



# Colby Village Elementary

## March 2026 Newsletter

92 Colby Drive, Dartmouth, NS  
Phone: 902-464-5152  
Email: [cves@hrce.ca](mailto: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).



March 5 ..... Julia Tynes Performance (1:00 – 2:00)  
March 8 ..... International Woman’s Day  
March 10 ..... Rising Tide Irish Dance Assembly at 8:45  
March 13 ..... Assessment & Evaluation Day – No Classes  
March 16 – 20 ..... March Break  
March 21 ..... International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

### **MARCH IS NUTRITION MONTH**

March is celebrated across Canada as Nutrition Month, a perfect opportunity for families to focus on building healthy eating habits together. Nutrition Month allows us to explore sustainable eating patterns, food literacy, and learning about the benefits of balance and variety in everyday meals. By highlighting the connection between nutrition and long-term health, Nutrition Month empowers everyone to build habits that benefit both individuals and the planet.

Use Nutrition Month as a reminder to take advantage of the [Nova Scotia School Lunch Program](#)! With nutritious, balanced meals prepared daily, the program ensures students have the energy and focus they need to succeed in the classroom and beyond. The School Lunch Program is designed to provide accessible, affordable, and appealing meals that feature a variety of foods from all food groups, following Canada’s Food Guide. By participating, families can help their children develop lifelong healthy habits while making mornings a little less hectic.

Together, we can make small changes that lead to healthier futures for our families and communities.

### **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](mailto:cves@hrce.ca). Please put LUNCH MONITOR POSITION in the subject line.

### **MARCH 21 IS INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION**

On March 21st we recognize International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination to build awareness, empathy, and respect among students of all backgrounds. The United Nations established this day in 1966 to call for a global commitment to ending racial discrimination in all its forms.

By learning about the impacts of discrimination and celebrating diversity, children gain social skills and knowledge to be inclusive both within school and home community. Families are our students first educators and through your continuous conversation valuing equity and the elimination of racism, we will continue our shared goal of a society where racism no longer exist.

## 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 the scheduled lunch hour.



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](http://www.hrce.ca)
- On X (formerly Twitter) at [twitter.com/hrce\\_ns](https://twitter.com/hrce_ns)
- On Instagram at [instagram.com/hrce\\_ns](https://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.

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