



Astral Drive Elementary

April 2026

Home of the Stars

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ade@hrce.ca

Important dates to remember in April

March 30: Report Cards emailed home

2: World Autism Day

2: Elem/Middle/Jr Progress Conferences & Teacher Professional Practice - no classes all schools

3: Good Friday - no classes all schools

5: Easter

6: Easter Monday - no classes all schools

14: Neptune Theatre presentation for students

19-25: National Volunteer Week

21: PTO and SAC meeting 5pm in Karen McNamara's room

22: Earth Day and Administrative Professionals Day

Week of 27-30: Provincial Assessment pamphlets sent home to Grade 3 families

29: Elem/Middle/Jr professional development day - no classes all schools

Traffic Circle (Kiss and Go Flow)

To keep all students safe and traffic moving, families must follow these procedures:

- Use the curbside only for drop-off and pick-up.
- Be Safe & Prompt with no parking, backing up, squeezing in, or making extra lanes.
- Children must exit only at the curb, **not into traffic**.
- Keep goodbyes brief. If you need more time or your child needs assistance, park on the street and walk them down.
- At the top of the hill when leaving, please turn right as left turns cause delays.
- Thank you for helping keep our school community safe.
- *Note: The hill to the circle will close without notice if conditions are unsafe.*
- [Traffic Loop Directions \(Kiss and Go\)](#)

April 2 is Autism Awareness Day

Autism Awareness Day is an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the many strengths and experiences of autistic children and youth in our school communities. For families, it's a moment to reflect on the importance of feeling seen, heard, and supported — not just today, but every day.

In our schools, awareness is only the beginning. True inclusion comes from acceptance, understanding, and a commitment to meeting each student where they are. When educators, students, and families work together to build empathy and reduce barriers, we create environments where every child can thrive.

Recognized globally on April 2, World Autism Awareness Day, led by the United Nations, highlights the importance of improving quality of life and upholding the rights of autistic individuals. This year's theme, "Autism and Humanity – Every Life Has Value," reminds us that every person deserves dignity, respect, and the opportunity to thrive, both in school and beyond.

Regular Attendance/Reducing Classroom Interruptions

Thank you for your help to make sure students arrive on time and scheduling appointments outside school hours when possible, to support regular attendance and reduce classroom interruptions. Of course, we understand that circumstances are sometimes unavoidable and students need to be home when feeling ill but ***having your child here regularly on time is very important.*** If you need any help with regular attendance, please do not hesitate to reach out. School staff will also reach out to offer supports when students are missing time.

Try Carpool Conversations with your Kids

Looking for an easy way to talk with your child about their digital world? Carpool Conversations from Common Sense Media offers short, engaging prompts and mini podcasts designed to spark family discussions about technology, media use, and online behaviour. Many episodes are only a couple of minutes long, perfect for a car ride or while waiting for practice to start. Explore the conversation starters [here](#).

The "Amazing" Adventure Guide

[Unplugged Canada](#) encourages families to reclaim childhood by creating more opportunities for outdoor adventure, independence, and real-world responsibility. Research shows that children thrive when they spend more time exploring their neighbourhoods, solving problems with friends, and contributing meaningfully at home and in their communities. Simple steps like walking to a neighbour's house, biking to a

local park, helping plan a family meal or running small errands help kids build confidence, resilience and practical life skills.

Families can support this shift by intentionally creating space for free, unsupervised play and increasing responsibility over time. That might mean designating “no-adult” play zones, encouraging kids to gather in groups of three or more for creative play, or giving them meaningful household roles such as helping with groceries, cooking or caring for pets.

It can feel challenging to step back, but children build independence by practicing it. Families can make it easier by teaming up with other parents in their neighbourhood to create shared boundaries for safe roaming and outdoor play. For more ideas and practical steps, see the full guide: [The “Amazing” Adventure Guide](#) from Unplugged Canada.

Do you know how to raise a concern?

We want families to feel comfortable reaching out when they have questions or concerns about their child’s education or well-being. In most cases, concerns can be resolved quickly by connecting directly with school staff.

If you do have a concern, here are the steps to follow:

- **Start by speaking with your child’s teacher or ECE.** They are often best positioned to address questions about your child’s learning or classroom experience.
- **If the concern isn’t resolved, contact the school principal** to continue the conversation and work toward a solution.
- **If you need additional support, HRCE’s Family Navigators are here to help.** They can provide guidance and connect families with helpful resources and supports. They can be reached at connect@hrce.ca.
- **If the concern still isn’t resolved,** a formal review process can be requested and the matter will be looked into by the appropriate HRCE Director.
- **The final step** is for the concern to be reviewed by the Regional Executive Director.

You can learn more about the process [here](#) or by reviewing the [Parent/Guardian Concern Policy](#).

Counsellor’s Corner with Ms. Greer

1. We are excited to share that planning for our Wellness Day is underway! May 14th, 2026 will be a day of speakers, activities and a keynote speaker- all with the theme of ***The Roots of our Well being!*** If you, or someone you know, would like to come and speak or lead an

activity that ties into nutrition, culture, physical health and/or mental health, please reach out to Mrs. Greer.

2. Calling all builders! If you have any Lego in your home that you are not using anymore, we are in need of some Lego for our Lego Club! Thank you.

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

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

6: 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