Fairview Heights Elementary / November 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,



As we welcome November, I find myself reflecting on just how quickly the school year is moving along! The hallways and classrooms of Fairview Heights continue to be filled with learning, laughter, friendships, and the wonderful energy that our students bring each day.

November is traditionally a time for reflection, remembrance, and gratitude. On **November 11th,** we observe **Remembrance Day**, taking time to honour the courage, service, and sacrifices of those who have served and continue to serve our country. It is also an opportunity to help our students understand the importance of peace, kindness, respect, and compassion for others. In our wonderfully diverse school community, these values hold special meaning as we learn from and celebrate the many experiences, cultures, and perspectives that make Fairview Heights such a special place.

I also want to take a moment to acknowledge that we just went through some uncertain and challenging times for many within our school community. Changes and uncertainty can be difficult, particularly for families balancing work, childcare, and the many responsibilities of everyday life. Please know that we recognize these challenges and sincerely appreciate your continued patience, understanding, and support. Through it all, our commitment to the well-being, safety, and success of our students remains at the heart of everything we do.

One thing I have always appreciated about Fairview Heights is the strength of our community. Our students, families, and staff demonstrate kindness, resilience, and a willingness to support one another, even when circumstances are less than ideal. It is this spirit of togetherness that makes me so proud to be your principal.

As the temperatures continue to drop, please remember to send your children dressed appropriately for our unpredictable Nova Scotia weather. Outdoor play remains an important part of our school day, and we want everyone to be warm and comfortable!

As we move further into the school year, I encourage everyone to continue leading with kindness, extending a little extra patience when needed, and remembering that even small acts of compassion can make a big difference.

Thank you for being such an important part of our Fairview Heights family. Together, we will continue to learn, grow, and SOAR!

Wishing everyone a peaceful and positive November.

Warmly,
Shauna MacMullin
Principal

Upcoming Dates in November:

Sun., Nov. 8th: Indigenous Veterans Day
Tues., Nov. 10th: Remembrance Day Assembly for Students
Wed., Nov. 11th: Remembrance Day - **No School**
Thurs., Nov 12th: Picture Re-take Day
Nov., 13th -19th: Transgender Awareness Week
Fri., Nov. 20th: Assessment & Evaluation Day - **No School**
Nov., 30th: Report Cards sent home
Thurs., Dec. 3rd: Progress Conferences 5:00pm – 7:00pm
Fri., Dec. 4th: Progress Conferences 9:00am – 11:00am and Professional Practice Day for Teachers (No School)

Thank YOU from our PTA re: Halloween Social

Dear Fairview Heights families and community,

Thank you for making our Halloween Costume Social such a spectacular evening! We were so happy to see the turnout, the costumes, and so many children and families enjoying themselves together.

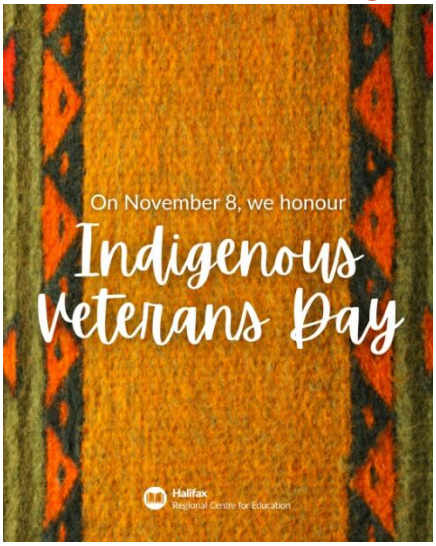
We're grateful to everyone who volunteered their time, contributed donations, helped behind the scenes, and joined in the fun. Seeing parents and caregivers dress up and participate alongside their children made the evening especially memorable. These shared experiences mean a great deal to our kids, and it was heartening to hear such lovely feedback from children and families afterward.

We're so glad we could help bring this gathering to life, and we're already looking forward to another opportunity to bring our school community together. Stay tuned!

On behalf of the Fairview Heights PTA, thank you for being part of it.

Warmly,
Rebecca Cooper
On behalf of the Fairview Heights PTA

November 8th is Indigenous Veterans Day



On November 8, we recognize Indigenous Veterans Day and honour the First Nations, Inuit and Métis people who have served and continue to serve in the Canadian Armed
Forces. Indigenous veterans have made significant contributions to Canada's military history, serving with courage and dedication while often facing discrimination and barriers to recognition when they returned home.

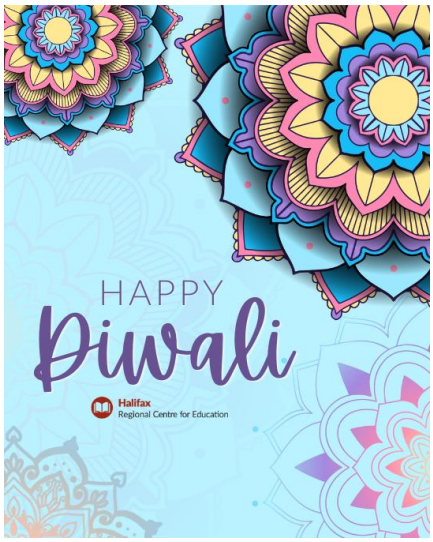
This day is an opportunity to learn about their stories, recognize their sacrifices and reflect on the importance of ensuring their contributions are remembered and honoured.

We encourage families to take a moment to learn about Indigenous veterans and share their stories with the next generation. Learn more here.

Happy Diwali

Diwali, also known as the Festival of Lights, is celebrated by millions of people around the world, including Hindus, Sikhs, Jains and some Buddhists. The celebration carries different meanings across traditions, but often centres on themes of light overcoming darkness, good overcoming evil, and hope, renewal and new beginnings.

Celebrations may include lighting diyas (small oil lamps), decorating homes, sharing special foods, exchanging gifts and gathering with family and friends. Diwali is an opportunity to learn about the diverse traditions and cultures represented in our school communities and to celebrate the many ways people find meaning, connection and joy.



We wish all those celebrating a happy Diwali!

November 13-19 is Transgender Awareness Week

Transgender Awareness Week is an opportunity to reflect on how kindness, inclusivity and understanding help create welcoming school communities where everyone feels they belong. Taking time to learn about experiences different from our own, listening with an open mind and treating others with respect can make a meaningful difference in someone's day and sense of belonging.

Families can help reinforce these values by encouraging children to lead with kindness, embrace differences and recognize that everyone deserves to be treated with dignity

and compassion. Together, we can help create school communities where every student feels welcome, valued and supported.

Planning for 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 busses 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:**

- Bussed students will be picked up two hours earlier than their regular dismissal time; and
- Non-bussed students will be dismissed at their regularly scheduled lunch hour.

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 the HRCE website
- On Instagram

It's important to always have a plan in place for childcare in the event of any cancellation. Please remember: As a parent or guardian you always have the choice of whether or not to send your child to school.

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

Arrive on TIME!! 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.

Free screening of "Your Attention Please"



Join Unplugged Canada's Nova Scotia Chapter for a FREE screening of the documentary "Your Attention Please" on December 3, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the White Spruce Room at Keshen Goodman Library.

Parents, caregivers and educators are invited to watch this thought-provoking documentary about the impact of technology on our attention and come together for a discussion on how we navigate this with youth in our own community. Please register in advance as tickets are limited.

Event: FREE screening of Your Attention Please
Date: December 3, 2026
Time: 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Location: White Spruce Room, Keshen Goodman Library
Cost: FREE
Register: https://yourattentionpleaseNS.eventbrite.ca

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.

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!

Nut FREE!

To help keep all our students safe, we kindly remind families that Fairview Heights Elementary is a nut-free school. Some of our students have severe, potentially life-threatening allergies to nuts, so we ask that you avoid sending any foods containing peanuts or tree nuts in lunches or snacks.

Please take a moment to check food labels when packing lunches and snacks. Your cooperation and understanding help us maintain a safe and inclusive environment for everyone.

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!

FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS RISE TO RESPONSIBILITY

		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

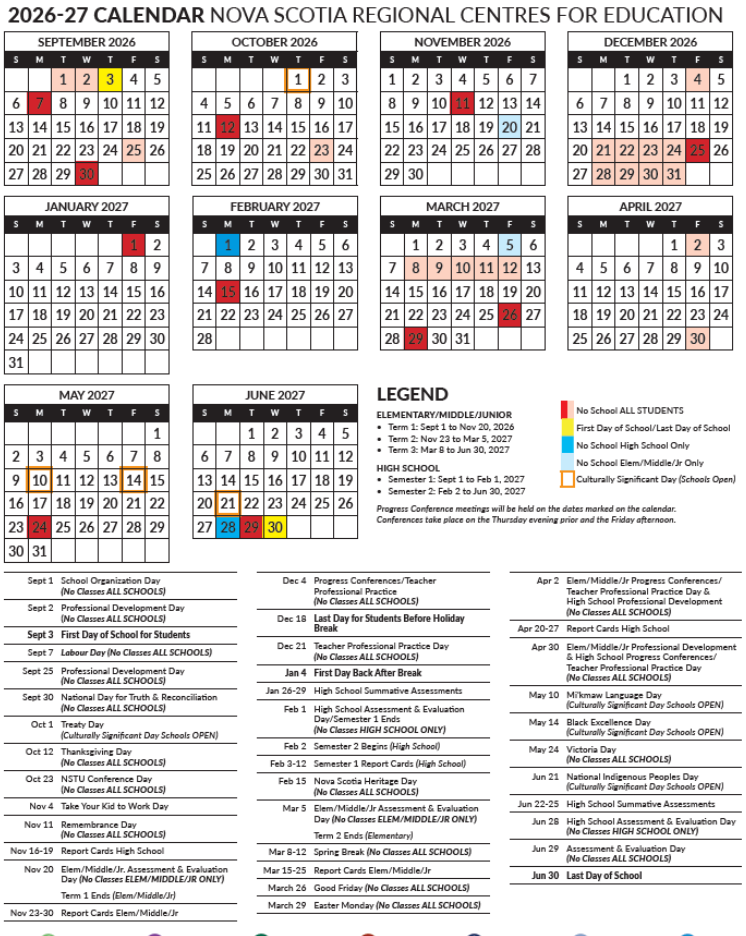
All students are eligible to remain at school over the lunch hour. They need to bring or order their lunch each day. Please do not send items that need to be microwaved, we are unable to accommodate this. Our lunch program is run by lunch "monitors," who are responsible for keeping your children safe 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

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OCTOBER 2026

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NOVEMBER 2026

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DECEMBER 2026

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JANUARY 2027

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FEBRUARY 2027

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28						

MARCH 2027

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APRIL 2027

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MAY 2027

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JUNE 2027

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27	28	29	30			

LEGEND

ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE/JUNIOR
- Term 1: Sept 1 to Nov 20, 2026
- Term 2: Nov 23 to Mar 5, 2027
- Term 3: Mar 8 to Jun 30, 2027

HIGH SCHOOL
- Semester 1: Sept 1 to Feb 1, 2027
- Semester 2: Feb 2 to Jun 30, 2027

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)*

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