

Communication for December

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,

It is hard to believe we are part way through December!!

As we enter the winter season and approach the holiday break, we are grateful for the learning, growth, and community spirit that have filled our school throughout December. It has been a busy and celebratory month, and we appreciate your ongoing support in making these experiences meaningful for our students.

We are thrilled to share with our Bedford South families that our recent concerts for grades Primary to 3 were truly a highlight of the season. Over two separate performances, our young students showcased their incredible talents, filling the room with beautiful music that moved us all. The concerts were not only a joy to watch but also deeply emotion-evoking, reflecting the hard work and creativity of everyone involved.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated music teachers, Mr. Mihankhah, and Mr. Henwood, who composed both the music and lyrics for the shows. Their passion for music education shines through in every note, and their commitment ensured our students had an unforgettable experience. Thank you to all families for your support, and congratulations to our young performers for such memorable concerts!

We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to all families for attending the recent parent-teacher conferences. Your active involvement and partnership in your child's education are invaluable, and we truly appreciate that so many parents took the time to meet with teachers and learn about their child's progress. Working together helps ensure a supportive and successful learning journey for every student.

Admin Team (Ms. Foster, Ms. Taylor and Mr. Greenwood)

Clothing

The weather has changed, and students need to start wearing warmer outdoor clothing. We go outside on most days. We stay in if it is raining very hard and if it is very cold. Please make sure your children are dressed for the weather. Please send your child in layers! Please label all clothing so we can return lost clothing. Please check out the lost and found racks in the vestibule entrance.

Attendance and Early Pick Ups

Please ensure your children are at school by 8:40am. If they are late everyday, they are missing the same curricular instruction which can accumulate. We also ask that you do not pick your child up early unless they have an appointment. The learning is interrupted when we need to page into classes and ask students to be dismissed.

Parking Lot

The safety of our students is our number one priority. Our parking lot is closed to traffic, other than buses, 8:15am - 9:15 and 2:15-3:15. If you are coming into the parking lot outside of those times parents must use the bus loop for pick up and drop off. This includes Excel. Please do not park in the paved circle off Southgate. This is a **drop off** only zone. There are No Parking signs posted. You can park in the gravel lot, but once it is full, you must find parking on Southgate. The residents of Kirkwood Court have asked parents not to park on their private road.

Water, Cutlery and Cups

Please send a **labelled water bottle** for your child. We do not have extra cups at school. We are trying to be eco friendly. We do not have plastic spoons or forks in the office. Please ensure you send necessary cutlery with your children. Thank you for your attention to this.

Choir

Choir is on Tuesdays at 11:45 for grades 4 and 5. Students will eat their lunch in the music room. Once they have joined, they are expected to remain in choir all year.

HSA (Home School Association) Info

Our next Home and School Association meeting will be in February and this meeting will be online. The link will be sent in advance and all are welcome to attend.

A huge shout out to our HSA members who organized the Craft Event on Nov 29th. It was a successful even and fun was had by all!

Popcorn Days for 2025/2026:

December 19

January 16

February 20

March 27

April 17

May 15

June 5

SAC (School Advisory Council) Info

We are looking for two community members for our SAC. A community member must live in the community and not have any students in our school. Please reach out to friends and neighbours if you know anyone who might be interested. Our next meeting is Feb 10th at 6pm online.

School Bus Rules:

Please remind your children to follow the rules on the bus. If they do not, they may be asked to take a break from travelling on the bus.

- 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. (Students are standing before the bus comes to a stop on the way home).
- 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.

Lunch Program

The lunch program has been active since September and is being prepared onsite. Remember to order your child's lunch in advance.

What you need to know:

- Ordering will take place online at www.NSLunch.ca.
- Messages to families will be sent next week about the Lunch Program.

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 to send your child to school.

For more information on how HRCE manages during inclement weather, visit hrce.ca/families/cancellations.

We're ALWAYS hiring!

Did you know that HRCE has more than 10,000 employees serving more than 60,000 students?

Our job postings are updated every Wednesday at noon and feature a wide variety of career opportunities!

As HRCE grows, so does our staff. Check out new opportunities weekly at www.myhrce.ca/jobs.

Transgender Awareness Week (Correct link) Last month's newsletter had the incorrect link to information on this awareness week. This information was for the purpose of sharing.

Transgender Awareness Week provides an important opportunity to strengthen understanding and respect for the transgender community, to encourage inclusivity in our schools and to promote safe environments where all students feel valued and supported. Learn more [here](#).

Schools Plus

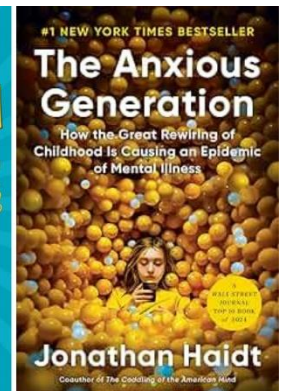
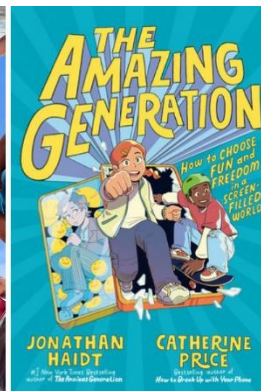
SchoolsPlus is a confidential, free service available in every school in Nova Scotia. Our goal is to build positive relationships between families, schools, and communities.

Parents, guardians and students (12+) can self-refer to SchoolsPlus 12 months a year! Just contact the SchoolsPlus Facilitator at your school. Call 902-464-2000, ext. 2331 or email schoolsplus@hrce.ca. Learn more about SchoolsPlus [here](#).



Resources for Parents from Unplugged Canada If you're concerned about your kids' screen time, smartphone use, or social media pressure, there are some wonderful resources below to help parents and caregivers navigate the challenges of raising kids in a digital world.

For parents: The Anxious Generation by Jonathan Haidt highlights the research and evidence behind how early smartphone and social media



exposure have shaped a generation over the last 10–15 years. **Ten Rules for Raising Kids in a High-Tech World by Jean Twenge** offers practical, actionable guidance to help parents set healthy boundaries and support their kids' digital wellbeing.

For kids: The Amazing Generation, written for pre-teens and teens and co-authored by Jonathan Haidt, will be released on December 30. It explains the impact of today's digital environment in an engaging, age-appropriate way. All of these books are available at your local library or bookstore.

Unplugged Canada is a parent-led, national movement advocating for healthier childhoods by delaying smartphones and social media until kids are more developmentally ready. Join thousands of Canadian families choosing to delay by taking the Unplugged Canada Pledge at unpluggedcanada.com/sign-pledge.

New educational technology resource for families

We're excited to share a new online resource designed to help families understand how technology supports student learning in HRCE. This page provides an overview of how tools like Chromebooks and Google for Education are used in classrooms, what provincially approved online platforms students may access, and how student privacy is protected. You'll also find information about Nova Scotia's guidance on the provincial cell phone expectations, tips for supporting online safety and digital citizenship at home, and an introduction to how students are learning about artificial intelligence in a thoughtful and responsible way. It also includes answers to common questions about screen time, passwords, communication during the school day, and more.

You can find the webpage [here](#).

Upcoming Dates:

December 10: International Human Rights Day

December 14: First day of Hanukkah

December 19: Last day of school for students before holiday break

December 22: Teacher Professional Practice Day (no classes - PP-12)

December 25: Christmas Day

December 26: Kwanzaa

These and other important dates can be found in the [HRCE calendar](#)

[December Spirit](#) Week Fun. Click the link to see what is happening next week.

Take good care. 😊

Ms. Foster, Mrs. Taylor, Mr. Greenwood