

**Westmount Elementary**  
**6700 Edward Arab Ave,**  
**Halifax, NS, B3L 2E2**  
**Main office: 902-493-5164**  
**Website: <https://wmt.hrce.ca/>**  
**Email: [wmount@hrce.ca](mailto:wmount@hrce.ca)**  
**Safe arrival: 902-493-5169**

# Westmount Elementary

## September 2022 Newsletter



Principal: Teri McGinn

Vice Principal: Carolyn LeBlanc

Admin Assistant: Ann D'Eon

### Upcoming Dates

- September 7: First Day of School
- September 8: Stand Up Against Bullying Day
- September 12-16: Fire Drill
- September 19-23: Lockdown Drill
- September 28-Picture Day
- September 29-Orange Shirt Day
- September 29-Curriculum Night
- September 30-National Truth and Reconciliation Day (no school)

Thank you to families, students and staff for the wonderful start to the new school year!

Throughout the year, we will send notices and information home to the whole school community through email. If you would prefer a paper copy of notices, please contact us to let us know. Be sure to check out our school website to stay

up to date with school information. We welcomed many new staff this year. You can see our full staff list on our website.

We will work hard throughout the year to recognize and honour cultural events and important dates. We would value opportunities to partner with our families to support teaching and learning. Visits and presentations

by people in our school community is a powerful way to build understanding.

Whenever you have any questions, suggestions or concerns please contact us.

Yours in learning,

Teri Colter and Carolyn LeBlanc

## Orange Shirt Day: Every Child Matters

On Thursday, September 29, our students are encouraged to wear orange to honour and recognize Orange Shirt Day.

Orange Shirt Day and the activities students engage in at this time helps them develop or deepen an understanding of the impact residential schooling has had in Canada both past and present.

All activities allow for an age appropriate understanding of the meaning behind Every

Child Matters and residential schooling.

*"September 30th, is now, a recognized day of reflection & honouring, not a celebration. National Truth and Reconciliation Day should be observed with the same consideration and solemnity as other days of honouring those who have paid the ultimate price."*

-Brittany Pennell, Regional Coordinator of Mi'kmaw Education/Services - HRCE



# Safe Arrival by School Messenger

An important priority is ensuring all students arrive to school safely each day. Families of students who attend our school now have the option to report their child's absence in advance using a toll-free number, the PowerSchool Parent Portal or an app!

If your child will be absent, please let us know by using one of the following methods:

#### Toll-Free Number

Call 1-833-582-6940 to

report an absence using an automated system.

#### PowerSchool Parent Portal

Log into <https://sishrsb.ednet.ns.ca/public/> and access the SchoolMessenger website to report an absence.

#### SchoolMessenger App

Download the SchoolMessenger app for Android and iOS devices and sign up using your PowerSchool username (full email address). For more information about reporting

your child's absence and a list of frequently asked questions, visit: <https://www.hrce.ca/safearrival>

#### Bell Schedule

8:20-Teachers on duty outside  
8:30-Bell to enter school  
8:35-Classes Begin  
10:05-10:20-Recess  
11:35-12:35-Lunch  
2:40-Dismissal

It is important that students arrive on time for safe arrival procedures. Arriving on time is also important for participating in morning routines and lessons.

## Safe Arrival Volunteers

Mrs. D'Eon is looking for parent volunteers who can help with the Safe Arrival program on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday.

If you can give an hour and a half of your morning, that would be great.

You would be needed at 8:30 am. You would help with updating late students into the computer system and making calls to families that have not contacted the Safe Arrival by Messenger system.

Please email Mrs. D'Eon at [adeon@hrce.ca](mailto:adeon@hrce.ca) if you can help out.

## Allergies



We have students and staff at Westmount Elementary who are allergic to specific foods. This includes life threatening allergies to peanuts and tree nuts (i.e. pecans, hazel

nuts, etc.). Students eat together in their classrooms so it is important that you check food labels before packing snacks and lunches. Nutella should not be sent to school.

Please send nut free food items. We want to ensure that all of our students and staff have a safe and healthy school environment.

# School Advisory Council (SAC)

We are looking for two family members to participate in our SAC this year. We will meet once a month and have at least 6 meetings. Please call or email the school if you are interested!

SACs bring together school stakeholders and individuals from local

communities who share an interest in promoting student success. They provide families, school staff, community members with a voice to influence decisions that have an impact on student learning and well-being. As advisory bodies, SAC's bring partners together to

provide principals and regional centers of education (RCE's) with advice that reflects the best interests of students from the point of view of the school community. SACs receive their authority from the Education Act (2018).

## Paperwork for Volunteering

For parents wanting to volunteer in a classroom, on a school trip or help out with WSA events, there is paperwork that needs to be done. Volunteers must have the Child Abuse and Criminal Rec-

ord with Vulnerable Sector paperwork done.

If this is something you wish to do, please come and see Mrs. D'Eon at the office to get the paperwork. These checks

are valid for three years from the date they are issued.



## Safety Drills

The safety and security of our students and staff is a priority. As part of this, students and staff will have drills to practice important safety procedures.

We will have 6 fire drills throughout the year. The first one will be next week. We will have 2 lockdown drills.

The first will be sometime during September 19-23. Rest assured that teachers will review these procedures with students.

We want to ensure that Westmount Elementary remains a safe place for our students to learn.

Lockdown Information will be sent in an email and also added to our school website.