

Michael Wallace Elementary

February Newsletter



WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING???

Family Literacy Day

Thank you to all those families who joined us for Family Literacy Day! Here's a look at the morning activities:



Steele Mazda Literacy Donation

Michael Wallace had the honor of being named the recipients of the Mazda Legends. The school received a cheque for \$2500 to support the purchase of new SyllaSense decodable books as well as supporting other literacy needs in the school. The cheque was presented to the school by Dana Simonson.

Thank you Steele Mazda!



February

February is African Heritage Month!

13 Valentine's Day Bake Sale!

16 Family Day: No School

March

13 No Classes

16-20 March Break

31 Report Cards

April

2 Parent Teacher

**The Home & School Annual Valentine's Day Bake Sale
is BACK, Friday February 13th!**



MWES
HOME + SCHOOL

*Valentine's
Bake Sale*



For this event, we are asking for donations of baked goods or sweet treats.
homemade or store bought
These items can be sent in the day before or the morning of the bake sale.
(If possible, please send items individually packaged.)
nut free

♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥

\$1 - \$4 per item

Students can enjoy these items during Recess/Lunch or bring them home.

All purchases will go towards sponsoring the Spring Fair



February is Registration Month

Do you have or know a child who will be starting Pre Primary or Primary this fall? It's time to register!

Registration for the 2026-27 school year begins on Monday, February 2. To ensure we have the right staff and supports in place for September, it's important that we gather enrolment numbers now.

Tip: Before you begin, make sure you have the following documents in electronic form (image, PDF or Word document):

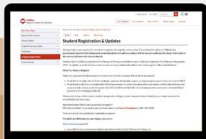
- Proof of identity/age with one of the following: birth certificate, passport, immigration papers, or legal adoption papers if you are new to the HRCE
- Proof of home address with one of the following: a recently dated official government or utility document with your current address that includes your name and



Halifax
Regional Centre for Education

**February is
Registration
Month!**

Visit www.hrce.ca to register today!



date, such as water bill, power bill, internet bill, home fuel bill, a tax receipt, property assessment, a mortgage contract or a residential lease agreement

Visit the [HRCE website](#) for more information and to enrol your child today through PowerSchool Enrollment!

Don't have a child to register? Maybe you know someone who does! Please help us spread the word and pass this information on to friends, neighbours or relatives who will be looking to register for the fall.



February is African Heritage Month

African Heritage Month in Nova Scotia is a time to recognize and celebrate the rich history, vibrant culture, and lasting contributions of people of African descent in our province. This year's theme, "Strength in Unity – Moving Forward with Purpose, Prosperity, Power and Progress," reminds us of the importance of coming together as a community, learning from one another, and

moving forward with shared purpose.

In our schools, African Heritage Month provides meaningful opportunities for students to explore African Nova Scotian histories and experiences, deepen their understanding of our shared past, and reflect on the values of respect, inclusion, and belonging. Through classroom learning, discussions, and activities connected to this year's theme, students are encouraged to appreciate diversity, build empathy, and recognize the strength that comes from unity. These experiences help foster welcoming school communities and inspire students to contribute positively to a more inclusive and equitable future for all.

February 16 is Heritage Day

Nova Scotia Heritage Day is celebrated on Monday, February 16, and provides an opportunity for students and families to learn more about the people, stories, and events that have shaped our province. Each year, Heritage Day honours a notable Nova Scotian, and in 2026 we recognize Joseph William Comeau, an important Acadian poet, writer, and cultural leader.

Joseph William Comeau is remembered for his contributions to Acadian literature and for helping to preserve and promote Acadian language, identity, and culture in Nova Scotia. His work reflected the everyday lives, resilience, and traditions of Acadian communities, and his legacy continues to influence Acadian culture today.

Heritage Day provides us with an opportunity to explore Nova Scotia's diverse history and to better understand how individuals from different backgrounds have contributed to our shared story. Learning about Joseph William Comeau helps students appreciate the richness of Acadian heritage and the importance of preserving culture, language, and community.

Power Outage Information for Families



As we move into the winter months, we want to share how decisions are made when a school experiences a power outage.

Our priority is always to keep schools open safely when possible. A power outage does not automatically mean classes are cancelled – even if it happens during the school day. The decision depends on when power is expected to be restored.

Here's what happens:

- When a school loses power, HRCE's Operations Team contacts Nova Scotia Power to gather available details on the cause and an estimated restoration time.
- Once we have this information, we consider:
- Before school starts: Have buses begun their routes? If so, we wait until students arrive before making a decision. If classes are cancelled, elementary families will be contacted before dismissal.
- During the school day: How close is dismissal? What is the temperature in the building? Does the school rely on power for water or septic systems? These factors, among others, help us decide whether to stay open or close. Often, power returns faster than we could safely send students home.

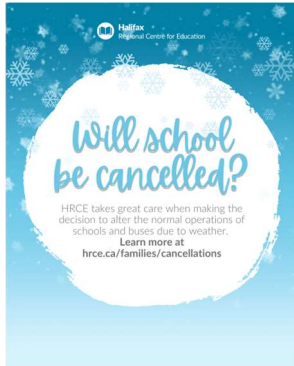
If classes are cancelled:

- HRCE will notify families by email and text.
- Families of elementary students will also receive a phone call before dismissal.

Deciding to close schools during a power outage is never simple, but safety is always our top priority. We understand that cancellations can be inconvenient, and our goal is to keep students learning in class whenever possible.

More information about school cancellations for any reason can be found [here](#).

Inclement Weather:



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 Instagram](#)

It's important to always have a plan in place for childcare in the event of any cancellation. Please remember: As a parent or guardian you always have the choice of whether or not to send your child to school.

For more information on how HRCE manages during inclement weather, visit hrce.ca/families/cancellations.

Learn About the Influenza Vaccine

Learn about the Influenza vaccine

FAST FACTS ABOUT THE FLU VACCINE

- Influenza (the flu) is a virus that peaks in transmission in the fall and winter months
- Most people are mildly ill when they contract the flu but sometimes the flu can be serious and require admission to the hospital
- Children under 6 years are at the highest risk of serious complications from the flu
- The flu and RSV can occur at the same time making children more at risk of needing hospitalization
- The flu vaccine is recommended yearly for children 6 months and older to protect against serious complications of the flu

Scan to book



FLU VACCINE SAFETY

- The flu vaccine cannot cause the flu
- Serious side effects are rare, affecting less than 1 in 1000 people
- Common side effects include pain and swelling at the injection site



HOW TO BOOK YOUR VACCINE

- In Nova Scotia, flu vaccines can be booked online and are free of cost
- You can also call to book at 1-833-797-7772. If you or your child does not have a health card, please call rather than booking online



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For more information, [click here](#).

Online Platform Risks From Unplugged Canada

Sharing on behalf of Unplugged Canada

Many digital platforms today, including social media, online gaming and AI chat tools, are designed to keep kids scrolling and engaged, often exposing them to addictive features, adult content, and interactions they may not be developmentally ready to handle.

Below is a resource that outlines some of the most common social media, gaming, and AI chat platforms, helping families better understand the risks, start meaningful conversations at home, and consider delaying smartphones and access to these apps until kids are more developmentally ready. You can access the full resource [here](#).

APPS EVERY PARENT SHOULD BE AWARE OF unplugged Canada

<p>SNAPCHAT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disappearing messages • Snap Map location sharing • Addictive features (streaks) • Sexting & adult content 	<p>INSTAGRAM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Body image pressure • Harassment DM requests • Teens use secret "Pretax" • Exposure to adult content
<p>ROBLOX</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inappropriate games • Unmoderated private servers • Chat with strangers • Pressure to buy Robux 	<p>TIKTOK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highly addictive feed • Harmful viral trends • Attention fragmentation • Frequent adult content
<p>DISCORD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High grooming risk • Adult NSFW content • Harassment & cyberbullying • Unmoderated servers 	<p>YOUTUBE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inappropriate content • High risk of grooming • Addictive short form content • Attention fragmentation
<p>CHARACTER AI</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bewildering identity tools • High grooming-style risk • Fake AI relationships with kids • Encourages secrecy from parents 	<p>TELEGRAM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encrypted header content • Large, risky group chats • Minimal moderation • Hard for parents to monitor
<p>REDDIT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unfiltered communities • Adult disturbing content • Harassment topics easily found • Anonymous users & predators 	<p>CHATGPT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kids may overshare personal info • Mature themes can appear • Emotional dependence on AI • Hard for parents to monitor use

Before you let your child use a platform, create an account using their age and explore it yourself to see the content and interactions they'll be exposed to.

Unplugged Canada is a parent-led, national movement advocating for healthier childhoods by delaying smartphones and social media until kids are more developmentally ready. Join thousands of Canadian families choosing to delay by taking the Unplugged Canada Pledge at unpluggedcanada.com/sign-pledge.

Please contact the
office if you have
difficulty with any of
the links.
902-435-8357