

## October Newsletter

As we are nearing the end of our first month of school, I want to congratulate you for helping to make September such a smooth transition for your children as they returned to school! They have settled into their classroom routines extremely well!

### October is Mi'kmaq History Month

During this month, classes will be learning about the culture and customs of the Mi'kmaq people.

### Safety Drills

During September, we practiced some of our required safety drills. On Thursday, Sept. 12, we held our first Fire Drill. On Thursday, Sept 19, we held our Lock Down Drill and on Monday, Sept 23, we practiced our Hold and Secure drill. Each of these drills helps us practice being safe while we are at school. One drill we will practice soon is a relocation drill where we leave our school to walk to a place of safety. We will be walking to Gorsebrook Junior High School. When we have a date for the relocation drill, I will let you know.

On Friday, Sept. 27, we will practice a Bus Evacuation Drill. Buses will come to the school and students will learn how to exit a bus safely. Although we are not a school with buses, if students were ever on a class trip, it would be important information for them to know.

## **Truth and Reconciliation**

Friday is also Orange Shirt Day. This day is an Indigenous-led grassroots commemorative day intended to raise awareness of the intergenerational impacts of residential schools and to promote the concept of “Every Child Matters”. We encourage everyone who can to wear orange.

## **Pictures**

We didn't have our pictures taken today.

Unfortunately, there was a mix-up with the company. Another school called Saint Mary's was booked for today and our Saint Mary's school received the wrong information from the company in the spring. It was an honest mistake with 2 schools with the same name.

Our new picture day is **Tuesday, October 1<sup>st</sup>**. Our retake day is scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 29.

## **Windows**

Over the summer, the windows in the gymnasium were replaced. As part of the refurbishment plan, electric blinds were installed. If you happen to walk by, be sure to check out how beautiful the windows look now.

## **School Advisory Council**

The School Advisory Council is looking for interested parents/guardians who would be willing to act as the Chair of the committee. Currently, there is one person who has expressed interest. If there are any others, please let me know by sending an email. [ptupper@hrce.ca](mailto:ptupper@hrce.ca)

### **New School Websites**

On Wednesday, Oct. 2, the HRCE will be launching new websites for all the schools. Stay tuned!

### **School Lunch Program**

There are 255 schools across the province in phase one of the Nova Scotia School Lunch Program. Families can order affordable lunches through an online pay-what-you-can system that lets them confidentially pay what they are able.

Saint Mary's is one of those schools.

Beginning on October 18<sup>th</sup>, families will be able to place orders online. The first delivery of lunches will be on Monday, Oct 28. For more information, please visit <https://nslunch.ca/>

## Important Dates

Wednesday, September 25	Picture Day
Friday, September 27	Orange Day
	Bus Evacuation Drill
Monday, September 30	Truth and Reconciliation Day – no school for students
Wednesday, October 2	New School Websites launched
Tuesday, October 1	Treaty Day (school is open)
Week of October 7	Fire Drill #2
Friday, October 11	Professional Development Day – no school for students
Monday, October 14	Thanksgiving – no school for students
Friday, October 18	Provincial School Lunch begins
Friday, October 25	Provincial Conference Day - no school for students
Tuesday, October 29	Picture retakes
Monday, December 2	Holiday Concert
Friday, December 20	Last Day of School
Friday, January 3	First Day Back in the New Year

