



October Newsletter

We would like to acknowledge that we are in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaw people. The Treaties of Peace and Friendship cover this territory.

Hello Bedford South Families,

Welcome back! We've had a fantastic start to the new school year, and it's been wonderful to see our students' smiles, energy, and enthusiasm filling the classrooms and hallways once again.

This year, we have 750 students across 33 classes, and we're off to a great start thanks to the hard work and teamwork of our staff, students, and families. Your support and positive partnership make such a difference as we build a welcoming and inclusive school community together.

We also introduced our new [vision statement](#) and school expectations, which were shared with you in September. These reflect our collective commitment to creating a safe, caring, and respectful environment where every student can learn, grow, and succeed.

Thank you for helping make the beginning of the year so positive. As we move into October, we're looking forward to celebrating Mi'kmaq History Month, Treaty Day, and Thanksgiving, and recognizing the many opportunities to learn together as a community.

Parents are reminded to wait on the sidewalks after school. With 750 children to dismiss, it can get very crowded near the building. Please wait near the bike racks if you are picking up at the front of the school.

If your child's dismissal plans change (for example, being picked up instead of taking the bus), please make arrangements in advance. We kindly ask that you do not email or call the office to make changes during the day, as messages may not reach staff in time.

A huge thank you to our amazing HSA for organizing and handing out ice cream at our Meet the Teacher/Ice Cream Social Night. It was wonderful to see so many families and to meet our dedicated HSA members.

To date, we have completed two fire drills, one lockdown drill, and one hold and secure drill.



Truth and Reconciliation & Indigenous History Month

Our first school assembly will take place on October 21, where we will recognize Truth and Reconciliation Day and Mi'kmaq History Month. Teachers and students have been engaging in many meaningful learning opportunities. We will also hold a smudging ceremony outside the gym.

What is a Smudging Ceremony?

Smudging refers to the burning of one or a combination of sacred medicines — sweet grass, sage, cedar, and/or tobacco — as part of a cleansing ritual. The smoke is believed to purify the body, mind, spirit, and heart, helping us to think, speak, see, and act with kindness and respect.

Attendance and Early Pickups

Please ensure your children are at school by 8:40 a.m. Arriving late means they miss important daily instruction. Please avoid picking up your child early unless necessary, as paging classrooms interrupts learning.


Clothing

Please send your child dressed in layers as Fall weather can be unpredictable. Labelled clothing is much easier to return if misplaced. Please check the lost and found racks in the main vestibule.

Water, Cutlery, and Cups

Please send a labelled water bottle each day. We do not have disposable cups, forks, or spoons at school. Thank you for helping us stay eco-friendly!

Choir

Choir takes place Tuesdays at 11:45 a.m. for Grades 4 and 5. Students eat lunch in the music room and are expected to stay in choir for the full year once they join. 



HSA Info

The HSA will have the first Popcorn Day on October 17th, and we always welcome volunteers.

We're also looking forward to the Halloween Disco on Thursday, October 23. More information will come home soon. Volunteers are needed; please contact bsshsa@hotmail.com if you can help. The next HSA meeting is Oct 14th at 7pm in the cafeteria.

Popcorn dates:

October 17th

November 28

December 19

January 16

February 20

March 27

April 17

May 15

June 5

From your Bedford South HSA!

We just want to take a minute to remind us how important volunteers are to Bedford South. Our fundraisers aren't just about raising money—they help build the kind of school community our kids are proud to be part of.

But we can't run them without people stepping in to help. And the truth is, we don't need huge commitments. Sometimes it's just an hour to set up, sell tickets, or help clean up. Every bit of help makes a big difference.

When you volunteer, you're not just helping at an event—you're giving our kids more opportunities in their classrooms and beyond.

So if you've ever thought, "maybe next time," let's make this the time. Our kids and our school family need you. Please sign up [here](#).



SAC Info

We are looking for one community member to join our School Advisory Council (SAC). Community members must live in the community but not have children enrolled at our school. Please reach out to anyone who may be interested. We are also looking for one parent member. Our first SAC meeting is on Oct 14th at 6pm in the library. Please email Ms. Foster if you are interested in becoming a member.

Important Dates to Remember in October

- October is Mi'kmaq History Month
- October is Canadian Library Month 
- Wed., Oct. 1: Treaty Day
- Mon., Oct. 13: Thanksgiving – No classes
- Mon., Oct. 20: Diwali begins
- Oct. 20–24: School Bus Safety Week 
- Fri., Oct. 24: NSTU Conference Day – No classes

Celebrating Treaty Day strengthens understanding and respect for Indigenous cultures and histories. It reminds us that treaties are living agreements that shape relationships between Indigenous peoples and the government. Teaching about Treaty Day helps promote awareness of Indigenous rights, reconciliation, and the importance of honouring commitments.

October – Mi'kmaq History Month

October is a time to celebrate the rich culture, history, and contributions of the Mi'kmaq people.

We honour this month through stories, traditions, and teachings integrated into our classrooms.

Activities such as guest speakers, art projects, and cultural events help students appreciate and understand Mi'kmaq heritage.



October 20–24 – School Bus Safety Week 

Student safety is a shared responsibility!

Over 33,000 HRCE students ride the bus daily.
Please review these safety reminders with your child:

Bus Stop Safety

- Be on time and don't run to/from the bus.
- Stand back from the road and avoid pushing.
- Always cross in front of the bus, making eye contact with the driver.
- Never crawl under or cross behind a bus.
- Know the danger zones around the bus.

On the Bus

- Respect the driver and avoid distractions.
- Stay seated and keep noise low.
- Keep aisles clear.
- Never extend hands or heads out windows.
- Do not throw objects inside or outside the bus.

Remember: In Nova Scotia, it's illegal to pass a school bus when red lights are flashing and the stop arm is extended.

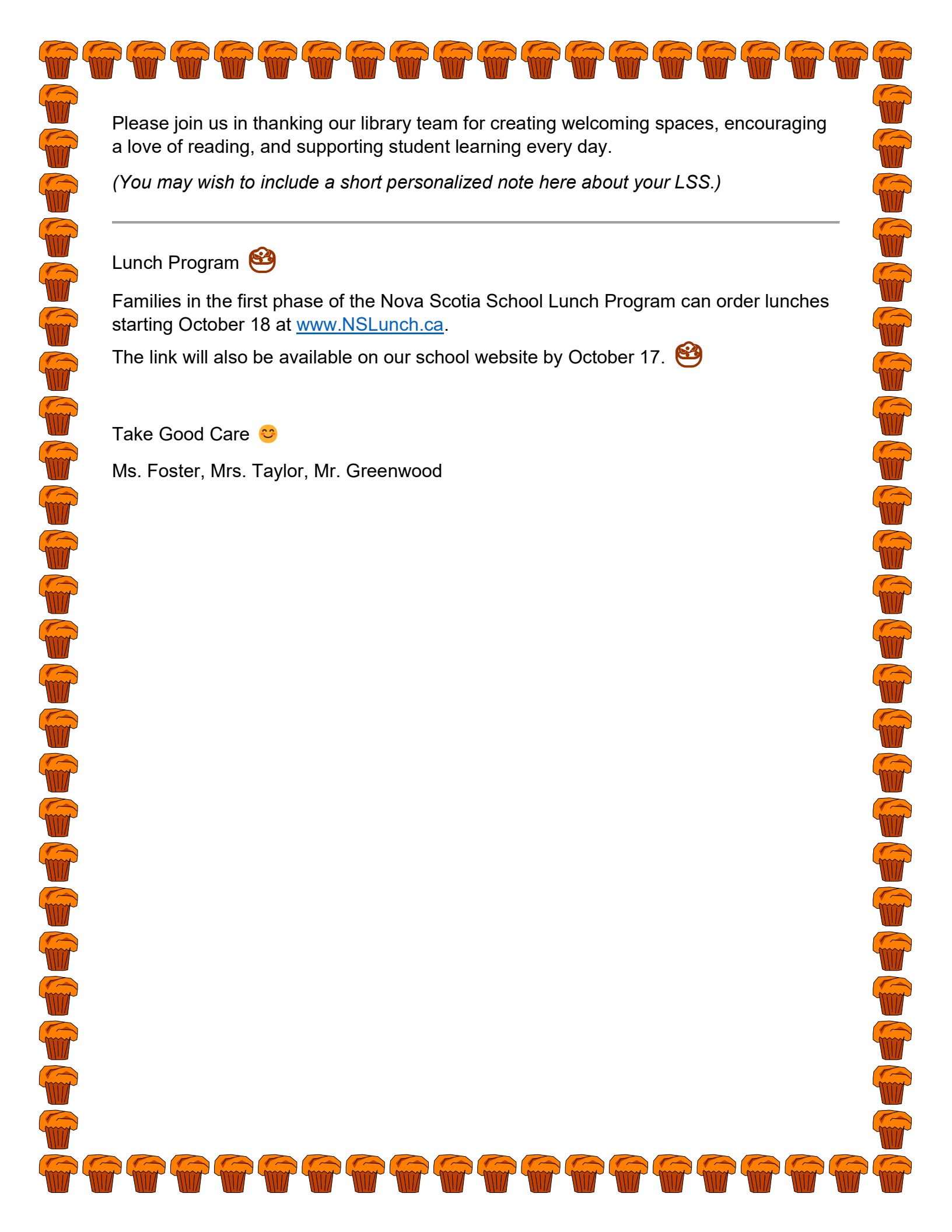
O Canada in Schools

The Nova Scotia Department of Education has introduced a new provincial policy on the playing of our national anthem.

In keeping with this, we play O Canada at the start of each school day.
If you have any questions, please contact the school office.

October – Canadian Library Month 

October celebrates our amazing school libraries and Library Support Specialists (LSS)!
The third Friday of the month is Canadian Library Workers Day, and the fourth Monday is Canadian School Library Day.



Please join us in thanking our library team for creating welcoming spaces, encouraging a love of reading, and supporting student learning every day.

(You may wish to include a short personalized note here about your LSS.)

Lunch Program 🍪

Families in the first phase of the Nova Scotia School Lunch Program can order lunches starting October 18 at www.NSLunch.ca.

The link will also be available on our school website by October 17. 🍪

Take Good Care 😊

Ms. Foster, Mrs. Taylor, Mr. Greenwood