



Astral Drive Elementary

December 2025

Home of the Stars

236 Astral Drive, Dartmouth, NS, B2V 1B8

902 462-8500

ade@hrce.ca

Important dates to remember in December

- 2: SAC/PTO Meeting 5pm
- 3: International Day of Persons with Disabilities
- 4: Progress Conferences/Teacher Professional Practice Day (no classes - PP-12)
- 10: International Human Rights Day
- 14: First day of Hanukkah
- 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 for students before holiday break
- 22: Teacher Professional Practice Day (no classes - PP-12)
- 25: Christmas Day
- 26: Kwanzaa

Winter Concert Information

- Holiday concerts are at Woodlawn High School located at 31 Woodlawn Road, Dartmouth.
- French Immersion concert Monday, December 15 at 6 pm.
- English concert Tuesday, December 16 at 6pm.
- Doors will open at 5:00pm and doors to the auditorium will open at 5:30pm.
- Concerts begin at 6:00pm.
- Students must wait in line with their parents/guardians until staff are available at 5:30 to supervise students in assigned classrooms.
- Students are dropped off and picked up by families in their assigned rooms.
- Students will not be permitted to leave until a family member has been seen by teacher.
- We strongly encourage you stay for the entire concert as it is disruptive to have people leave during performances.

We are still looking for your Feedback!

Please read our Vision Statement and Behaviour Matrix and offer your feedback using the following form. <https://forms.gle/QdCdsmhDX99tTuiV8>. We will be using your feedback to improve.

Socks for Shelters

Once again, this year, ADE is supporting the Socks for Shelters Campaign. We will be accepting donations of new and newly knit socks until December 9th. Mid-December, Socks for Shelters will be distributing the socks to various local shelters. Your support is appreciated!

Exciting News: The Scholastic Book Fair is Coming!

December 1-5, 2025

Our Scholastic Book Fair starts on Monday! Monday will be a **preview day**, where students can explore the books available and create a "Wishlist" of items they'd like to purchase. They will bring this Wishlist home with them that evening.

Purchasing Day is Tuesday: If your child plans to buy books, please send them with their **money** and **Wishlist** in a **labeled baggie** (e.g., "John Smith - \$15.00"). It's a good idea to place the baggie in their message bag to help avoid it getting lost in the morning rush.

Important Reminder: Along with books, there are also fun items like posters, pens, pencils, and notebooks available at the fair. Some students get excited and may want to buy these extra items. If you'd prefer, they focus only on books or if you have a limit on how much they can spend, please include a note with their bag and discuss this with them beforehand.

Family Shopping Opportunity: The Book Fair will be open to families on **Thursday** during Parent-Teacher Conference hours (12:30-3:00 and 5:30-8:00). You can pay by cash or debit.

Thank you for supporting the Book Fair! We're excited to see all the great books your child picks out!

Parent-Teacher Conferences Dec 4

We are looking forward to connecting with you during our upcoming Parent-Teacher Conferences. Each conference session will be 10 minutes in length.

When/how to book a Conference with your child's teacher:

- Booking Window: November 17 – December 1 (inclusive)
- Conference Date: Thursday, December 4

Afternoon Session: 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM and Evening Session: 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Please use the following link to sign up for a Parent-Teacher Conference (**Open from Nov 17-Dec 1 Inclusive**) <https://schoolinterviews.ca/code/227c5>

Planning for Inclement Weather

HRCE takes great care when making the decision to alter the regular operations 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. An announcement could be:

- All schools are delayed in opening by two hours
 - o 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.

Early Dismissal - Parent Pick-Up Procedures

At 11:25AM Parents/guardians will report to their regular classroom door to pick up their child. Teachers will escort students to the door at 11:25am.

1. Pre-Primary pick up (Astral Drive Side).
2. Main Entrance (Astral Drive Side)
3. Back Doors (Lakeshire Drive Side)
4. Modular Doors (Lakeshire Drive Side)

Traffic circle will be closed during any early dismissal days. Please Park on Astral Drive or Lakeshire Drive and walk to the doors to meet your child.

Please note: At any time and without advanced notice, if the hill leading to the traffic circle becomes slippery due to snow or icy conditions, it will be closed for everyone's safety.

Head Lice

Head lice and nits commonly occur in students of this age. While staff will be vigilant in watching for new cases, please do your part to prevent the spread of this communicable condition by checking your child(ren) on a regular basis. Coordinating efforts between school and home

significantly reduces the frequency of lice and nit occurrences and we thank you in advance for your attention to this matter. For further information, see “[How to Prevent, Find, and Treat Head Lice](#)” (Nova Scotia Health Authority)

SchoolsPlus is here to support you!

SchoolsPlus is a confidential, free service available in every school in Nova Scotia. Our goal is to build positive relationships between families, schools, and communities.

Parents, guardians and students (12+) can self-refer to SchoolsPlus 12 months a year! Just contact the SchoolsPlus Facilitator at your school.

Call 902-464-2000, ext. 2331 or email schoolsplus@hrce.ca.

Learn more about SchoolsPlus [here](#).

Resources for Parents from Unplugged Canada

If you're concerned about your kids' screen time, smartphone use, or social media pressure, there are some wonderful resources below to help parents and caregivers navigate the challenges of raising kids in a digital world.

For parents: The Anxious Generation by Jonathan Haidt highlights the research and evidence behind how early smartphone and social media exposure have shaped a generation over the last 10–15 years. **Ten Rules for Raising Kids in a High-Tech World by Jean Twenge** offers practical, actionable guidance to help parents set healthy boundaries and support their kids' digital wellbeing.

For kids: The Amazing Generation, written for pre-teens and teens and co-authored by Jonathan Haidt, will be released on December 30. It explains the impact of today's digital environment in an engaging, age-appropriate way.

All of these books are available at your local library or bookstore.

Unplugged Canada is a parent-led, national movement advocating for healthier childhoods by delaying smartphones and social media until kids are more developmentally ready. Join thousands of Canadian families choosing to delay by taking the Unplugged Canada Pledge at unpluggedcanada.com/sign-pledge.

New educational technology resource for families

We're excited to share a new online resource designed to help families understand how technology supports student learning in HRCE. This page provides an overview of how tools like Chromebooks and Google for Education are used in classrooms, what provincially approved online platforms students may access, and how student privacy is protected. You'll also find information about Nova Scotia's guidance on the provincial cell phone expectations, tips for supporting online safety and digital citizenship at home, and an introduction to how students are learning about artificial

intelligence in a thoughtful and responsible way. It also includes answers to common questions about screen time, passwords, communication during the school day, and more. You can find the webpage [here](#).

We're ALWAYS hiring!

Did you know that HRCE has more than 10,000 employees serving more than 60,000 students? Our job postings are updated every Wednesday at noon and feature a wide variety of career opportunities! As HRCE grows, so does our staff. Check out new opportunities weekly at www.myhrce.ca/jobs.

Literacy Update

Students have been working hard on their reading, and we are seeing growth in phonics, fluency, and comprehension. We are continuing small-group support and making sure students feel connected to the books they read. Families make a big difference in this progress. Reading together for even ten minutes a day, talking about the stories, and celebrating small steps all help build confidence. Thank you for supporting your child's reading journey at home.

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



JANUARY

5: First Day Back After Break
13: SAC/PTO Meeting 5pm
29: PTO Event

FEBRUARY

February is Registration Month!

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
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