



Fairview Heights Elementary / September 2026 Newsletter

Our Vision Statement:

Fairview Heights is a welcoming and safe school where learning happens because everyone belongs, and our many cultures and languages are celebrated.



Dear Students, Families, and Staff,

It is a pleasure to welcome everyone to a new school year! There is something special about the energy that comes with September—the excitement of seeing familiar faces, welcoming new members to our community, settling into new classrooms, and looking ahead to all the possibilities a new year will bring.

Our school is a place where we want every child to feel that they belong, that they are known, and that they have people cheering them on. Together, we will continue to build a welcoming, inclusive, and caring community where students are encouraged to be curious, take risks in their learning, celebrate their successes, and know that mistakes and challenges are important parts of growing.

To our students: bring your ideas, your questions, your kindness, and most importantly, bring your unique selves! Each of you contributes something special to our school, and we cannot wait to see what you learn and accomplish this year.

To our families: thank you for the trust you place in us each day. Strong relationships between home and school make an incredible difference, and we value your partnership, communication, patience and support as we work together to help our students thrive.

And to our amazing staff: thank you for the energy, compassion, creativity, and dedication you bring to our school community. The work you do each day matters, and I am incredibly grateful for the many ways you support our students and one another.

As we begin this year together, I hope we continue to celebrate what makes our school community so special—a place filled with different experiences, cultures, strengths, stories, and perspectives, all coming together with a shared purpose: helping our children learn, grow, and feel a true sense of belonging.

Here's to a year filled with learning, laughter, connection, new experiences, and plenty of reasons to celebrate along the way.

Welcome back, and welcome to all those joining us for the first time. We are so glad you are here!

Warmly,
Shauna MacMullin
Principal

NEW BELL SCHEDULE FOR 2026 – 2027

7:45am – Staff are on site and select duty teachers will be supervising grounds

7:55am – Entry Bell: Students enter school and head to classrooms

10:10am – 10:25am: Recess

12:00pm – 12:50pm: Lunch

2:00pm – Dismissal

Note: Students are not to be dropped off to the school before **7:45am**; that is staff arrival time and there is no supervision prior to then.

If you are dropping your child(ren) off at school in the morning, it is important they arrive on time – school entry is **7:55am**. Students arriving late disrupt the flow of the learning environment and miss valuable instructional time and important routines to begin their day.

Please be prompt in picking up your child(ren). Dismissal is **2:00pm**. Thank you.

Traffic Safety

The safety of our students, families, and staff must remain our highest priority. We are reaching out **again** regarding serious traffic safety concerns around our school during morning arrival and afternoon dismissal.

Fairview Heights is an extremely busy school community. During these times, we have young children walking to and from school, families crossing the street, and school buses loading and unloading students. Drivers must use extra caution, patience, and good judgment.

Despite repeated reminders through newsletters and emails, posted signage, and ongoing efforts with community and municipal partners, we continue to observe unsafe driving practices around the school. We are asking every family to please help us keep our children safe by following these expectations:

- Please be **patient**. Wait for traffic to move safely rather than attempting to drive around vehicles or buses.

- **STOP** for school buses. Do not attempt to pass or manoeuvre around a school bus when its red lights are flashing. Please remain a safe distance behind buses and allow them the space and time needed to safely load and unload children.
- **Do not make U-turns** in front of or near the schools. These unpredictable movements are particularly dangerous when children are crossing or walking nearby. Also, you are often turning on Private Property – they are not happy!
- Park only in appropriate and legal locations. Please do not stop or park in areas that interfere with traffic flow, pedestrian visibility, buses, or designated no-parking/no-stopping areas.
- **Please remain off school property** when dropping off and picking up students. Our school property is restricted to staff vehicles and school buses during these busy periods. Families must park appropriately on surrounding streets and walk their children to/from the school as needed.
- Watch carefully for children and pedestrians. Children can be difficult to see between parked vehicles and may not always anticipate the movement of traffic.

Administration continues to be outside during arrival and dismissal to support safe traffic flow. We have also contacted 311, Halifax Regional Police, our local Councillor, and other appropriate supports, and have advocated for additional crossing guard assistance. However, no amount of signage, supervision, or enforcement can replace the responsibility of each driver to operate their vehicle safely.

No drop-off or pick-up is important enough to put a child at risk. Taking an extra few minutes, waiting behind a bus, parking a little farther away, or allowing another vehicle or pedestrian to proceed can make an enormous difference.

We recognize and sincerely appreciate the many families who consistently follow these expectations and demonstrate patience and care each day. We are asking everyone to work together to ensure the streets surrounding Fairview Heights Elementary are safe for our children.

Thank you for your immediate attention, cooperation, and commitment to keeping our students safe.

School Website and Email

The school website is located at: <https://fvh.hrce.ca>

Our email address is: **FHES@hrce.ca**

School Lunch

We're looking forward to the 2026-27 launch of the Nova Scotia School Lunch Program! Beginning this school year, the program will be available in all public schools across the province.

Registering and ordering – you must order every 2 weeks!!

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, others can register for a new account.

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

Peanut and Nut Awareness

Due to food allergies and sensitivities at school, please **DO NOT** send food to school that contains peanuts and/or tree nuts, including Nutella, which is made with hazel nuts. Students who bring sandwiches with WOW butter or other types of non-nut spread, please indicate, with a note in your child's lunch bag, what the spread is and that it does not contain nuts. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Safe Arrival

You can report future absences using the School Messenger app, or toll-free phone number. If your child is absent and the absence has not been reported in advance, you will receive notifications via email, text, and phone calls from School Messenger. To report your student absent, you can use any of the following methods:

- PowerSchool Parent/Student Portal Parents/guardians can log in to <https://sishrsb.ednet.ns.ca/public/> to access the School Messenger website to report future absences. School Messenger App Parents/guardians can download the School Messenger app for Android and iOS devices and use their username and password for the PowerSchool Portal.
- Toll-Free Number Parents/guardians can call 1-833-582-6940 to report future absences using an automated system. Please see the link: <https://www.hrce.ca/families/general-information/safe-arrival> for more information.

Late Arrivals

If arriving after 7:55, students must check in with the office. At the Main building, students enter the main door by the mural and visit Ms. Sherry.

At the annex, families should ring the buzzer for the site where their child(ren)'s class is located. You will be asked the child(ren)'s name as well as their teacher's name. You will hear a buzzer, and you can open the door for your child(ren), do not enter with your child(ren). Please be patient – we do not have an Administrative Assistant working on site until 10:40am, we are doing our best!

Only Staff Parking on School Grounds

There are only small areas for vehicles to park. Kindly reserve these spots for staff members only.

ANIMALS ON SCHOOL PROPERTY

I am a HUGE animal lover – however there are families and children that the sight of them can cause a great deal of anxiety. Please do not bring pets on school property. We want to keep everyone safe, including your pet. Thank you for complying.

SAC

Fairview Heights Elementary has a thriving School Advisory Council (SAC), chaired by Stephanie Moore. Through a voting process, our SAC brings together parents/guardians, school staff, administration, and community members who share a commitment to supporting student success and well-being.

As outlined by HRCE, the SAC serves as an advisory body to the school principal and HRCE, providing valuable input on school practices, initiatives, policies, and decisions that impact student learning and the school community.

We greatly value the voices and perspectives of our SAC members and their continued partnership in making Fairview Heights a welcoming, inclusive, and successful school community for all students.

PTA

We are so fortunate to have an active and engaged Parent Teacher Association (PTA) that works in partnership with our school to support our students, families, and wider school community.

Our PTA Chair for this school year is Rebecca Cooper. We encourage families who are interested in learning more, getting involved, volunteering, or supporting upcoming PTA initiatives to please refer to the PTA poster for additional information and ways to connect. Her email is becca.cooper@gmail.com

We are grateful for the time, energy, and enthusiasm our PTA brings to Fairview Heights and look forward to a wonderful year of working together!

YMCA Settlement Worker

We do have Lora Titta here to support Immigrant Families. She can be reached at lora.titta@halifax.ymca.ca.

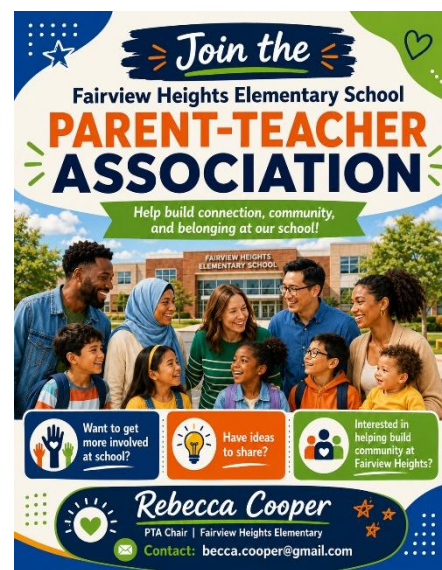
Hello!

My name is Lora Titta.

I am a School Settlement Staff with YMCA Immigrant Services. I work in Fairview Heights Elementary school to support newcomer students. I speak English, Russian and Ukrainian.

What do I do?

- 1) Meet new families when they arrive at the school to help them meet the teachers and get settled in the school.
- 2) Support with registration/navigation of online school platforms like Power School, Nova Scotia Lunch Program, etc.
- 3) Facilitate multicultural clubs in the school to help all students feel welcome. This helps students to meet friends, practice English, do fun activities, and celebrate their cultures together.
- 4) Individual academic support.



5) Interpretation if needed in Russian and Ukrainian. I can also help you access interpretation in another language if you need to have a conversation with any school staff.

6) Arrange various holidays, presentations, and information sessions in the school.

7) One-on-one support for students as they adapt to their new environment. This can be in class or outside of class.

8) Connect families to resources within the YMCA and the greater community. Recourses could be for many things like afterschool sports/activities, financial supports, food supports, parent supports, information on life in Canada, and more.

9) Help parents communicate with school staff. This could be helping you to understand school emails, arranging interpreters for meetings, helping you find out who to talk to about a problem, etc.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions or if you need any support. I am here to help!

Breakfast Bin Program

Breakfast bins are available for students at the start of each school day. Students who would like something to eat may choose from a variety of grab-and-go items, which may include clementines, granola or Nutri-Grain bars, dry cereal, crackers, cheese strings, and yogurt tubes.

The bins are intended to provide a quick morning snack while attendance is being taken and are not designed to provide enough food to sustain students throughout the school day.

Families should continue to send snacks and a lunch each day, unless their child is receiving lunch through the [Nova Scotia School Lunch Program](#).

We are pleased to offer this morning option to help students begin their day ready to learn!

Administering Medication at School

To have medication administered to students while in school, parents/guardians need to fill out the required forms and drop off the medication. Medication needs to be in the original pharmacy bottle with the prescription label. School staff can only administer prescribed medications. Please advise the school in advance of administering medication so that the appropriate forms can be sent home.

School Behaviour Matrix

At Fairview Heights Elementary, we believe that positive behaviour is taught, practiced, encouraged, and celebrated. Just as we teach students academic skills, we explicitly teach the behaviours that help everyone feel safe, included, respected, and ready to learn.

Our Behaviour Expectations Matrix provides students with clear and consistent examples of what positive behaviour looks like, sounds like, and feels like in different areas of our school. Staff will use this matrix to teach and reinforce expectations throughout the year,

helping students understand how their choices contribute to a welcoming and caring school community.

Together, we can help every student learn, grow, belong, and be their best at FHES!

AT FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS WE SOAR!



		SHOW RESPECT	OWN OUR CHOICES	ACT SAFELY	RISE TO RESPONSIBILITY
LEARNING AREAS		- Listening quietly when others are speaking. - Taking care of shared materials and classroom supplies. - Using kind words and including others.	- Admitting when a mistake is made and trying to fix it. - Staying on task during work time. - Accepting the consequences of actions.	- Walking calmly to prevent accidents and keep everyone safe. - Using scissors, pencils, and other tools properly. - Keeping hands and feet to yourself.	- Completing assignments on time and doing your best work. - Helping to clean up the classroom without being asked. - Following classroom rules and encouraging others to do the same.
HALLWAYS		- Use quiet voices to avoid disturbing other classes that are learning. - Walk safely and stay to the right. - Respect personal space and school property by keeping hands to themselves.	- Make safe and responsible decisions by choosing to walk calmly instead of running. - Follow hallway routines even when adults aren't watching. - Accept consequences respectfully and learn from mistakes.	- Walk at all times to prevent accidents. - Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself. - Be aware of your surroundings by watching where you're going and staying in your own space.	- Move promptly and with purpose to get to their destination on time. - Help keep the hallway clean and tidy. - Model positive behavior for peers by consistently following hallway expectations.
WASHROOMS		- Give others privacy by keeping personal space and not peeking or bothering others. - Use kind and appropriate language. - Take care of the space by flushing toilets, throwing garbage in bins, and leaving the area clean for others.	- Use the washroom for its intended purpose and return to class promptly. - Make responsible choices even when no adults are present. - Take accountability for their actions by cleaning up after themselves and reporting any issues or messes.	- Keep water and soap in the sink to prevent slippery floors and falls. - Walk at all times to avoid accidents in a potentially wet area. - Report unsafe behavior or damage to a trusted adult right away.	- Use supplies like soap, paper towels, and toilet paper responsibly to avoid waste. - Leave the washroom clean and ready for the next person. - Let an adult know if something is broken or needs attention.
OUTSIDE		- Include others in play and use kind words. - Take care of outdoor equipment and school property. - Listen to and follow adult instructions.	- Choose games and activities that are safe and fair for everyone. - Admit to mistakes and make things right if someone is hurt or upset. - Follow playground rules by playing safely and keeping hands, feet, and objects to yourself.	- Use playground equipment properly. - Stay within designated play areas. - Be aware of others while running or playing to avoid accidental bumps or falls.	- Take care of outdoor equipment by using it respectfully and returning it when finished. - Help others by including them or solving small problems peacefully. - Line up promptly and calmly when the bell rings.
BUS		- Use polite language and kind voices. - Stay seated and keep hands and belongings to yourself. - Listen to and follow the bus driver's instructions at all times.	- Make positive behavior choices. - Take responsibility for words and actions by apologizing if they make a mistake. - Respect bus rules by choosing to stay seated and use a quiet voice throughout the ride.	- Stay seated facing forward with feet on the floor. - Keep the aisle clear of bags, feet, and belongings. - Use quiet voices so the driver can focus and hear important sounds outside the bus.	- Be on time and ready at the bus stop. - Take care of personal belongings and keep the bus clean. - Support a positive bus environment by being a role model.

Behaviour Expectations for Lunch Program

All students are eligible to remain at school over the lunch hour. They need to bring or order their lunch each day. Please do not send items that need to be microwaved, we are unable to accommodate this. Our lunch program is run by lunch "monitors," who are responsible for keeping your children safe over the lunch hour. Please remind your children to be respectful of the lunch monitors. Children need to build independence as well. Please ensure containers are not too difficult to open. We will encourage children to pick up their garbage and place it in appropriate recyclable containers or garbage. If behaviors become too challenging over the lunch hour, school administration will call you to discuss.

Behaviour Expectations for Bus Students

The bus drivers and bus companies have expectations for behavior. Children are expected to remain seated, use a reasonable voice level and refrain from using inappropriate language. The drivers and school staff remind students daily of these expectations. If your child's behavior is unacceptable, school administration will receive a misconduct report.

- 1st OCCURENCE: Administration will speak directly with your child to remind them of appropriate expectations.
- 2nd OCCURENCE: Administration will either call you or email you to inform you about the occurrence.
- 3rd OCCURENCE: Your child will be suspended from travelling on the bus for a determined time. Please speak with your child at home about their bus behavior. It is important for everyone's safety.

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.

Upcoming Dates:

Sept. 24th – Terry Fox Run for Students

Sept. 25th – Staff Professional Learning Day: No School

Sept. 29th – **Orange** Shirt Day: If able, wear **Orange** to School!

Sept. 30th – National Day for Truth and Reconciliation: No School

Oct. 1st – Treaty Day: Schools Open

Oct. 9th – Picture Day

Oct. 12th – Thanksgiving: No School

Oct. 23rd – Teacher Conference Day: No School

Upcoming Points of Interest

Treaty Day - Treaty Day is held annually on October 1st. It marks the beginning of Mi'kmaq History Month in Nova Scotia, as proclaimed in 1993 by then Premier John Savage and Mi'kmaq Grand Chief Ben Sylliboy. The purpose of Treaty Day is to promote public awareness about the Mi'kmaq culture and heritage for all Nova Scotians.

OCTOBER IS MI'KMAQ HISTORY MONTH - Culturally relevant pedagogy and inclusive education is central to teaching and learning at Fairview Heights Elementary and for the Halifax Regional Centre for Education. Teachers regularly provide learning opportunities for students to share their culture and learn about other cultures. October is Mi'kmaq History Month. Students will be learning about Mi'kmaq history during the month of October and throughout the year. For more information follow this link: <https://mikmaqhistorymonth.ca/>.

Here is the HRCE's 2026-2027 School Calendar: which can be found [here](#).

2026-27 CALENDAR NOVA SCOTIA REGIONAL CENTRES FOR EDUCATION

SEPTEMBER 2026	OCTOBER 2026	NOVEMBER 2026	DECEMBER 2026
S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S
1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1 2 3 4 5
6 7 8 9 10 11 12	4 5 6 7 8 9 10	8 9 10 11 12 13 14	6 7 8 9 10 11 12
13 14 15 16 17 18 19	11 12 13 14 15 16 17	15 16 17 18 19 20 21	13 14 15 16 17 18 19
20 21 22 23 24 25 26	18 19 20 21 22 23 24	22 23 24 25 26 27 28	20 21 22 23 24 25 26
27 28 29 30	25 26 27 28 29 30 31	29 30	27 28 29 30 31
JANUARY 2027	FEBRUARY 2027	MARCH 2027	APRIL 2027
S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S
1 2	1 2 3 4 5 6	1 2 3 4 5 6	1 2 3
3 4 5 6 7 8 9	7 8 9 10 11 12 13	7 8 9 10 11 12 13	4 5 6 7 8 9 10
10 11 12 13 14 15 16	14 15 16 17 18 19 20	14 15 16 17 18 19 20	11 12 13 14 15 16 17
17 18 19 20 21 22 23	21 22 23 24 25 26 27	21 22 23 24 25 26 27	18 19 20 21 22 23 24
24 25 26 27 28 29 30	28	28 29 30 31	25 26 27 28 29 30
31			
MAY 2027	JUNE 2027	LEGEND	
S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S		
1	1 2 3 4 5	ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE/JUNIOR	
2 3 4 5 6 7 8	6 7 8 9 10 11 12	- Term 1: Sept 1 to Nov 20, 2026 - Term 2: Nov 23 to Mar 5, 2027 - Term 3: Mar 8 to Jun 30, 2027	
9 10 11 12 13 14 15	13 14 15 16 17 18 19	HIGH SCHOOL	
16 17 18 19 20 21 22	20 21 22 23 24 25 26	- Semester 1: Sept 1 to Feb 1, 2027 - Semester 2: Feb 2 to Jun 30, 2027	
23 24 25 26 27 28 29	27 28 29 30	Progress Conference meetings will be held on the dates marked on the calendar. Conferences take place on the Thursday evening prior and the Friday afternoon.	
30 31		- No School ALL STUDENTS - First Day of School/Last Day of School - No School High School Only - No School Elem/Middle/Jr Only - Culturally Significant Day (Schools Open)	

Sept 1 School Organization Day (No Classes ALL SCHOOLS)	Dec 4 Progress Conferences/Teacher Professional Practice (No Classes ALL SCHOOLS)	Apr 2 Elem/Middle/Jr Progress Conferences/Teacher Professional Practice Day & High School Professional Development (No Classes ALL SCHOOLS)
Sept 2 Professional Development Day (No Classes ALL SCHOOLS)	Dec 18 Last Day for Students Before Holiday Break	Apr 20-27 Report Cards High School
Sept 3 First Day of School for Students	Dec 21 Teacher Professional Practice Day (No Classes ALL SCHOOLS)	Apr 30 Elem/Middle/Jr Professional Development & High School Progress Conferences/Teacher Professional Practice Day (No Classes ALL SCHOOLS)
Sept 7 Labour Day (No Classes ALL SCHOOLS)	Jan 4 First Day Back After Break	May 10 Miikmaw Language Day (Culturally Significant Day Schools OPEN)
Sept 25 Professional Development Day (No Classes ALL SCHOOLS)	Jan 26-29 High School Summative Assessments	May 14 Black Excellence Day (Culturally Significant Day Schools OPEN)
Sept 30 National Day for Truth & Reconciliation (No Classes ALL SCHOOLS)	Feb 1 High School Assessment & Evaluation Day/Semester 1 Ends (No Classes HIGH SCHOOL ONLY)	May 24 Victoria Day (No Classes ALL SCHOOLS)
Oct 1 Treaty Day (Culturally Significant Day Schools OPEN)	Feb 2 Semester 2 Begins (High School)	Jun 21 National Indigenous Peoples Day (Culturally Significant Day Schools OPEN)
Oct 12 Thanksgiving Day (No Classes ALL SCHOOLS)	Feb 3-12 Semester 1 Report Cards (High School)	Jun 22-25 High School Summative Assessments
Oct 23 NSTU Conference Day (No Classes ALL SCHOOLS)	Feb 15 Nova Scotia Heritage Day (No Classes ALL SCHOOLS)	Jun 28 High School Assessment & Evaluation Day (No Classes HIGH SCHOOL ONLY)
Nov 4 Take Your Kid to Work Day	Mar 5 Elem/Middle/Jr Assessment & Evaluation Day (No Classes ELEM/MIDDLE/JR ONLY) Term 2 Ends (Elementary)	Jun 29 Assessment & Evaluation Day (No Classes ALL SCHOOLS)
Nov 11 Remembrance Day (No Classes ALL SCHOOLS)	Mar 8-12 Spring Break (No Classes ALL SCHOOLS)	Jun 30 Last Day of School
Nov 16-19 Report Cards High School	Mar 15-25 Report Cards Elem/Middle/Jr	
Nov 20 Elem/Middle/Jr. Assessment & Evaluation Day (No Classes ELEM/MIDDLE/JR ONLY) Term 1 Ends (Elem/Middle/Jr)	Mar 26 Good Friday (No Classes ALL SCHOOLS)	
Nov 23-30 Report Cards Elem/Middle/Jr	Mar 29 Easter Monday (No Classes ALL SCHOOLS)	