Brookhouse Elementary School Newsletter

Where Busy Bees Thrive!

November 2026

Brookhouse Elementary School
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Important Dates to Note

November
Week of Nov 9 - Fire Drill
8 - Indigenous Veterans Day
9 - PTO meeting 6:30
10 - Remembrance Day assemblies
11 - Remembrance Day - No classes PP-12
18 - Virtual SAC meeting 5:30
20 - Assessment and Evaluation Day - no classes
23 - Non-Perishable Food Drive starts
30 - Reports emailed home by 4pm

December
3 - Parent/Teacher - 6 to 8 (more information to follow)
4 - Professional Learning morning no school for students
4 - Parent/Teacher 1 to 3:30 (more information to follow)
4 - Non-Perishable Food Drive ends
9 - Holiday Concert - Woodlawn High doors open at 6
18 - Last day for students before Christmas
21 - Teacher Professional Learning Day

Remembrance Day & Indigenous Veterans Day

On November 8, we recognize Indigenous Veterans Day and honour the First Nations, Inuit and Métis people who have served and continue to serve in the Canadian Armed Forces. Indigenous veterans have made significant contributions to Canada's military history, serving with courage and dedication while often facing discrimination and barriers to recognition when they returned home.

This day is an opportunity to learn about their stories, recognize their sacrifices and reflect on the importance of ensuring their contributions are remembered and honoured.

We encourage families to take a moment to learn about Indigenous veterans and share their stories with the next generation. Learn more here.

Each year on November 11, people across Canada pause at the 11th hour to remember. The poppy we wear, the silence we observe and the stories we share are ways of keeping the memory of those who served, those who never returned home, and the lasting impact of war alive for future generations.

In our schools, Remembrance Day offers students an opportunity to explore the meaning behind these traditions and consider what remembrance looks like today. As we honour the past, we also reflect on the importance of peace, kindness and understanding in our own communities.

At Brookhouse, on November 10th we will be holding a school-wide assemblies to honour our veterans. Due to limited space in our school gymnasium, these assemblies will be for students and staff only. On November 11th, we are asked to pause and reflect on the sacrifice of our veterans, past and present. Lest we forget.

Maximizing Every Minute of Learning Time - Early End of Day Student Pick-ups

Did you know that the end of the school day is one of the most active parts of your child's learning routine? During this time, classes review their daily accomplishments, organize their belongings, and hear important end-of-day announcements.

To help all of our students stay focused and succeed, we ask that families refrain from signing students out early whenever possible. Routine early check-outs interrupt

active instruction and can leave students feeling disoriented when catching up the next morning.

We appreciate your effort in scheduling appointments after school hours when possible so our students can finish every school day strong!

Non-Perishable Food Bank Drive - Nov 23 - Dec 4

Let's come together as a school community to make a difference! From **Monday, November 23rd to Friday, December 4th**, we will be collecting non-perishable food items to support local families in need. Every single donation counts!

Friendly Classroom Challenge!
To add some extra fun, the classroom that collects the most food items will win a **Special Reward**! Let's see which class can make the biggest impact. Give what you can, bring what you can, and let's show our community spirit together!

Transgender Awareness Week

Observed annually from November 13-19, Transgender Awareness Week is an opportunity to reflect on how kindness, inclusivity and understanding help create welcoming school communities where everyone feels they belong. Taking time to learn about experiences different from our own, listening with an open mind and treating others with respect can make a meaningful difference in someone's day and sense of belonging.

Families can help reinforce these values by encouraging children to lead with kindness, embrace differences and recognize that everyone deserves to be treated with dignity and compassion. Together, we can help create school communities where every student feels welcome, valued and supported.

Expectations for Students on the School Bus

It is expected that families understand, and students follow the specific safety procedures listed below. We are requesting that adults review the following safety rules with their children who ride the school bus.

Bus Stop Safety
• Be on time for the bus, and don't run to/from the bus.
• Stand back off the road and don't push or shove when waiting at a stop.
• Always cross in front of the bus, walk 3 meters (10 ft) in front of the bus to a point where you can see the driver; wait for the driver's signal to cross. Proceed to the centre of the road, STOP, LOOK & LISTEN and cross the road when it is safe.
• Never crawl under a school bus or cross the road behind the bus.
• Know the danger zones around the bus.

School Bus Safety
• Please respect and listen to the driver and avoid distracting them.
• Stay in your assigned seat
• Keep noise levels to a minimum.
• Do not stand or move while the bus is in motion.
• Never put your hands, arms, feet or head out of the bus window.
• Ask the driver for permission before you open the bus windows.
• Do not throw anything inside the bus or out of the windows.
• Keep the aisle clear at all times when the bus is in motion.
• Large items that cannot be placed safely on a student's lap may not be taken on the school bus.
• The driver will report misconduct and vandalism to the school.

Parent/Teacher Interviews

Join us for our upcoming parent-teacher conferences. Each session will be **10 minutes** long:

- **Thursday, December 3:** 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
- **Friday, December 4:** 1:00 PM - 3:30 PM

Information on how to use our new online booking system for appointments will be emailed home next week.

Holiday Concert - December 9

- **Date:** Wednesday, December 9
- **Location:** Woodlawn High School
- **Times:** Doors open & student drop-off at 6:00 PM | Concert 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM

All are welcome! A silver collection at the door will help cover facility and equipment costs.

Note: Please drop students off at their designated classroom (map to follow). **A guardian must remain on-site at Woodlawn High for the duration of the event**.

Arrival Time / Safe Arrival

- **Morning Drop-Off:** Supervision begins at 8:35 AM in classrooms. Please do not drop students off before 8:35 AM.
- **Reporting Absences & Lateness:** If your child will be absent or arriving after 8:55 AM, please report it in advance using **SchoolMessenger** (app, web, or toll-free line). Unreported absences will trigger automated notifications via text, email, and phone, followed by a check-in call from office staff.

To report your student absences, any of the following methods can be used:

PowerSchool Parent/Student Portal
Parents/guardians can log in to https://sishrsb.ednet.ns.ca/public/ to access the SchoolMessenger website to report future absences.

SchoolMessenger App
Parents/guardians can download the SchoolMessenger app for Android and iOS devices and use their username and password for the PowerSchool Portal.

Toll-Free Number
Parents/guardians can call 1-833-582-6940 to report future absences using an automated system.

Lost and Found

Monthly Cleanout: Our Lost & Found is emptied at the end of every month. Please ask your child to check for missing items.

Label Belongings: Please label your child's items (especially coats and snow pants). Staff cannot track unlabeled items, so clear labels ensure lost items find their way back to your child.

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
- Non-bussed 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.

We are in the **Woodlawn High School** *Family of Schools*. Please listen and or look for either the *Family* name or the individual name of the school in all announcements.

Delayed Opening of Schools

In the event of a delayed opening the following will apply:

- School opening will be delayed 2 hours
- Brookhouse Elementary would open at **10:45 am**
- School bus pick up times will be delayed 2 hours
- At schools that have Excel, the program will be delayed opening by 2 hours

- Each school will alter morning schedules to best address their timetables
- Lunch times will not change
- Afternoon class schedules will not change
- Dismissal time will not change

Mid-Day School Closure

In the event of mid-day closure due to deteriorating weather, you will be informed on local radio stations as close to 11:00 a.m. as possible. Staff will contact parents (or the person you have previously indicated) via the phone number recorded on in PowerSchool. It is essential that we are able to reach you in the event of a school closure during the day. If your child is transported on an HRCE school bus, those busses will be departing from school two hours earlier than normal on mid-day closure days. Therefore, school busses will depart Brookhouse Elementary at 12:45 in the case of a mid-day closure. Due to changing weather conditions some busses may be delayed.

Please note that at the elementary level we need to contact parents directly before we dismiss students to walk or take a bus. If the classroom teacher is unable to reach a parent or designate of a particular child, that child will remain at school until contact with a parent or guardian is made.

Head Lice Reminders

We encourage parents to make checking their child's head for the presence of nits and or lice a regular part of their routine. Please notify the school if your child has head lice and provide the recommended treatment before returning to school. Call 8-1-1 at any time to speak with a registered nurse for more information and guidance if head lice are still present after the necessary second treatment. Successful treatment included a second application of product 8 to 10 days after the initial treatment. For information on the prevention and treatment of head lice, refer to the Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness pamphlet, *How to Prevent, Find and Treat Head lice* on our website https://ifs.hrce.ca/sites/default/files/websites/ifs.hrsb.ca/our-school-file/2018/01/head_lice_pamphlet.pdf

Please refer to the attached guidelines for headlice.