



MICHAEL WALLACE ELEMENTARY

WE SOAR!!!

SEPTEMBER 2026 NEWSLETTER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 Pink Shirt Day	11	12
13	14	15	16 Lockdown Drill	17	18	19
20	21 Say Cheese!! School Picture Day	22 Hold & Secure Drill	23	24	25 Professional Development Day: No School	26
27	28	29	30 Truth & Reconciliation Day: No School			

Coming Up next month....

- October 1st Terry Fox Walk
- 12th Thanksgiving: No Classes
- 23rd Provincial Conference Day
- 26th Picture Re-take

MEET OUR STAFF!

Admin Team:

Stephanie Lockhart, Principal Divya Haase MacLeod, Vice Principal Susan Stevens, Admin Assistant

Support Staff:

Kim Piccott, Resource Michelle Purdy-West, Learning Centre Michelle Hebert-Moore, SLP
Robin Sibley, Social/Emotional Lisa Gabriel, Psychologist Sue Rickard, Library Support Abena Colley, Schools Plus Nicole MacFarlane, Schools Plus Social Worker Catherine MacDonald, ELST

Teaching Staff

Jennifer Simonson, P/1 Katelyn Nicholson, P/1 Kendra Bourgeois Grade 2
Lisa MacLeod, Grade 2/3 Heather MacEachern, Grade 3/4 Tim Stickings, Grade 4/5
Drew Doyle/Divya Haase MacLeod, Grade 5/6 Kayleigh Purcell, Grade 5/6
Jose Pacheco, Relief Teacher

Specialist Staff

Alexander Powell, Music Christa Spicer, Physical Education Joanne Gouthro, Core French

Educational Program Assistants

Heather Edmonds, Angela Bidinost, Tracey Josey, Stephanie Hiltz, Stephanie Fitzgerald, Gayle MacDonald

Pre-Primary

Nicole Mosher, Lead Dale Barnes, Support

Behaviour Matrix/Code of Conduct

Michael Wallace Eagles

WE SOAR

	Learning Spaces	Shared Spaces	Playing Through Spaces	Outside Spaces	Walking and Running Spaces
S WE LEARN, PLAY, AND GROW IN A SAFE SPACE	- Use an inside voice when others are speaking - Follow directions - Hands and feet to self	- Clean up after yourself - Be respectful of others - Use equipment appropriately	- Stay with your class - Keep to the right - Walk quietly	- Stay within boundaries - Use equipment safely - Hands and feet to self	- Be on time - Line up at the bell
O WE TAKE OWNERSHIP OF OUR BEHAVIOUR AND LEARNING	- Participate in learning - Take risks when learning - Keep trying - Do your best work	- Stay in your space - Care for materials and school property	- Walk quietly and responsibly - Own your actions	- Care for your belongings - Face challenges and keep trying	Order and self-storage designated items
A WE ARE INCLUSIVE AND ACCEPTING OF EVERYONE	- Mentors practice kindness - Help others in need - Work through problems - Work together	- Give others space - Include others - Use kind words	Move respectfully with others	- Play fair - Take turns - Solve problems together	Acknowledge peers and staff
R WE SHOW RESPECT FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS	- Ask correctly - Use our communication	- Be respectful - Responsible - Kind	- Use appropriate communication - Use appropriate language	- Hands and feet to self - Follow rules - Follow guidelines	Practice greetings and greetings

At Michael Wallace Elementary, we believe that all students have the right to learn in a safe, respectful, and supportive environment. We have high expectations for student behaviour, and we explicitly teach, model, and reinforce these expectations throughout the school year.

Students at Michael Wallace follow a school-wide Behaviour Matrix, which outlines the behaviours expected in different settings throughout our school, including classrooms, hallways, the playground, the cafeteria, and other common areas. Students are given many opportunities to learn, practise, and demonstrate these expectations with the support of their teachers and other staff members.

When inappropriate behaviours occur, our response is grounded in the Nova Scotia School Code of Conduct Policy. Students may be referred to the office when behaviour requires additional support or intervention. Depending on the nature and circumstances of an incident, a variety of responses and consequences may

be used. As important partners in our students' education, we encourage parents and guardians to become familiar with our school-wide behaviour expectations and to reinforce these expectations at home.

Just as importantly, we celebrate students who demonstrate positive behaviours and make good choices! Students who are "caught" following our school expectations may receive a SOAR Award. These awards are placed in a weekly draw for prizes. Classroom teachers also recognize students who demonstrate exceptional effort, kindness, responsibility, or positive contributions through our Fantastic Friday phone calls home.

Each month, we also come together as a school community to celebrate student achievement and success at our monthly assemblies.

Our goal is to create a school culture where students know what is expected, have opportunities to practise those expectations, receive support when they need it, and are recognized for the many positive contributions they make each day. Thank you to our families for partnering with us to help our students SOAR!

HOME & SCHOOL

It's time to get Home & School rolling for another school year! Our first Home & School meeting of the 2026-2027 school year will take place Tuesday, September 15 at 6:30 p.m. at Michael Wallace.

NEW MEMBERS ARE WELCOME!

Whether you've been involved with Home & School for years, or this is your first time considering it, we would love to have you join us! Home & School is



a great way to connect with other families, support our school, and help create fun and meaningful experiences for our students.

This first meeting will be our kick-off meeting for the year, where we'll work together to:

- Brainstorm and plan events and activities for the school year
- Identify parents/guardians interested in joining event committees
- Elect Home & School officers
- Discuss fundraising goals and initiatives
- Share ideas for supporting our students and school community
- Begin mapping out the year ahead

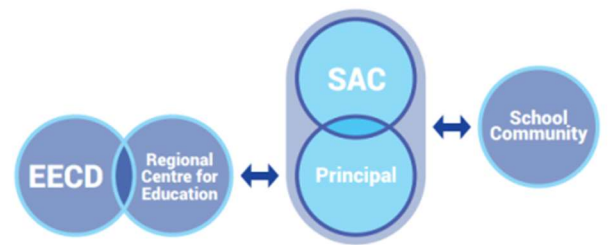
You do not need to have previous Home & School experience or commit to volunteering for every event. There are lots of ways to participate, and support Home & School.

We hope to see lots of new and returning faces on Tuesday, September 15 at 6:30 p.m. Let's make it a great year for our Michael Wallace community!

School Advisory Council (SAC)

We are looking for members!!!

Contact the office if you're interested in being a part of the SAC.



We are also looking for Community Members. If you know of someone (grandparent/neighbour) who does not have a child attending Michael Wallace who may be interested, please let us know!

School Advisory Councils play an important role in supporting student success at the school community level.

A School Advisory Council is an advisory body to the school principal, Regional Centre for Education, and the Conseil scolaire acadien provincial on a range of issues related to the school and the school system.

Membership can vary, but generally consists of the school principal, parents, teachers, and other community members.

[Click here](#) to learn more about School Advisory Councils, including how the role changed in 2018.

[Click here](#) to see the Nova Scotia School Advisory Council Handbook. See below for more important SAC documents.

For more information, visit the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development [website](#). Communication

Effective communication is a crucial component to ensure the success of SAC. The SAC and the school principal work closely to maintain effective communication with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD), Regional Centres of Education, and school communities.

Most communication between the SAC, Regional Centres and EECD flows through school principals.

If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie Lockhart (Principal)

Meetings are virtual (6:30-7:30)

Meeting Dates for 2026-2027:

Tuesday October 6th

Tuesday November 17th

Tuesday January 12th

Tuesday February 23rd

Tuesday April 6th

Tuesday May 18th

Something New is Coming to Michael Wallace!



We are excited to share that Ms. Piccott was awarded a technology grant to launch a brand-new "Innovation Station" at Michael Wallace School!

This exciting new technology will give students opportunities to design, create, problem-solve, collaborate, and bring their ideas to life using design tools. Our new equipment will include two 3D printers, a sublimation printer, heat press, and a dedicated maker workspace! Students will have opportunities to experiment, design prototypes, think creatively, collaborate, and develop critical-thinking and real-world problem-solving skills. We can't wait to see what our students dream up, design, and create!

Reporting Student Absences

HRCE SafeArrival - Reporting an Absence

Families can report a student's full-day absence in any of these three ways:

1. SchoolMessenger App - Use the email address associated with the student's PowerSchool account.
2. PowerSchool Parent Portal - Log in to PowerSchool, select SchoolMessenger, then Attendance → Report an Absence.
3. Toll-free phone: 1-833-582-6940 - Follow the automated prompts.

Absences can be reported 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and families can report an absence in advance. Up to five consecutive days can be reported at once.

If a student is going to be late or absent for only part of the day, families should still report a full-day absence through SafeArrival. Once the student arrives at school, the school will update the attendance record to reflect a late arrival or partial-day absence.

If an absence has not been reported, HRCE's automated system will attempt to contact the family by email, text message and/or phone.

Reporting a Student Absence

There are three easy ways to report your child's absence in the Halifax Regional Centre for Education (HRCE).

Make the call, keep them in school!

1 SchoolMessenger App

Use the SchoolMessenger app on your mobile device.

Log in with the email address associated with your child's PowerSchool account.

2 PowerSchool Parent Portal

Log in to PowerSchool Parent Portal, then select **SchoolMessenger**.

Go to **Attendance** → **Report an Absence**.

3 Toll-free Phone

1-833-582-6940

Follow the automated prompts to report your child's absence.

Available 24/7
You can report an absence any time, day or night.

Report in advance
You can report an absence in advance (up to 5 consecutive days at a time).

Late or partial-day absence?
If your child will only be late or absent for part of the day, please still report a full-day absence. The school will update the attendance record once your child arrives.

Didn't report?
If an absence hasn't been reported, HRCE's automated system will try to contact you by email, text message and/or phone.

Thank you for helping us keep our students safe and supported!

Halifax Regional Centre for Education
LEARN • GROW • BELIEVE

Using BusPlanner



Everything you need to know about student transportation including eligibility, stop times and stop locations can be found on BusPlanner. Once you register and subscribe, you can choose to receive email and/or text message 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.

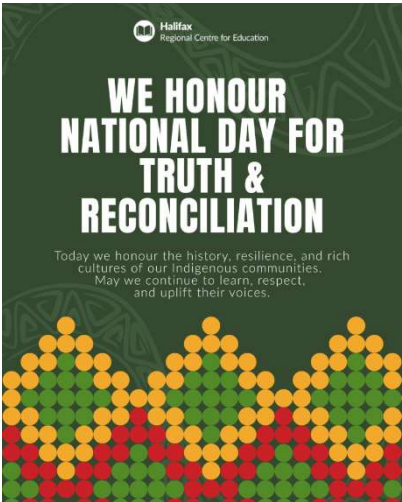
Don't have a BusPlanner Parent Portal account? Need help logging in? Please contact the HRCE Student Transportation Team through the Transportation Inquiry Form [here](#).

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

On September 30, we honour the children who never returned home from residential schools, and the survivors, families and communities who continue to live with their lasting impacts.

Orange Shirt Day is an Indigenous-led movement that reminds us that Every Child Matters and encourages all of us to learn, reflect and support truth and reconciliation.

As there are no classes on Wednesday, September 30, we invite students and staff to wear orange, if they're able, on Tuesday, September 29.



Nova Scotia School Lunch Program: Ordering is Now Open!



The Nova Scotia School Lunch Program is open! Beginning this school year, the program will be available in all public schools across the province.

Registering and ordering

All lunches must be ordered through the online ordering system. To get started, visit www.NSLunch.ca and click "Order Now." Returning users can sign in using their existing account.

More information, including instructions on how to create a diner account, is available at www.NSLunch.ca.