

Monday Memo

March 21, 2025

Welcome back from March Break and Happy Spring! Now that the weather is warming, we often have wet and muddy play areas. We encourage all students to have indoor and outdoor footwear to help keep the school clean and feet dry.

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

School X: @WmountElem

### **Important dates:**

- March 21: Online Clothing Store goes live
- March 31: send Report Cards and IPP Reports
- March 31: Eid
- April 3: Progress Conferences (Parent-Teacher Meetings)
- April 18: Good Friday (school closed)
- April 20: Easter Sunday
- April 21: Easter Monday (school closed)
- April 24: Multicultural Event (details to follow)

### **Lost and Found**

Our Lost and Found is overflowing! Any clothing with names on it has been returned to students. If you are missing items, please stop by the office to have a look. We will make announcements all next week and donate remaining items at the end of the week.

### **Information About Volunteering and Chaperoning Field Trips (updated information)**

Field trips are a wonderful opportunity for students to experience curriculum learning outside of the classroom. However, we are having difficulty finding

chaperones to fill supervision requirements. We have been pulling school staff from their regular roles (i.e. Resource, EAL, ELST) to provide supervision. This leaves other students without their regular support.

For classes to attend field trips with less impact on school operation, **we need chaperones!** To chaperone, you must provide the school with a Criminal Records Check and Child Abuse Register Search as outlined in the provincial Volunteer Background Check Policy.

If you are interested in chaperoning, please complete these checks as soon as possible!

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>

### **Westmount Online Clothing Store (emailed to families today)**

We are excited to share that our Westmount School Association (WSA) has organized a Westmount Elementary online clothing store that opens today. Please use the link below to go to the store: <https://westmountapparel.itemorder.com/>

The store will be open from March 21st - April 6th. All orders will be available for pickup at the school 3 weeks after the close date. You will be notified when orders are ready for pick up at the school.

For questions -> [info@novatrophy.com](mailto:info@novatrophy.com)

### **March is Nutrition Month (repeated information)**

Did you know? March is Nutrition Month! This year's theme, Nourish to Flourish, highlights the important role that food has on our physical, mental and emotional health and well-being.

Whether it's planting an indoor or outdoor garden, cooking together with family, or enjoying a meal with friends, food provides opportunities for building social connections that can support improved feelings of belonging and overall well-being. This is a great time to explore and learn about food. An important part of this is food literacy, which includes having the knowledge and skills to grow, choose, prepare, and talk about food.

### **Bell Schedule (repeated information)**

Morning bell-8:30

Dismissal bell-2:40

Students are expected to attend school every day, arriving on time to the best of their ability. At Westmount Elementary, that means arriving by 8:30. This allows students to enter school with their classmates to start morning routines and lessons. We recognize that there are circumstances that occur sometimes that are unavoidable.

### **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. If your child will be absent, you can call 1-833-582-6940 to report their absence or go to the following link to learn more:

<https://www.hrce.ca/families/general-information/safe-arrival>

### **Nova Scotia School Lunch Program (repeated information)**

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](mailto: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](mailto:schoolsplus@hrce.ca).