



Astral Drive Elementary

January 2026

Home of the Stars

236 Astral Drive, Dartmouth, NS, B2V 1B8
902 462-8500 ade@hrce.ca

Important dates to remember in January

5: First Day Back After Break
13: SAC/PTO Meeting 5pm
27: International Holocaust Remembrance Day
27: Family Literacy Day
29: PTO Event – Magic Show

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](#).

Learn About the Influenza Vaccine (Sharing on behalf of the NS Department of Health and Wellness)

Influenza (the flu) is virus that peaks in transmission in the fall and winter months. Most people are mildly ill when they contract the flu but sometimes the flu can be serious and require admission to the hospital. Children under 6 years are at the highest risk of serious complications from the flu. The flu and RSV can occur at the same time making children more at risk of needing hospitalization. The flu vaccine is recommended yearly for children 6 months and older to protect against serious complications of the flu.

For more information, [click here](#).

Online Platform Risks From Unplugged Canada (Sharing on behalf of Unplugged Canada)

Many digital platforms today, including social media, online gaming and AI chat tools, are designed to keep kids scrolling and engaged, often exposing them to addictive features, adult content, and interactions they may not be developmentally ready to handle.

Below is a resource that outlines some of the most common social media, gaming, and AI chat platforms, helping families better understand the risks, start meaningful conversations at home, and consider delaying smartphones and access to these apps until kids are more developmentally ready.

You can access the full resource [here](#).

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.

ADE Gr 6 Leadership Team

The ADES Leadership team would like to thank all of our families for their donations to the IWK Toy drive. "0.25 for 2025" was a big success and together we raised \$335.55! The leadership students "shopped" from the provided IWK list of needs and voted on their toys to donate. We purchased

craft supplies, technology, Lego, building blocks, Hot wheels and tracks, and room decorations for the IWK. Thank you!

Building Independence This Winter

Winter means extra gear and a great chance to build independence. We encourage families to help children practice dressing for the weather and taking responsibility for their own belongings. Skills like managing zippers, snow pants, keeping track of items and even labelling them will build confidence and readiness to learn. Thank you for supporting these important life skills during the winter months!

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
 - 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.

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](#).

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



FEBRUARY

February is Registration Month!

- 16: Nova Scotia Heritage Day - no classes all schools
- 24: SAC/PTO Meeting 5pm

MARCH

- 12: PTO Event – Family Bingo
- 13: Elem/Middle/Jr assessment & evaluation day - no classes elem/middle/jr only
- 16-20: Spring Break - no classes all schools
- Mar 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