



Fairview Heights Elementary / October 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 hard to believe that we are already into October! September was a busy and exciting month as our students settled into new classrooms, established routines, reconnected with friends, and welcomed new members into our Fairview Heights family. I continue to be incredibly proud of the kindness, energy, and sense of community that can be felt throughout our school.

October is **Mi'kmaw History Month**, beginning with **Treaty Day on October 1**. Throughout the month, we recognize and celebrate Mi'kmaw history, culture, language, traditions, and contributions, while continuing to learn about our shared responsibilities as Treaty People. This year's Mi'kmaw History Month theme, **Nepisulti'k – We Are Healing**, reminds us that healing, learning, listening, and building relationships are ongoing journeys.



October also provides many opportunities to recognize and celebrate the diversity within our community, including **Canadian Islamic History Month, Latin American Heritage Month, and Women's History Month**. At Fairview Heights, we are fortunate to have students and families representing many cultures, languages, traditions, and lived experiences. This diversity is one of our greatest strengths, and we remain committed to ensuring that every child feels welcomed, represented, valued, and that they truly belong.

As we approach **Thanksgiving**, it is also a wonderful time to reflect on gratitude. I am especially thankful for our students, who bring so much curiosity, joy, and personality to our schools each day; our dedicated staff, who continually go above and beyond to support them; and our families, whose partnership is such an important part of the work we do.

As the weather becomes cooler and the days become shorter, please remember to send students dressed for our ever-changing Nova Scotia weather. We continue to value

outdoor play and learning and want our students to be comfortable while enjoying their time outside.

Thank you for helping us begin another school year so positively. We have accomplished a great deal in just a few short weeks, and I am excited to see the learning, growth, friendships, and memories that October will bring.

Wishing all of our Fairview Heights families a wonderful October and a warm and restful Thanksgiving weekend!

Warmly,
Shauna MacMullin
Principal

Arrive on TIME!! NEW BELL SCHEDULE FOR 2026 – 2027

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

7:55am – Entry Bell: ALL Students including Pre-Primary 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.



Halloween at School

We are looking forward to celebrating Halloween at school on October 30th. Students are welcome to wear their costumes **all day**.

Please note the following guidelines to help ensure a safe and fun day for everyone:

- **No masks or face coverings** that obscure a student's identity.
- **No weapons or weapon-like accessories** (plastic, toy, or otherwise).
- Costumes should be comfortable, school-appropriate, self-adjustable and allow students to participate fully in all activities.

Thank you for helping us keep Halloween enjoyable and safe for all students. We can't wait to see the creativity and spirit our students bring to the day!

Upcoming Dates:

Oct. 9th – Picture Day
Oct. 12th – Thanksgiving: No School
Oct. 14th – SAC Meeting 5:30pm
Oct. 23rd – Teacher Conference Day: No School
Oct. 19th-23rd – School Bus Safety Week
Nov. 11th – Remembrance Day: No School

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](#).

Growing independence doesn't have to start with a smartphone

As children get older, parents naturally want to give them more independence, such as walking to the park, playing at a friend's house, staying home for a short time, or getting to activities on their own. A smartphone can seem like the obvious way to make this possible, but it isn't the only option.

There are lots of ways families can give children more freedom while keeping communication simple and age-appropriate:

- Long-range walkie-talkies: A simple way for kids to check in while playing in the neighbourhood or exploring outdoors, without access to the internet or social media.
- A home phone: Allows children to call friends, make plans or contact a parent when they're home alone.
- A kids' smartwatch: Some watches offer limited calling or messaging, without the apps, social media and internet access of a smartphone.
- A basic talk-and-text phone: When children eventually need a way to coordinate rides or activities, a simple phone can provide communication without introducing the distractions and social pressures of a smartphone.

The goal is to match the technology to what children actually need. A child who needs to call home doesn't necessarily need a device that also gives them access to social media, games and the internet.

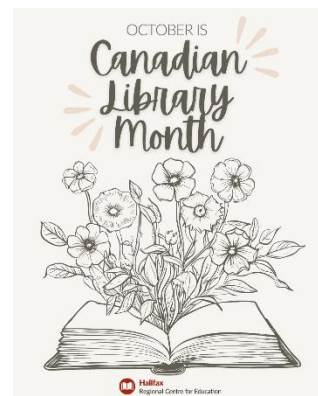
Starting with a more limited device can give children time to develop the responsibility, judgment and independence they'll eventually need to manage a smartphone.

Explore more resources from Unplugged Canada and join thousands of Canadian families taking the [Unplugged Canada Pledge](#) to delay smartphones and support connected childhoods.

October is Canadian Library Month

October is a chance to celebrate the important role libraries play in our schools — and the Library Support Specialists who bring those spaces to life.

Every day, our school libraries help students discover new interests, build literacy skills, find reliable information and, sometimes, simply find a welcoming place to spend some time. Our Library Support Specialists are an important part of making that happen.



Canadian Library Workers Day is recognized on the third Friday of October, followed by Canadian School Library Day on the fourth Monday. These are great opportunities to recognize the people who help make our libraries engaging, inclusive and supportive spaces for students.

Please join us in thanking our Library Support Specialists for all they do to support students, staff and school communities.

Consider adding a personal note about your LSS and the difference they make in your school.

Do You Know How to Raise a Concern?

Did you know that there's a protocol in place to help families contact schools or the HRCE office when you have concerns about your student's education or well-being?

- All concerns should first be shared with your child's teacher.
- If your concern is not resolved, you should then contact the principal.
- If your concern remains unresolved, you can reach out to HRCE's [Family Navigators](#) who can provide information about a wide range of supports and resources.
- If your matter continues to be unresolved, you can then initiate a formal review process in which the matter will be investigated by the appropriate HRCE Directors.
- The final step is for your concern to be passed on to the Regional Executive Director.

[Click here](#) to learn more.



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](#).

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.

YMCA Settlement Worker

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

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!

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.

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	
9 10 11 12 13 14 15	13 14 15 16 17 18 19	• Term 2: Nov 23 to Mar 5, 2027	
16 17 18 19 20 21 22	20 21 22 23 24 25 26	• Term 3: Mar 8 to Jun 30, 2027	
23 24 25 26 27 28 29	27 28 29 30	HIGH SCHOOL	
30 31		• Semester 1: Sept 1 to Feb 1, 2027	
		• Semester 2: Feb 2 to Jun 30, 2027	
		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.	

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 Mi'kmaw 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)	