

December 2025 Newsletter



HOW TO REPORT AN ABSENCE: If your child will be absent, please let us know by using one of the following methods:

- **Toll-Free Number**—Call 1-833-582-6940 to report an absence using an automated system.
- **PowerSchool Parent Portal** — Log into <https://sishrsb.ednet.ns.ca/public/> and access the SchoolMessenger website to report an absence.
- **SchoolMessenger App**—Download the SchoolMessenger app for Android and iOS devices and sign up using your PowerSchool username (full email address).

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 Report Cards sent home electronically	4 P.D.—am Parent/Guardian/Teacher Interviews 1pm—3pm 6 pm—8 pm	5	6
7	8	9	10	11 Holiday Concert 1st show: 10:30 2nd show: 12:45	12 East Coast Caroling Performance 12:45	13
14	15	16 Santa Shop (more details to follow)	17 Santa Shop (more details to follow)	18	19 Last day of classes for students before Holiday Break	20
21	22 PD Day for staff NO STUDENTS	23	24	25 	26	27
28	29	30	31	1 	2	

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- December 3 - Report cards sent home electronically
- December 3 - International Day of Persons with Disabilities
- December 4 - PD am & Parent/Guardian/Teacher Interviews 1pm-3pm & 6pm-8pm (No Classes)
- December 10 - Dress Rehearsal (Holiday Concert)
- December 11 - Holiday Concert (10:30 & 12:45)
- December 12 - East Coast Caroling (12:45)
- December 16 - Santa Shop (more details to follow)
- December 17 - Santa Shop (more details to follow)
- December 18 - Snow date for Holiday Concert
- December 22 - PD day for staff (no classes for students)
- January 5 - First day back to school after Holidays



HOLIDAY CONCERT

Again this year, tickets will not be issued to families for the Holiday Concert. However, due to occupancy/fire regulations, we must limit the number of individuals in the gymnasium; therefore, families will be permitted to have **two** individuals attend the morning concern and **two** individuals attend the afternoon concert (without exception). We are asking families to please abide by these guidelines as if we should go over our permitted occupancy for the gymnasium, the school could potentially be charged a hefty fine. If families stick to the **two members per family per concert**, we will be within our permitted numbers. We will be monitoring the doors to ensure families are cooperating with our request. Thank you in advance for your support in this matter.

APPROPRIATE CLOTHING

As we settle in to colder temperatures this December, parents/guardians are reminded to ensure students dress appropriately for the weather. Sending in a change of clothes on wet days would be recommended.

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 link below 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](#).

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! 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.



PLANNING FOR INCLEMENT WEATHER

Did you know? 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 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 will be picked up two hours earlier than their regular dismissal time; and
- Walking students will be dismissed at their regularly scheduled lunch hour.

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.

PARENT VOLUNTEERS

If you are interested in chaperoning or volunteering in the classroom or with the Home & School, etc., in accordance with HRCE's Student Protection Policy, all volunteers will provide:

1. A completed Child Abuse Register - Request for Search Form, which can be found <https://beta.novascotia.ca/apply-child-abuse-register-search>
2. A certified and true copy of a [Criminal Records Check with Vulnerable Sector Check](#) available from your local Police or RCMP detachment or through online organizations endorsed by Nova Scotia law enforcement agencies <https://www.halifax.ca/fire-police/police/criminal-record-check>

Please note: the Child Abuse Register Search and the Criminal Records Check must be issued in the three months preceding volunteering and updated every three years. For more detailed information, please follow this link: <https://www.hrce.ca/volunteer>