



Astral Drive Elementary November 2025

Home of the Stars

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Important dates to remember in November

Sat., Nov. 8: Indigenous Veterans Day

Mon., Nov. 10: Remembrance Day Assembly

Tues., Nov. 11: Remembrance Day - No classes PP-12

Nov. 13-19: Transgender Awareness Week

Thurs., Nov. 20: PTO Event

Fri., Nov. 21: Assessment & Evaluation Day - No classes Elementary/Middle/Junior High only

Nov. 24-Dec. 3: Report cards (Elementary/Middle/Junior High)

Indigenous Veterans Day is an important occasion to honour the sacrifices and contributions of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples who have served in the Canadian Armed Forces. Recognizing this day in schools is especially significant, as it provides students with the opportunity to learn about the often-overlooked histories and experiences of Indigenous veterans. By commemorating Indigenous Veterans Day in our schools, we ensure that younger generations understand the vital role Indigenous peoples have played in defending Canada, while also promoting respect, reconciliation, and a more inclusive understanding of Canadian history. This recognition helps strengthen empathy, respect for diversity and a greater appreciation for the many ways in which Indigenous peoples have shaped our country.

Remembrance Day holds an important place in our schools it is a meaningful opportunity for students to learn about the sacrifices made by veterans and all those who have served in times of conflict. Through ceremonies, discussions and creative projects, we demonstrate respect and gratitude for the freedoms Canadians enjoy. Observing Remembrance Day helps students connect with Canada's history and reinforces the values of peace, tolerance and community responsibility.

Remembrance Day Assembly

On November 10, students will take part in our Remembrance Day Assembly. Due to fire regulations and our large school population, seating is limited. If you are a serving member or a Veteran and would like to attend our assembly, please contact the school office at 902-462-8500 so we can welcome you with proper seating.

November 13-19 is Transgender Awareness Week

Transgender Awareness Week provides an important opportunity to strengthen understanding and respect for the transgender community, to encourage inclusivity in our schools and to promote safe environments where all students feel valued and supported. Learn more [here](#).
Learning more about the Student Attendance and Engagement Policy

Student Attendance

[The Student Attendance and Engagement Policy](#) guides our approach to attendance and is in place to support all students. The policy states that regular, punctual attendance supports academic success, responsibility, and preparation for the future. Ensuring regular attendance is a joint effort between students, families and schools. As a parent/guardian, you play an important role by monitoring attendance, communicating with the school when your child is absent, and supporting your child's regular attendance.

What Should You Know?

- Communication about absences
 - Schools will monitor attendance and lateness.
 - All absences must be communicated to the school, through safe arrival.
 - If absenteeism or lateness reaches 10% of class time, we will begin to engage more actively with the student and family.
 - If it goes beyond 15%, more targeted supports may be used (counselling, referrals, community supports).
 - High school credit requirement
 - For Grades 10–12, students must attend at least 80% of class time to earn the credit.
 - If more than 20% of class time is missed, and efforts to improve attendance haven't succeeded, the teacher may recommend "loss of credit." The principal makes final decision.

What Can You Do?

- Monitor and encourage punctual, consistent attendance
- Maintain open communication with the school when absences or challenges arise
- Work with school staff to understand supports or accommodations for your child
- Be aware of the thresholds (10%, 15%) and possible consequences (intervention, loss of credit in high school)
- Remember: the policy allows flexibility. If your child has a legitimate reason for missing school (health, family issue, etc.), schools take a supportive approach.

Planning for Inclement Weather

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
 - **Our delayed start is 10:30am 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 are picked up two hours earlier than regular dismissal time at **12:25pm**; and
- Walking students will be dismissed from their regular dismissal doors at **11:25am**.

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.

AI and your child's learning

HRCE teachers and staff are introducing students to artificial intelligence (AI) in safe and meaningful ways that build awareness, creativity, and critical thinking. Together, we can help our learners understand how to use AI responsibly and confidently in their education and everyday lives. This informational sheet provides you with starting points for conversations about AI and learning.

[Click here](#) to download the document.

Hungry for something fun? Check out the Nova Scotia school lunch cookbook!

Hungry for something fun? Get cooking with the new cookbook What's for Lunch? Nova Scotia Recipes to Cook and Enjoy Together, a joyful collection of most-loved recipes from school food programs.

Proceeds from the sale of this book go directly to supporting school healthy eating programs in Nova Scotia, such as breakfast and snack, cooking clubs and school gardens. Learn more and order yours [here](#).

Whether you're a new cook, a young chef, or a family learning together in the kitchen, What's for Lunch? invites you to bake up a handmade pizza, create a picnic plate, make a big batch of

breakfast sandwiches, or stir up some butter chicken! Each easy-to-follow recipe comes with tasty ideas for toppings, sides, and simple swaps to make it just right for you and your family. Within its pages, you will meet some of the inspiring folks behind Nova Scotia's made-from-scratch school lunches, explore where local food ingredients come from, and discover bite-sized fun facts to spark curiosity. Colourful illustrations by students at Oxford School in Halifax and beloved local illustrator Emma FitzGerald bring it all to life!

Friendly Reminders

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

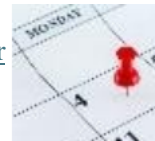
Traffic/Arrival/Dismissal Procedures

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

Arrival Times

- **8:15 AM** – School doors open. Teachers inside and students go straight to classrooms.
- **Supervision** – Staff help guide arrival/dismissal (8:10am & 2:25pm). Do not send students before supervision.
- **8:30 AM** – Instruction starts. Students arriving after 8:30, check in at the office for late arrival

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



DECEMBER

2: SAC/PTO Meeting 5pm

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

13: SAC/PTO Meeting 5pm

29: PTO Event

FEBRUARY

February is Registration Month!

13: Student Assembly - Julia Tynes Presents Motown

16: Nova Scotia Heritage Day - no classes all schools

24: SAC/PTO Meeting 5pm

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

5: SAC/PTO Meeting 5pm

7:PTO Event

11: Mi'kmaw Language Day - Culturally Significant Day - schools open

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