



September 2023

Ross Road School

Important Dates

Sept. 7	First Day of School
Sept. 11	Home and School meeting (6:30 in library)
Sept. 14	Stand Up Against Bullying Day (wear pink)
Sept. 21	Terry Fox Run/Walk
Sept. 29	Orange T-shirt Day
Oct. 2	Truth and Reconciliation Day, no classes

Welcome Back! We hope you have had a safe and restful summer. Our staff is excited to welcome new families and returning families alike. We look forward to getting to know your children and working with you to ensure your child's success in school this year.

Arrival

It is very important that students be on time and arrive no earlier than 20 minutes before the first bell. Staff will be on duty by 8:10 AM and will meet students outside to help direct them to the correct location. The first bell rings at 8:30 AM. Parents dropping students off are asked to please use the upper parking lot and drop your child off near the fence adjacent to the playground. There will be staff there to help. Students coming off the bus will be greeted by staff and supported to find the area for play until the bell rings.

Students in Pre-Primary will use the front entrance facing the playground. Students in Grades P-2 will play on the playground until 8:25 when a staff member will walk the children around to the back pad to line up and meet their teacher. Students Grades 3-6 will play around back of the school until 8:25 when the staff member indicates that it is time to line up and meet their teacher.

Junior high students will walk around to the side of the building where they have the choice to hang out near the doors to the cafeteria or go to the cafeteria and sit to have a grab n' go breakfast snack.

Interested in becoming a Volunteer or a Coach?

There are many ways parents can volunteer to support our school.

- Field trips • Fundraising • Special events • Classroom support • Breakfast/Lunch programs • Reading with students • Assisting teachers with teaching materials • Coaching • School beautification • Tutoring • Chaperones

Please contact the school if you are interested in volunteering. You will be required to have a current Criminal Record Background Check and a current Child Abuse Registry Check. (within 3 months of starting the volunteer position)

Purple Tag Program

To help our youngest riders arrive to/from school safely, we will implement the Purple Tag Program to children in Pre-Primary to Grade 2 in September. Parents/guardians (or a designate) are responsible for accompanying Pre-Primary to Grade 2 children to their designated bus stop, waiting with them until safely boarded, and greeting them at the stop at the end of the day. If a seatbelt is available and a child is less than 40 pounds and 57 inches in height, parents/guardians (or a designate) are also responsible for buckling/unbuckling them from their seat. School staff will do this when the child is at school. The Purple Tag Program will help school staff and bus drivers identify these children to ensure they are not left alone at a stop and receive the assistance they may need. Families will receive a purple tag from the school. This tag should be attached to the left-hand side of the child's backpack or school bag, or another area that can easily be seen by school staff and the bus driver. Parents/guardians (or a designate) will be asked to write the name of their child's school and their morning/afternoon route number(s) on the tag before fastening it to their backpack. Tags should stay on backpacks for the remainder of the school year. Schools will be given extra tags for those that are lost or damaged. Please note that personal information such as the child's name, home address and/or personal phone number should not be written on the tag for privacy and safety reasons.

Home and School

Ross Road's Home & School Association is a volunteer group of parents and staff who plan activities, events, and fundraisers to ensure a positive experience for everyone at Ross Road School. They are already busy planning for the 2023-24 school year, and it begins this week. Students will be bringing home order forms for Nourish Your Roots. Nourish boxes support healthy food programs within the school and will arrive just before Thanksgiving weekend on October 5th. More information on this, as well as upcoming events and fundraisers, will be shared on the "Ross Road Home & School Association" Facebook page. On October 14th they will be hosting a Bottle Drive and Outdoor School Yard Clean up. There will be ice cream treats offered to volunteers, and the funds raised will go towards the purchasing of additional outdoor equipment and supplies, as well as beautification of the existing space. If you have bottles but are not able to attend the bottle drive, refundables can be dropped off year-round at the Bluenose Bottle Exchange under the Ross Road School account.

The former 3/4 Banfield class was the winning class who brought in the most donations for the Walk-a-thon last year. Unfortunately, they did not receive their prize: A Pizza Party. We want to honor our commitment and invite all students who were in the 3/4 class last year to a pizza party during elementary lunch on Friday, September 15 in the library. Thank you again for all your support!

Stand Up Against Bullying Day is September 14

Stand Up Against Bullying Day is recognized on the second Thursday in September across Nova Scotia. Recognizing this day early in the school year allows us to set a positive tone by engaging students in activities that focus on the importance of building healthy relationships. HRCE is committed to ensuring that every school is a safe place to learn and succeed. We put this commitment into action through our

policies, procedures, staff development, and school supports. Please join us in taking a stance against bullying by wearing pink on September 14!



<https://kidshelpphone.ca/>

Join us in observing National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

Each year, September 30 marks the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. The day honours the children who never returned home and the survivors of residential schools, as well as their families and communities. Public commemoration of the tragic and painful history and ongoing impacts of residential schools is a vital component of the reconciliation process. Orange Shirt Day is an Indigenous-led, grassroots commemorative day intended to raise awareness of the individual, family and community inter-generational impacts of residential schools, and support the “Every Child Matters” movement. The orange shirt is a symbol of the stripping away of culture, freedom and self-esteem experienced by Indigenous children over generations. As September 30 falls on a Saturday this year, we welcome staff and students to wear orange on Friday, September 29. All classes will be cancelled on Monday, October 2 in recognition of this day.



<https://novascotia.ca/lae/employmentrights/truth-and-reconciliation-day.asp>

Using BusPlanner

BusPlanner will provide everything you need to know about student transportation including eligibility, stop times and stop locations. Once you register and subscribe, you may also receive email notifications on changes to routes, bus delays or cancellations. To sign up, go to BusPlanner at hrce.mybusplanner.ca and click on Parent Portal. Follow the instructions to create an account. Don't have a BusPlanner Parent Portal account? Need help logging in? Please contact the HRCE Student Transportation Team at transportation@hrce.ca or call 902-431-4723.



<https://hrcetransportation.mybusplanner.ca/>

SchoolCash Setup

SchoolCash Online is an easy to use and safe way to pay for your children's school fees. Now, with a few clicks, you can pay for your child's yearbook, class trips and so much more, quickly and conveniently. Simply [click here](#) to register an account to be able to pay in several different payment forms.

HRCE is growing!

Almost 58,000 students are currently enrolled in the Halifax Regional Centre for Education (HRCE)! In the last five years, enrolment has increased by nearly 8,000. This is an exciting time for our province, our city and for HRCE! As our communities continue to expand, we continue to adapt. From new modulars and portables to a new dual-campus model, we continue to find new ways to ensure every student has a safe and welcoming learning environment in which to grow and thrive. With this growth comes a lot of important changes for our region. Please visit the [HRCE website](#) for the latest updates!



<https://www.hrce.ca/growth>

Do you know how to raise a concern?

Did you know that there's a protocol in place to help families contact schools or the HRCE office when you have concerns about your student's education or well-being?

- All concerns should first be shared with your child's teacher.
- If your concern is not resolved, you should then contact the principal.
- If your concern remains unresolved, you can reach out to [HRCE's Parent Navigators](#) who can provide information about a wide range of supports and resources or connect you with the school supervisor.
- If your matter continues to be unresolved, you can then initiate a formal review process in which the matter will be investigated by the appropriate HRCE Directors.
- The final step is for your concern to be passed on to the Regional Executive Director.

Click here to view the [Parent/Guardian Concern Policy](#).

