

# Welcome to Our 2024-2025 Grade Primaries!



Click the image above for a message and tour from a former Grade Primary student!

## WELCOME NEW PRIMARIES

Welcome to school! We are so happy to be here with you and your child as they begin their learning journey through school. Click [here](#) for information about Grade Primary!

*"There must be a profound recognition that parents are the first teachers and that education starts before formal schooling and is deeply rooted in the values, traditions and norms of family and culture"*

*Sara Lawrence-Lightfoot*

## GETTING YOUR CHILD READY TO LEARN

- Read to your child daily and talk about the story before, during and after you read. Ask them to point out a certain letter or familiar word they might know.
- Sing an alphabet song, point out letters and words you see around you in the world and help them try to print letters on their own.
- You can help your child practice printing their name (capital for the first letter and lowercase for the rest).
- Play games looking for numbers in their world and count toys or objects.
- Practice using glue, scissors and coloring materials before they use them at school.

## GETTING YOUR CHILD READY FOR SCHOOL

- ✓ Shoes: If possible, your child should have sneakers for indoor use/gym class (preferably slip-on or with velcro straps so your child can take them off/put on easily). **They should be labelled with your child's name.**
- ✓ Send in spare clothes for your child. Place the clothing in a baggie with your child's name on the bag.
- ✓ Practice independent dressing skills like zippers, snaps and changing shoes.
- ✓ Help your child learn how to use a public bathroom (i.e. how to work stall door locks, flush toilets and hand washing).
- ✓ Talk to your child about what is packed for lunch and snack, so they know the difference.
- ✓ We are a peanut and treenut free school.
- ✓ Have students practice opening and closing lunch/snack containers and packages.
- ✓ Discuss your child's afterschool routine with them. We'll gather more information in September.
- ✓ School bags should fit their lunch bag, their message bag, and a change of clothes.

Please label all belongings-book bags, coats, shoes, hats, sweaters, etc. Unclaimed items will be added to a Lost and Found area.

# Next Steps

## COMMUNICATION

There are a variety of ways to communicate between home and school.

- Newsletters and memos sent home regularly from the classroom and school to help keep you informed.
- Events throughout the year (i.e. Curriculum Night, report cards, school events).
- Whenever you have any questions, your first contact is your child's teacher. Email addresses can be found on the school's website and below.

It is important to check the home and school message bag and empty your child's backpack every day. If you can, get your child to participate. This will help develop and practice routines which they will gradually become responsible for.



Please visit our school's website for additional school information at <https://wmt.hrce.ca/>

### Westmount Elementary

6700 Edward Arab Ave., Halifax, B3L 2E1  
902-493-5164 [wmount@hrce.ca](mailto:wmount@hrce.ca)

Maureen Higgins (Grade P): [maureen.higgins@hrce.ca](mailto:maureen.higgins@hrce.ca)

Annie Miller (Grade P/1): [millera@hrce.ca](mailto:millera@hrce.ca)

Teri Colter (Principal): [teri.colter@hrce.ca](mailto:teri.colter@hrce.ca)

Greg White (VP): [whiteg@hrce.ca](mailto:whiteg@hrce.ca)

Tanya Casey (Admin. Assistant): [tcasey@hrce.ca](mailto:tcasey@hrce.ca)

## THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

The first day of school will be exciting for many students, and it may be concerning for others. If your child is nervous, try not to share in that feeling - be confident and positive.

It is recommended that your child start their regular routines on the first day of school (i.e. babysitter, walk). Primary teachers will be on the playground to greet their new students as they arrive.

Click the image below to view a heartwarming message from some HRCE students.

## A MESSAGE FROM PRIMARY STUDENTS

When you arrive at school, your child may be sad that you are leaving, but this is the moment when you can be a great role model by leaving with a smile on your face.

Your child will be lovingly and carefully looked after during this time of transition, and there are extra hands available to support our new primaries, so don't worry!

It is important that Primary students learn to develop independence from the beginning of the school year and we appreciate your support with this.

Take care and we look forward to meeting you!



