



## **Astral Drive Elementary**

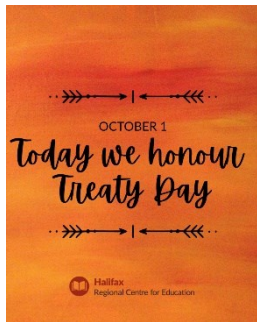
**October 2025**

**Home of the Stars**

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### **October 1 is Treaty Day**

Celebrating and recognizing Treaty Day is an important way we can strengthen understanding and respect for Indigenous cultures and histories. It highlights the significance of treaties as living agreements that shape relationships between Indigenous peoples and the government. By educating students about Treaty Day, we promote awareness of Indigenous rights and contributions and encourage reconciliation. This celebration helps build a more inclusive and respectful society, where students learn the importance of honouring commitments and working together for a better future.

### **October is Mi'kmaq History Month**

October is Mi'kmaq History Month, a time to celebrate and recognize the rich culture, history, and contributions of the Mi'kmaq people. In our schools, we can honour this month by incorporating Mi'kmaq stories, traditions and teachings into our curriculum. Activities such as guest speakers, art projects and cultural events can help students appreciate and understand the significance of Mi'kmaq heritage. Please join us in offering our respect, awareness and appreciation for the Mi'kmaq community and their enduring legacy. Learn more [here](#).

**Our Terry Fox walk takes place tomorrow (Thursday, Oct 2) afternoon. Students will be walking around our fields and school grounds and celebrating 45 years of the Terry Fox Marathon of Hope. Please wear sneakers and any Terry Fox shirts. Our school has raised approx. 4500.00 so far! Let's keep it going and thank you for your donations!**

**Donation Link: <https://schools.terryfox.ca/102489>**



## October 20-24 is School Bus Safety Week

Student safety is a shared responsibility! During School Bus Safety Week, everyone can work together to ensure the safety of students on and around the school bus.

*Did you know that HRCE has more than 33,000 students who ride the school bus every day?*

School Bus Safety Week is a great time to remind students, families and schools, of a few daily safety tips that everyone can follow to ensure all students get to school safely.

### 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](#).

### O Canada in Schools

In September, the Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Development shared a new provincial policy about the playing of our national anthem in schools. You can read it [here](#). In keeping with this policy, we play O Canada at the beginning of each school day in our school. If you have any questions, please reach out to the school office.



## October is Canadian Library Month

October is Canadian Library Month, a time to celebrate our wonderful libraries and the Library Support Specialists who support our students. The third Friday of the month is Canadian Library Workers Day and the fourth Monday is Canadian School Library Day. Please join us in thanking our school library workers for all they do every day in creating safe and welcoming spaces, encouraging a love of reading and helping students succeed in school and beyond. Learn more [here](#).

### Literacy News

In September, classroom teachers spend time getting to know their students and who they are as learners. Schools will be using *Universal Screening in Reading* for Grade 1 and 2 students. *This is one of the many ways teachers will assess learning.*

**What is Universal Screening in Reading?** It's a short (1–5 minute) activity that helps us see how your child is developing key reading skills. Think of it as a quick check-in on their reading journey, like looking at a map to see where they are and what might help them move forward.

**Why do we do it?** The screening helps teachers understand children's strengths and where they may need extra support. This allows us to plan instruction, so students get what they need to succeed in reading.

**Important to know:** This is *not* a test. There's no "pass" or "fail." It's a way for teachers to ensure students are supported in their learning.

### Reminders

- All visitors must check in at the office in the main building and follow our established safety procedures.
- Videos and recordings are not permitted inside/near the school where children could be present.

### Traffic/Arrival/Dismissal Procedures

- Lakeshire Drive Entrance – Buses and staff only. One-way traffic.
- Astral Drive Entrance – For parents and childcare vans using the "Kiss and Go" loop.
  - Parents may quickly unbuckle children,
  - Do not park or leave your vehicle in the loop.
  - Do not let your child out in the middle of the circle.
  - Staying with your child to the playground; Park on the street
- No Parking on the Hill – To keep traffic moving safely in both directions.
- **Drive Slowly** – Safety comes first. Please move carefully through the loop.

### Arrival Times

- **8:15 AM** – School doors open. Teachers inside and students go straight to classrooms.
- **Supervision** – Staff are outside to help guide arrival and dismissal starting at 8:10am. Please do not drop off or send students before supervision.
- **8:30 AM** – Instruction starts. Students arriving after 8:30, please check in at the office

## Emergency Drills Practice

To ensure that students and staff know what to do in case of an emergency, we practice safety procedures throughout the year. We practice these drills regularly to ensure our school remains a safe place for teaching and learning.

**Fire Drills** HRCE schools are required to hold a minimum of six fire drills per school year. Our first drill was **Sept 9<sup>th</sup>**. We will have two more this fall and three in the spring. If it is determined that it is unsafe to re-enter the building, or that re-entry will be postponed for longer than students and staff can reasonably wait outside, relocation to a pre-determined site is considered.

**Hold and Secure Drills** are held once per school year. A Hold and Secure is called when there's a safety concern outside a school (police activity nearby, an animal of concern). It can also be called when a situation needs to be managed inside a school (a medical emergency or a matter that requires privacy) and it's best to limit students' movement in the building. Exterior doors are locked, and no one is allowed to enter or exit the school. Students remain in the building, but regular classroom activities continue. In some cases, movement from class to class can be suspended until the matter is resolved. Our Hold and Secure drill will be **later this week**.

**Lockdown Drills** are practiced twice per school year. A Lockdown is called when there is an immediate threat inside a school, or very close to a school. During a lockdown, no one enters or exits the building, and all students and staff are concealed in a secure location, away from doors and windows. This is called positioned for safety. Staff will discuss the importance of this procedure with students prior to running a drill. We'll also take time after the drill to remind students that it was only practice and there was no danger. When possible, our police partners join us for Lockdown drills. Our Lockdown Drills will be **later this week** and again during the week of February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026.



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## Important Dates [Click here for HRCE 25-26 Calendar](#)

### OCTOBER

- **October is Mi'kmaq History Month**
- **October is Canadian Library Month**

1: Treaty Day - Culturally Significant Day - schools open

1: 5-6pm Help in the Library to fill in volunteer forms if you would like to volunteer with us this year

3: Picture Day

7,8: Grade 6 Provincial Literacy Assessments

13: Thanksgiving Day - no classes all schools

14: Picture Retake Day

16, 17: Grade 6 Provincial Math Assessments

20: Diwali Begins

20-24: School Bus Safety Week

23: PTO Event – Halloween Howl

24: NSTU Provincial conference day - no classes all schools

**NOVEMBER**

- 11: Remembrance Day - no classes all schools
- 20: PTO Event
- 21: Elem/Middle/Jr evaluation day - no classes elem/jr high only
- 24-Dec 3: Report cards sent home (elem/jr high only)

**DECEMBER**

- 4: Progress Conferences & Teacher Professional Practice Day - no classes all schools
- 15: French Immersion Concert 6pm Start time @ Woodlawn High (changed from Sept news) (Snow Date-17)
- 16: English Concert 6pm Start time @ Woodlawn High (changed from Sept news) (Snow Date-17)
- 19: Last day of school before holiday break
- 22: Teacher Professional Practice Day - no classes all schools

**JANUARY**

- 5: First Day Back After Break
- 29: PTO Event

**FEBRUARY**

*February is Registration Month!*

- 16: Nova Scotia Heritage Day - no classes all schools

**MARCH**

- 12: PTO Event
- 13: Elem/Middle/Jr assessment & evaluation day - no classes elem/middle/jr only
- 16-20: Spring Break - no classes all schools
- 23-April 2: Report cards sent home (Elem/middle/jr high)

**APRIL**

- 2: Elem/Middle/Jr progress conferences & Teacher Professional Practice & high school professional development day - no classes all schools
- 3: Good Friday - no classes all schools
- 6: Easter Monday - no classes all schools
- 29: Elem/Middle/Jr professional development day - no classes all schools

**MAY**

- 7: PTO Event
- 15: Black Excellence Day - Culturally Significant Day - schools open
- 18: Victoria Day - no classes all schools

**JUNE**

- 5: PTO Event – Spring Fling
- 21: National Indigenous Peoples Day - Culturally Significant Day
- 29: Assessment & evaluation day - no classes all schools
- 30: Last day of school year