

Portland Estates Elementary School

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November 2024

NOVEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

Dear Portland Estates Families,

It is hard to believe that two months of school have passed. November is here and it is a month of transitions and change. The clocks have moved back. The leaves have nearly all fallen and the preparations for winter are all but finished. Students have settled into the routines of school. With the changing of the colour of the leaves comes a change in weather and the students go outside for play. Often students can come in wet/muddy and need a change of clothes. **If you have not yet done so, please send a change of clothes for those times when needed for our younger students.**

Cross Country wrapped up. Way to go runners. We would like to extend a HUGE "Thank You" to Mrs. MacDonald and all the parent volunteers for coaching and organizing the runners in the running club. We hope more students will join the Running Club in the spring.

We want to thank our wonderful PTO and volunteers for another successful Fall Family Dance. Thank you for all you do providing our students and families with fun events throughout the year. Next up is our Cookies with Santa event and our very popular Basket raffle.

Our Remembrance Day Assembly will take place on Thursday, November 7 at 2pm and parents are welcome to attend. If your child belongs to Guides/Scouts/Cadets, they are invited to wear their uniform that day. Just a reminder that classes are not in session on November 11th to observe Remembrance Day and November 22nd, our Assessment & Evaluation Day for this term.

We have two new additions to our staff, Ms. Fees in Grade Primary and Ms. Naugle in Pre-primary. We wish Ms. McLellan best of luck in her next adventures.

It has been a privilege to read with many students who are working so diligently towards their goal of becoming a better reader. Practice, practice, practice equates to reading success. We welcome volunteers who wish to come in and read with our students.

The month ahead brings school photo retakes, our Remembrance Day Assembly, School Colours Day, Assessment & Evaluation Day. Parent/Teacher interviews will take place on December 5. Please keep in mind that these conferences are merely a check-in. I recommend you contact your child's teacher every time you have a question or concern.

Stay warm,

Your PEES Administrative Team



Important Dates to Remember:

November 1, 2024 - PJ Day

November 7, 2024- Remembrance Day Ceremony 2pm

PTO meeting 7pm - PEES Library - All welcome!

November 8, 2024 - Picture Retakes

November 11, 2024- Remembrance Day -- No School

November 22 - Assessment & Evaluation Day - No school for students

November 29 - School Colours Day - Wear your PEES gear, the colour Blue or your favourite team apparel

December 3-5- Book Fair

December 5 -PD Day/Parent-Teacher interviews (No school for students)

Book Fair Volunteers needed

Our Scholastic Book Fair will be open for in person shopping again this year! The fair will run **Tuesday Dec 3 through to Thursday Dec 5th and packing up will be the morning of Dec 6**. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year and puts many books into the library. You can sign up for one "shift" (even an hour is helpful) or simply reach out for more information. No experience necessary!

Please email cpedersen@hrce.ca for more information

Carol Pedersen, Librarian PEES

Lates We continue to have an inordinate number of students arriving past the morning bell on a daily basis. Many days it is as many as 20-30 children late. This creates a very stressful situation for all. Research says that academic achievement is negatively affected by chronic lateness and we want to ensure all our students reach their fullest potential. Office staff spend time signing students in when they need to focus on safe arrival protocols. The students who enter the classroom 10-20 minutes late lose instructional time and a chance to settle into the morning routines. Although we understand that life happens, we respectfully ask that students arrive on time to limit the disruptions to learning and teaching that have already begun. Instruction begins promptly at **9:00am**. Students can enter their classrooms starting at **8:40 am** to prepare for their day of learning.

School Advisory Council (SAC): Our SAC (School Advisory Council) meets 6 times a year. The members are made up of parents, community members and staff members. Information is shared around policies, protocols, and academic learning taking place at our school. We are still in need of two community members who are neither a parent nor grandparent.

Remembrance Day Ceremony: This year our Remembrance Day ceremony at PEES will be held on Thursday November 7 at 2 pm in the afternoon. Our classes have been working hard on wreaths of remembrance.



Poppy Donations for Remembrance Day - All Portland Estates Elementary School students will be provided with a poppy on November 7. The poppies have been provided by The Canadian Legion. If you would like to make a donation for your child's poppy, you can donate online to The Royal Canadian Legion Dominion Command Poppy Trust Fund. <https://legion.ca/home> or send in a cash donation to be put in the poppy bin in the office.

Milk order - Parents can order whole white milk for their children for 40 cents each through [Nutrislice.com](https://www.nutrislice.com).

NSLunch- The new provincial lunch program is open for ordering for the weeks of November 12- November 22.

Dropping off Items/Picking Up Students: Just a reminder to have all items (lunches, band instruments, clothing) labeled with child's name and Homeroom teacher's name, if you are dropping off items to the school for your child. When picking up your child- please call the office when you have arrived in the parking lot and we will dismiss your child from class.

Head Lice Reminders We encourage parents to make checking their child's head for the presence of nits and or lice a regular part of their routine. Please notify the school if your child has head lice and provide the recommended treatment before returning to school. Call 8-1-1 at any time to speak with a registered nurse for more information and guidance if head lice are still present after the necessary second treatment. Successful treatment included a second application of product 8 to 10 days after the initial treatment. For information on the prevention and treatment of head lice, refer to the Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness pamphlet, How to Prevent, Find and Treat Head lice on our website https://ifs.hrce.ca/sites/default/files/websites/ifs.hrsb.ca/our-school-file/2018/01/head_lice_pamphlet.pdf

Lost and Found The items in our lost and found bins are piling up. These items can be found in the main lobby. Please remind your child to look for any missing items.



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 buses 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:**

- Bused 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.

Delayed Opening of Schools On school days when conditions exist that it is not safe to open schools at regularly scheduled time but it is predicted that conditions will improve, a 2 hour delayed opening may be considered. Delayed openings would be considered when a severe weather event has concluded, but snow clearing or other operations require additional time. Delayed opening may also be considered when the building is experiencing an issue (power, water) and additional time is required to prepare the facility for opening. In the event of a delayed opening the following will apply:

- School opening will be delayed 2 hours
- Portland Estates Elementary would open at 11:00 am
- School bus pick up times will be delayed
- Lunch times will not change
- Afternoon class schedules will not change
- Dismissal time will not change- 3 pm

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 our website www.hrce.ca
- On X (formerly Twitter) at [Twitter.com/HRCE_NS](https://twitter.com/HRCE_NS)
- On Instagram at www.instagram.com/hrce_ns/

It's important to always have a plan in place for childcare in the event of any cancellation.

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



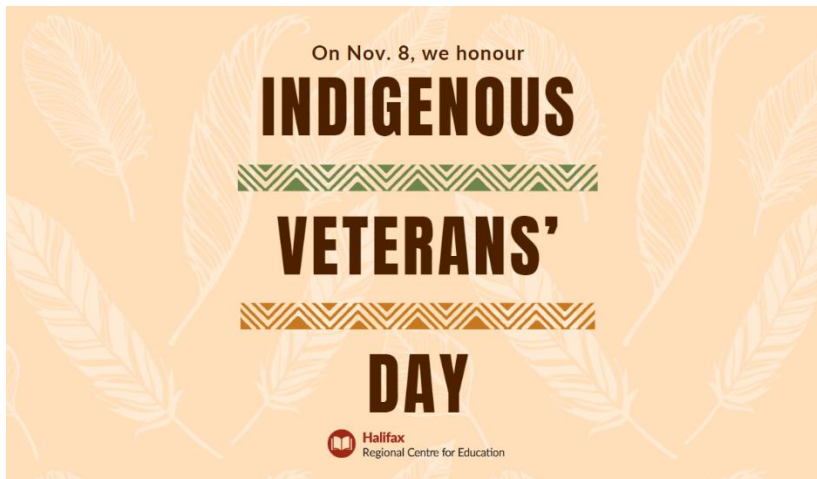
Visit hrce.ca/weather for everything you need to know about how weather could impact the operation of our school.

 Halifax
Regional Centre for Education

Remembrance Day & Indigenous Veterans Day

On November 8, we honour Indigenous Veterans who have served in missions in times of war and peace. While not often enough acknowledged, the military service of First Nations, Inuit and Métis in Canada has deep roots.

On November 11, we pause and reflect on the sacrifice of our veterans, past and present. Lest we forget.



Transgender Awareness Week

Observed annually from November 13-19, Transgender Awareness Week provides an opportunity to raise awareness and acknowledge the positive contributions made daily by members of the transgender community. The week concludes with Transgender Day of Remembrance on November 20, a day on which we memorialize victims of transphobic violence.

Be an ally

An ally is someone who actively and consistently supports, stands with and advocates for the 2SLGBTQIA+ communities. The best way to be an ally is to listen with an open mind. It is our responsibility to treat all people with dignity and kindness.



November 13-19 is Transgender Awareness Week



Allergy Alerts / Medication Please keep in mind we have numerous students and staff with severe allergies to food and scents. Please remind your children to refrain from wearing scents when in our school and be diligent about the food items your child brings to school. Nut products cannot be sent to school. If your child requires medication at school, an Administration of Medicine form must be filled out. All medicine is kept secured and distributed from our main office. Medications are required to be in the original container and clearly labelled by the pharmacy for your child.

Dress for the Weather: As classes continue to spend more time outside during the school year, please remind your child/ren to dress for the weather. As we get more wet and cold weather, families are asked to have their children dressed appropriately to go outside. While we do hold inside play times during heavy downpours, we recognize that all children benefit from fresh air and outside time, so we encourage rain boots and good outdoor clothes, such as a rainproof jacket, for those days when we will all head outside in rainy/cold weather. And for our youngest Portland Estates students, mud pants or splash pants are a great idea. A full change of clothes in their backpacks is also helpful for all students, should they need to change.

PTO News- Our PTO is still working at warp speed. They continue to offer several items on the school website: Mabels labels, school clothing and they will be gearing up to raffle off Theme baskets before the Holidays. The PTO is looking for slightly used toys that could be used as prizes - unopened McDonald's toys would be greatly appreciated. Volunteers are always needed.

Substitute Lunch Monitors needed

Portland Estates Elementary School is in immediate need of a relief lunch monitors between the hours of 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm for the remainder of the school year. A Criminal records check with vulnerable sector check and a Child Abuse Check are required. Please contact the school office at 902-433-7100 if interested.