

Monday Memo

March 7, 2025

Have a wonderful March Break! We look forward to welcoming students back on Monday, March 17.

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

School X: @WmountElem

**Important dates:**

- March 10-14: March Break (school closed)
- 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 after March Break)

**March Break:** Please note that all HRCE schools will be closed for March Break – March 10 to 14.

**Westmount Basketball Team**

Thank you to Mr. Fleming and students for a wonderful basketball season. The jamboree on March 6 was a fun-filled event that all students had a chance to see and cheer on our Westmount team.

**Information About Volunteering and Chaperoning Field Trips  
(repeated information)**

Thank you to our WSA for providing money to use in support of field trips! Field trips are a wonderful opportunity for students to experience curriculum learning outside of the classroom. To attend field trips, we require chaperones with completed background checks. If you are interested in chaperoning, please complete these 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.

Complete and submit to the school a Criminal Records Check and Child Abuse Register Search as part of the provincial Volunteer Background Check Policy.

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>

### **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.

### **Celebrate African Heritage Month 2025 (repeated information)**

We will have an assembly on Monday to honor and share learning during the month. 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.

### **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 means students can 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).

## **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](https://hrce.ca/weather).

**This information can be found on the *For Students and Parents* tab on the Westmount Elementary website.**