is an opportunity to educate, inspire, and celebrate the richness of African heritage in Nova Scotia every day.

February is Registration Month (repeated information)

Do you have a child who will be starting pre-primary or primary this fall? It's time to register!

Registration for the 2025-26 school year begins on February 3. To ensure we have the right staff and supports in place for September, it's important that we gather enrolment numbers now.

Tip: Before you begin, make sure you have the following documents in electronic form (image, PDF or Word document):

- Proof of identity/age with one of the following: birth certificate, passport, immigration papers, or legal adoption papers) if you are new to the HRCE;
- Proof of home address (a recently dated official government or utility document with your current address that includes your name and date, such as water bill, power bill, internet bill, home fuel bill, a tax receipt, property assessment or a mortgage contract); and

Visit the [HRCE website](#) for more information and to enrol your child today through PowerSchool Enrollment!

Don't have a child to register? Maybe you know someone who does! Please help us spread the word and pass this information on to friends, neighbours or relatives who will be looking to register for the fall.

Reminder: February 17 is Heritage Day (repeated information)

Heritage Day 2025 honours the late Nora Madeline Bernard. From Millbrook First Nation, she was a Mi'kmaq activist who fought for her community and First Nations people across Canada.

Ms. Bernard played a key role in getting justice, recognition, and compensation for survivors of the Canadian Indian Residential School system. As a survivor of the system herself, she founded and became president of the Shubenacadie Indian Residential School Association in 1987. She then started a class-action lawsuit for the survivors, which inspired others across the country to do the same, leading to the largest class-action lawsuit in Canadian history.

Literacy Development for Your Child (Primary to Grade 6)

Are you curious about your child's literacy development? A new page of information on HRCE.ca helps to break down development for children from grades Primary to 6 as they learn to read and write.

Learn more [here](#).

Winter Indoor Soccer

Games for the upcoming week will be on Tuesday and Thursday.

Nova Scotia School Lunch Program

Reminder that families can go to <https://nslunch.ca/> to set up their online accounts.

We are encouraging families to discuss with your children which meals they are ordering and what food items are in each meal. This will help reduce food waste.

If you would like to provide feedback about the program (meals, delivery etc.), you can email lunch@hrce.ca.

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.

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>