



Colby Village Elementary February 2026 Newsletter

92 Colby Drive, Dartmouth, NS
Phone: 902-464-5152
Email: cves@hrce.ca

BELL SCHEDULE



First Bell..... 8:25
Classes Start 8:30
Recess:..... 10:00—10:15
Lunch:..... 11:30—12:30
Dismissal Bell: 2:35

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).



February 16	NS Heritage Day – No Classes
March 13	PD Day No Classes for students
March 16-20	Spring Break

FEBRUARY IS REGISTRATION MONTH

Do you have a child who will be starting pre-primary or primary this fall? It's time to register!

Registration for the 2026-27 school year begins on February 2. To ensure we have the right staff and supports in place for September, it is important that we gather enrolment numbers now. **Please note: It is not necessary to register students who are currently attending Pre-Primary and will be continuing at the same school for Primary in September.**

Before you begin, make sure you have the following documents in electronic form (image, PDF or Word document):

- Proof of identity/age with one of the following: birth certificate, passport, immigration papers, or legal adoption papers) if you are new to the HRCE;
- Proof of home address (a recently dated official government or utility document with your current address that includes your name and date, such as water bill, power bill, internet bill, home fuel bill, a tax receipt, property assessment or a mortgage contract)

Visit the [HRCE website](#) for more information and to enrol your child during the month of February through PowerSchool Enrollment!

LUNCH MONITORS NEEDED

We need regular and casual lunch monitors. This is a paid position of \$16.50 per hour plus 4% vacation pay with a time requirement for regular lunch monitors of 1 hour per day from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and an on-call basis for casual lunch monitors. If this is something that interests you or if you know someone who may be interested, please contact the school via email at cves@hrce.ca. Please put LUNCH MONITOR POSITION in the subject line.

FEBRUARY IS AFRICAN HERITAGE MONTH

African Heritage Month in Nova Scotia is a time to recognize and celebrate the rich history, vibrant culture, and lasting contributions of people of African descent in our province. This year's theme, **"Strength in Unity – Moving Forward with Purpose, Prosperity, Power and Progress,"** reminds us of the importance of coming together as a community, learning from one another, and moving forward with shared purpose.

In our schools, African Heritage Month provides meaningful opportunities for students to explore African Nova Scotian histories and experiences, deepen their understanding of our shared past, and reflect on the values of respect, inclusion, and belonging. Through classroom learning, discussions, and activities connected to this year's theme, students are encouraged to appreciate diversity, build empathy, and recognize the strength that comes from unity. These experiences help foster welcoming school communities and inspire students to contribute positively to a more inclusive and equitable future for all.



SCHOOLCASH ONLINE

Families of Colby Village Elementary will be paying most school related expenses through SchoolCash Online. This system will allow you to make payments electronically with the click of a button. You will be able to make all payments safely, securely, and quickly through **SchoolCash Online**.

Our school will post items for purchase and assign school fees relevant to your child. You can make all purchases and payments from your phone, tablet, or computer. If you have not already done so, we would like families to register as soon as possible.

To get started, please register for **SchoolCash Online**. It's free and takes less than two minutes. You will receive an email once items are posted for purchase. If you have not registered for School Cash Online, you will not get the email. Visit <https://hrce.schoolcashionline.com/> and click **Register** to get started. You can also go to our school's website and click the link on our home page.

Need support? Connect with the SchoolCash Online help desk at [schoolcashionline.com/Home/Support](https://hrce.schoolcashionline.com/Home/Support). We hope that **SchoolCash Online** makes paying school-related fees more convenient!

VOLUNTEERING AT SCHOOL

We recognize our responsibility to ensure that all students attending our schools are protected by taking reasonable precautions to screen volunteers who may be working with students without direct supervision of staff. In accordance with Nova Scotia's Provincial [Volunteer Background Check Policy](#), prior to volunteering with the Halifax Regional Centre for Education, all volunteers will provide:

- A completed Child Abuse Register search, which can be found [here](#). As of June 2025, digital confirmations are available for Child Abuse Register checks. For more information, click [here](#).
- A certified and true copy of a Criminal Records Check with Vulnerable Sector Check available [here](#), from your local Police or RCMP detachment or through online organizations endorsed by Nova Scotia law enforcement agencies

Please note: Both the Child Abuse Register Search and Criminal Records Check must be issued in the three months preceding volunteering and updated every three years.



Guidelines for school and/or bus cancellations due to weather

It is HRCE's goal to communicate any changes to the regular operations of schools and/or school 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 buses 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:

- Bused 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.



Remember: Parents/guardians always have the right to keep their child home from school if they believe that the travelling conditions are unsuitable.



If there are any changes to our regular operations, we will communicate in the following ways:

- 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 our website www.hrce.ca
- On X (formerly Twitter) at twitter.com/hrce_ns
- On Instagram at instagram.com/hrce_ns



How does Halifax Regional Centre for Education (HRCE) decide on school and/or bus cancellations?

- By 4:30 a.m., HRCE staff begin to gather information from:
 - A contracted weather service that provides radar and satellite imagery, real-time road conditions and weather warnings;
 - A meteorologist who provides forecast details, level and type of precipitation and impact on road conditions;
 - HRCE's transportation service providers, who provide updates on road conditions in their area;
 - Municipal and provincial transportation staff; and
 - Other local weather services, including Environment Canada and The Weather Network. By 5:30 a.m., HRCE staff make recommendations to the Regional Executive Director (or designate), who then makes the final decision. This decision is communicated as close to 6:00 a.m. as possible.

FEBRUARY 16 IS HERITAGE DAY

Nova Scotia Heritage Day is celebrated on Monday, February 16, and provides an opportunity for students and families to learn more about the people, stories, and events that have shaped our province. Each year, Heritage Day honours a notable Nova Scotian, and in 2026 we recognize Joseph William Comeau, an important Acadian poet, writer, and cultural leader.

Joseph William Comeau is remembered for his contributions to Acadian literature and for helping to preserve and promote Acadian language, identity, and culture in Nova Scotia. His work reflected the everyday lives, resilience, and traditions of Acadian communities, and his legacy continues to influence Acadian culture today.

Heritage Day provides us with an opportunity to explore Nova Scotia's diverse history and to better understand how individuals from different backgrounds have contributed to our shared story. Learning about Joseph William Comeau helps students appreciate the richness of Acadian heritage and the importance of preserving culture, language, and community.