

November 2025

## Duc d'Anville Elementary School

12 Clayton Park Drive  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3M 1L3  
ddes@hrsb.ns.ca



Dear Families of Duc d'Anville Elementary School!

***We are a safe, inclusive, and caring community where every student is empowered to learn, lead, and grow. Rooted in strong relationships, shared responsibility, and high expectations, we foster resilience, embrace diversity, and nurture kind, confident, and capable life-long learners.***

A huge congratulations to Ms. Sarah Barron who has moved from the learning center to Acting Vice Principal. Thanks to Mr. Stevenson for stepping into the role for the last two months. The kids are very excited to have him back in the gym! We have hired Ms. Maddison Shortt-Robertson to replace Ms. Barron in the learning center. She will be contacting families of students she works with to introduce herself.

### **Things we have done this year so far:**

A very successful PTA fundraiser – Halloween Party  
Grade Fives went to the Milk Sport Fair  
Curling Presentation to upper elementary students  
Cross Country  
Terry Fox Fundraiser  
Costume Parade (Halloween)  
Leadership Team

This wouldn't be possible without all the support from our PTA volunteers and teaching staff who are thinking of other ways to encourage learning and leadership.

The weather is finally shifting so please send your child with cold weather clothes!

## Important Dates

### November 3

Picture Retakes and  
Whole Class Pictures

### November 4-7

Fire Drill

### November 11

Remembrance Day  
(No School)

### November 20

PTA BINGO (6-730)

### November 21

Assessment and  
Evaluation Day (No  
School)

### November 27

Report Cards Go Home

### November 28

SAC Conference

### December 4

Parent Teacher School  
Progress Meetings/No  
School (1-3 and 5-7)

Our lost and found is starting to fill up! If you are missing items, please check so we can get them back to you.

## **Important dates to remember in November**

- **Sat., Nov. 8:** Indigenous Veterans Day
- **Tues., Nov. 11:** Remembrance Day - No classes PP-12
- **Nov. 13-19:** Transgender Awareness Week
- **Nov. 17-20:** Report Cards (High School)
- **Fri., Nov. 21:** Assessment & Evaluation Day - No classes Elementary/Middle/Junior High only
- **Nov. 24-Dec. 3:** Report cards (Elementary/Middle/Junior High)

## **November 11 is Remembrance Day**

Remembrance Day holds an important place in our schools as it provides a meaningful opportunity for our students to learn about the sacrifices made by veterans and all those who have served in times of conflict. Through ceremonies, discussions and creative projects, we demonstrate respect and gratitude for the freedoms Canadians enjoy. Observing Remembrance Day also helps students connect with Canada's history and reinforces the values of peace, tolerance and community responsibility.

## **November 8 is Indigenous Veterans Day**

Indigenous Veterans Day is an important occasion to honour the sacrifices and contributions of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples who have served in the Canadian Armed Forces. Recognizing this day in schools is especially significant, as it provides students with the opportunity to learn about the often-overlooked histories and experiences of Indigenous veterans. By commemorating Indigenous Veterans Day in our schools, we ensure that younger generations understand the vital role Indigenous peoples have played in defending Canada, while also promoting respect, reconciliation, and a more inclusive understanding of Canadian history. This recognition helps strengthen empathy, respect for diversity and a greater appreciation for the many ways in which Indigenous peoples have shaped our country.

## **Learning more about the Student Attendance and Engagement Policy**

Did you know? [The Student Attendance and Engagement Policy](#) guides our approach to attendance and is in place to support all students.

The policy states that regular, punctual attendance supports academic success, responsibility, and preparation for the future.

Ensuring regular attendance is a joint effort between students, families and schools. As a parent/guardian, you play an important role by monitoring attendance, communicating with the school when your child is absent, and supporting your child's regular attendance.

## What Should You Know?

- **Communication about absences**
  - Schools will monitor attendance and lateness.
  - All absences must be communicated to the school, following the school's procedure.
  - If absenteeism or lateness reaches 10% of class time, the school will begin to engage more actively with the student and family.
  - If it goes beyond 15%, more targeted supports may be used (counselling, referrals, community supports).
- **High school credit requirement**
  - For Grades 10–12, students must attend at least 80% of class time to earn the credit.
  - If more than 20% of class time is missed, and efforts to improve attendance haven't succeeded, the teacher may recommend "loss of credit." The principal makes the final decision.

## What Can You Do?

- Monitor and encourage punctual, consistent attendance
- Maintain open communication with the school when absences or challenges arise
- Work with school staff to understand supports or accommodations for your child
- Be aware of the thresholds (10%, 15%) and possible consequences (intervention, loss of credit in high school)
- Remember: the policy allows flexibility. If your child has a legitimate reason for missing school (health, family issue, etc.), schools are encouraged to take a supportive approach.

## 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](https://hrce.ca/families/cancellations).

### **AI and your child's learning**

HRCE teachers and staff are introducing students to artificial intelligence (AI) in safe and meaningful ways that build awareness, creativity, and critical thinking. Together, we can help our learners understand how to use AI responsibly and confidently in their education and everyday lives. This informational sheet provides you with starting points for conversations about AI and learning.

### **Supporting Students and Families:**

Unplugged Canada is a parent-led, national movement advocating for healthier childhoods by delaying smartphones and social media until kids are developmentally ready. Parents and caregivers are invited to explore resources, take the [pledge](#) to delay, and join upcoming parent events at [unpluggedcanada.com](https://unpluggedcanada.com).

### **Hungry for something fun? Check out the Nova Scotia school lunch cookbook!**

Hungry for something fun? Get cooking with the new cookbook **What's for Lunch? Nova Scotia Recipes to Cook and Enjoy Together**, a joyful collection of most-loved recipes from school food programs.

Proceeds from the sale of this book go directly to supporting school healthy eating programs in Nova Scotia, such as breakfast and snack, cooking clubs and school gardens. Learn more and order yours [here](#).

Whether you're a new cook, a young chef, or a family learning together in the kitchen, What's for Lunch? invites you to bake up a handmade pizza, create a picnic plate, make a big batch of breakfast sandwiches, or stir up some butter chicken! Each easy-to-follow recipe comes with tasty ideas for toppings, sides, and simple swaps to make it just right for you and your family.

Within its pages, you will meet some of the inspiring folks behind Nova Scotia's made-from-scratch school lunches, explore where local food ingredients come from, and discover bite-sized fun facts to spark curiosity. Colourful illustrations by students at Oxford School in Halifax and beloved local illustrator Emma FitzGerald bring it all to life!

Administration

Amy Weedon (Principal)