Brookhouse Elementary School Newsletter

Where Busy Bees Thrive!

October 2026

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Important Dates to Note

October
October is Mi'kmaq History Month
October is Canadian Library Month
1 - Treaty Day (this is a school day)
2 - School-wide Terry Fox Walk
Week of Oct 5 - Fire Drill #2
12 - Thanksgiving Holiday - no school
Week of Oct 19 - School Bus Safety Week
22 - PTO Trunk or Treat - See PTO section for details
23 - NSTU Conference Day - No school for students

November
3 - Photo Retakes
11 - Remembrance Day - No school
20 - Assessment and Evaluation Day - no school for students
30 - Progress Reports Emailed

December
4 - Progress Conferences - afternoon and evening
9 - Evening Holiday Concert at Woodlawn High
18 - Last full day before holiday
21 - Professional Learning for staff

Message from Principal

Autumn is here, and our students have settled wonderfully into their classroom routines. This month, we're focusing on building strong learning habits, staying curious, practicing kindness every day, problem-solving and perseverance. As the weather cools down, please remember to send your child with warm layers for outdoor time at recess and lunch. Thank you for your continued partnership and support!

Angela Yerxa-Weeks

October 1 is Treaty Day

Treaty Day is an opportunity to learn, reflect and deepen our understanding of the historic and ongoing relationships between Mi'kmaq and non-Mi'kmaq people in Nova Scotia.

Treaties are not simply part of our past. They are living agreements that continue to shape our shared responsibilities today. In schools, Treaty Day provides an important opportunity to help students understand Mi'kmaq history, culture, rights and perspectives, while exploring what it means to live together in a spirit of respect, partnership and reciprocity.

By continuing to learn about the Treaties and our responsibilities within them, we help build stronger relationships and contribute to the ongoing work of reconciliation.

October is Mi'kmaq History Month

Each October, Mi'kmaq History Month provides an opportunity to deepen our understanding of Mi'kmaq culture, history, language and traditions, while recognizing the important contributions of Mi'kmaq people past and present.

Across our schools, students and staff may mark the month through learning, storytelling, art, community connections and cultural experiences that bring Mi'kmaq perspectives into the classroom and school community.

As we learn together, Mi'kmaq History Month reminds us of the importance of listening, building relationships and continuing our shared commitment to truth and reconciliation.

Learn more about Mi'kmaq History Month **here**.

Brookhouse PTO

Our first meeting was held on September 28th. Below is a list of some PTO items we discussed.

Halloween Trunk or Treat - Thurs Oct 22 from 6-7pm
See attachment for further details.
-Trick or treat around decorated car trunks
-Carnival games in the gym

-FREE event
-Fundraising tickets $2 each or 3 for $5 for 50/50 and a raffle for GLOW Gardens
-Volunteers Needed: volunteersignup.org/7H399 (Click link to volunteer or donate NUT FREE treat items)
-Open to ALL students and families in the Brookhouse school community

PTO SAVE the dates:
Oct 22/26 6-7pm - Halloween Trunk or Treat event
Dec 16/26 (in school) - Holiday Movie
Mar 4/27 6-8pm - Movie Night
April 29/27 6-8pm - Movie Night
May 29/27 11am-2pm - Spring Fair

PTO Organized - School Clothing Order

The PTO is organizing a school clothing order coming soon! Keep an eye on your inbox for more details.

Brookhouse Elementary School Advisory Council - SAC

Please join me in welcoming the current members of our SAC:
Parent Members: Gillian Roseway, Katie Sponable, Gus Webb
Staff Members: Tracey Grouse (Teacher), Charmaine Willis (Support staff), Lisa MacIsaac (VP/Teacher), Angela Yerxa-Weeks (Acting Principal)
Community Members: Belinda Oxner, D'Arcy Morris-Poultney, Francina Daigle

We met on September 28th and will meet at the end of the following months: November, January, February, April and May. Specific dates will be announced closer to the meeting.

Fire Prevention Week: October 4-10

Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency is inviting families to take part in Fire Prevention Week, October 4–10. Visit halifax.ca/fpw to complete an online fire safety quiz. Want to win a Nintendo Switch, Apple products or LEGO sets? Participants who score 100% will be entered into a draw for a prize in their age category.

This year's theme, "Safe Charging is a Superpower," focuses on the safe use and charging of rechargeable devices powered by lithium-ion batteries. These batteries power many everyday devices, including phones, tablets, laptops, e-bikes and power tools. If damaged or charged improperly, they can overheat and cause fires.

Visit **Fire Prevention Week** for contest details, videos and fire safety resources, and take a few minutes to test your smoke alarms and review your home fire escape plan.

October 19-23 is School Bus Safety Week

Every school day, thousands of HRCE students rely on the bus to get to and from school safely.

School Bus Safety Week is a chance to highlight the simple habits that help keep everyone safe — from waiting well back from the road, to following the driver's instructions, to staying alert around stopped school buses.

With more than 33,000 HRCE students travelling on more than 400 buses each day, safety depends on all of us: students, families, drivers, schools and motorists.

This week is a good opportunity to review a few everyday reminders and help reinforce safe routines on the bus, at the stop and on the road.

Bus Stop Safety

- Be on time for the bus and do not run to/from the bus.
- Stand back off the road and do not push or shove when waiting at a stop.
- Always cross in front of the bus. Walk three metres (10 feet) in front of the bus to a point where you can see the driver and 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.
- Please keep noise levels to a minimum.
- Do not stand or move seats 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.

Allergy Alerts / Medication

Please keep in mind we have numerous students and staff with severe allergies to food and scents. Please refrain from wearing scents when in our school and be diligent about the food items your child brings to school. **Nut products cannot be sent to school.**

If your child requires medication to be given during school time, an "Administration of Medication" form must be filled out and on file in the main office. All medicine is kept secured and distributed from the main office. Medications are required to be in the original container and clearly labelled for your child.

If your child has a **severe or life-threatening allergy or medical condition**, families must complete a Life-Threatening Allergies form to ensure all necessary staff members have access to this information. It is also important that you call the school to obtain the appropriate medical forms. This is important to ensure all staff is aware of any conditions or allergies so they can respond appropriately in the case of an emergency. You must complete a form indicating appropriate medical care for your child.

If your child requires an Epi Pen, they **must** wear their Epi Pen on their person. If you decide that you do not want your child to wear the Epi Pen, it can be left in the office, but you must complete signed documentation and submit it to the principal in September of each year. If you want to send in a second Epi Pen, it can be left in the main school office.

Lost and Found

Due to limited space, all unclaimed items will be donated this Friday, October 2. Please encourage your child to check the Lost & Found this week. Also, remember to write your child's name on their clothing as we try to check every item for names before donating!

Arrival, School Bell Times and Dismissal Arrangements

Please note: at 8:35 inside supervision begins and students can begin to enter the building; instruction begins at 8:55 and all students should be at school by that time; **ALL** students dismiss for the day at 2:45pm. **Students may not be on school grounds before 8:35am.**

Side doors will be open and monitored by school staff from 8:35 to 8:45. After 8:45, students must enter through the front doors. Our bells indicate the start of the school day at 8:55 and the end of the school day at 2:45. We have no other bells during the school day.

It is extremely important that families make arrangements to pick up students at 2:45. We do not have supervision for students after the 2:45 bell.

Registration Forms & Parent Contact Information

It is extremely important that all families have a Power School account to verify and confirm the information contained in your child's electronic file. The Returning Student Registration Form (formerly Demographic Updates Form) is available to families from September 9 to October 5. This form is accessed via the Parent Portal and is an opportunity each year to review and update student information and includes our yearly permissions and consents.

If you have already registered for the Powerschool Parent Portal, that's awesome! If you are new to Powerschool or have forgotten your password, please use the link below to get started.

https://sishrsb.ednet.ns.ca/public/

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.

Other School Safety Items

Please help to keep our students safe when dropping off and picking up your children. Here are a few friendly reminders:

- Please do not drive on the school grounds when students are present.
- Parking on the school grounds is limited to staff.
- When parking on the street, please abide by the no-stopping zones on either side of the street.
- Do not block bus zones or no-stopping zones.
- Dogs are not permitted on school yard or playgrounds.
- Students are not permitted to drive bikes or scooters on the school grounds.