



MICHAEL WALLACE ELEMENTARY

WE SOAR!!!

October 2026						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Treaty Day Terry Fox Walk 1:30	2	3
4	5	6 SAC Meeting 6:30	7	8	9	10
11	12 Thanksgiving No School	13 Home & School Meeting 6:30	14	15	16	17
18	19	20 Grade 6 Assessments	21	22 Grade 6 Assessments	23 Provincial Conference Day No School	24
25	26	27 Grade 6 Assessments	28 Home & School Trunk or Treat	29 Grade 6 Assessments	30	31

Coming Up next month....

- 10 Remembrance Day Ceremony 10:00 AM (Families Welcome)
- 11 Remembrance Day (No School)
- 17 SAC Meeting 6:30 (Virtual)

School Lunches

We have noticed an increase in food waste through the Nova Scotia School Lunch Program, as some students are not eating the meals provided. We encourage families to involve their children in selecting their lunches whenever possible to help reduce waste. We also recommend packing an extra snack in case your child does not enjoy or eat their selected meal. Thank you for your help in reducing food waste!

HOME & SCHOOL

Update from your PTA

What we've done:

- Launched volunteer recruitment at Curriculum Night. Held our first meeting on Sept 15th where we elected officers for the year (Chair - Christian West, Vice Chair - Vacant, Treasurer - Cayla Stryncl, Secretary - Olivia Verge.) and identified project leaders for most of our key events.
- Surveyed families on their preferred Halloween event and ideas for upcoming events. Thanks to all of you who provided thoughtful feedback; it will help shape future decisions. Watch for, and participate in, future surveys to help influence the work of your PTA.
- Held the Ice Cream Social on Sept 24th. Thanks to all who participated and to the Grade 6 volunteers who served up the treats!

- Surveyed the staff to determine how best to apply the funds we raise for the betterment of MWES. We will compile the results in October and use them to help make informed decisions.

What we're working on:

- Reached out to the manufacturer to see how the lower elementary playground structure could be modified and reclassified for children ages 2-12 which would make it accessible for pre-primary students. Further discussion at the next PTA meeting.
- Halloween Trunk or Treat - October 28th @ 6:00-7:30. We're looking for 2 additional parent volunteers to help with the organization of this event (email michaelwallacehs@gmail.com to step forward). Mid-October watch for a notice from the school with details about volunteering to do a trunk etc.

What we need from you:

- Holiday Gift Mart - December will sneak up. It's never too soon to set aside items in your home to send in for the Gift Mart. Ask your neighbors, grandparents, etc. if they have treasures they can donate to help make the Gift Mart a success. Donations can be dropped off at the office.
- If you would like to join the PTA organizing committee please consider attending our next meeting at 6:30 PM on Tuesday, October 13th in the MWES French room. **Many hands, small commitments, big impact.**
- If you would like to volunteer to help with the execution of various events throughout the year watch for emails from the school in the lead up to each event.

How to reach us:

You can email us at michaelwallacehs@gmail.com, join the Michael Wallace Home & School Facebook group, or follow us on Instagram.

Thanks for your continued support,

Christian West
Chair, MWES PTA, 2026/2027

October is Mi'kmaq History Month

Each October, Mi'kmaq History Month provides an opportunity to deepen our understanding of Mi'kmaq culture, history, language and traditions, while recognizing the important contributions of Mi'kmaq people past and present.

Across our schools, students and staff may mark the month through learning, storytelling, art, community connections and cultural experiences that bring Mi'kmaq perspectives into the classroom and school community.

As we learn together, Mi'kmaq History Month reminds us of the importance of listening, building relationships and continuing our shared commitment to truth and reconciliation.

Learn more about Mi'kmaq History Month [here](#).

Fire Prevention Week: October 4-10

Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency is inviting families to take part in Fire Prevention Week, October 4-10. Visit halifax.ca/fpw to complete an online fire safety quiz. Want to win a Nintendo Switch, Apple products or LEGO sets? Participants who score 100% will be entered into a draw for a prize in their age category.

This year's theme, "Safe Charging is a Superpower," focuses on the safe use and charging of rechargeable devices powered by lithium-ion batteries. These batteries power many everyday devices, including phones, tablets, laptops, e-bikes and power tools. If damaged or charged improperly, they can overheat and cause fires.

Visit halifax.ca/fpw for contest details, videos and fire safety resources, and take a few minutes to test your smoke alarms and review your home fire escape plan.

October 19-23 is School Bus Safety Week

Every school day, thousands of HRCE students rely on the bus to get to and from school safely.

School Bus Safety Week is a chance to highlight the simple habits that help keep everyone safe — from waiting well back from the road, to following the driver's instructions, to staying alert around stopped school buses.

With more than 33,000 HRCE students travelling on more than 400 buses each day, safety depends on all of us: students, families, drivers, schools and motorists.

This week is a good opportunity to review a few everyday reminders and help reinforce safe routines on the bus, at the stop and on the road.

Bus Stop Safety

- Be on time for the bus and please don't run to/from the bus.
- Stand back off the road and don't push or shove when waiting at a stop.
- Always cross in front of the bus. Walk three metres (10 feet) in front of the bus to a point where you can see the driver and wait for the driver's signal to cross. Proceed to the centre of the road, STOP, LOOK & LISTEN and cross the road when it is safe.
- Never crawl under a school bus or cross the road behind the bus.
- Know the danger zones around the bus.

School Bus Safety

- Please respect and listen to the driver and avoid distracting them.
- Please keep noise levels to a minimum.
- Do not stand or move seats while the bus is in motion.
- Never put your hands, arms, feet or head out of the bus window.
- Ask the driver for permission before you open the bus windows.
- Do not throw anything inside the bus or out of the windows.
- Keep the aisle clear at all times when the bus is in motion.

Remember: In Nova Scotia, it's illegal to pass a school bus when its red lights are flashing and the stop arm is extended.

You can find out more information about riding the school bus in HRCE [here](#).

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 • BELONG

