

**October is Mi 'kmaq  
heritage month**

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

- Oct 1 Treaty Day
- Oct 2 Picture Day Gr. 3-6
- Oct 3 Picture Day Gr. P-2
- Oct 8 SAC 6pm  
HSA 7pm
- Oct 9 Yom Kippur
- Oct 10 World Mental Health  
Day
- Oct 14 Thanksgiving  
No school
- Oct 15 Picture retakes
- Oct 24 HSA Family Bingo  
6-8 pm cafeteria
- Oct 25 Provincial Conference  
No classes
- Oct 27 Diwali
- Oct 31 Hallowe'en



**Bedford South School**

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Bedford, NS  
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902-832-5800

H. Healy, Principal  
C. Crewe, VP  
J. Ashton, Secretary  
S. Moore, Secretary



2 Oceanview Drive  
Bedford, NS Canada  
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Phone: 902-832-5800  
Fax: 902-832-5805

**SAFE ARRIVAL/STUDENT ABSENCE 832-5800**

**Early Storm Closure:**

Winter will be here before you know it and we still do not have emergency closure forms for all of our students. Please send your form in as soon as possible. For your information our school is Bus Cluster 1, Unit 1 and part of the C.P. Allen family of schools. A great idea for parents, is to sign up for a text from the HRCE to let you know of early dismissals or school closures. You can do this by visiting the HRCE website at [www.hrce.ca](http://www.hrce.ca).

**Safe Arrival:**

We have a safe arrival program at our school to help ensure the safety of our children as they travel to school each day and to identify, as quickly as possible, those children who did leave home for school but did not arrive at their destination. To be certain this program is effective we would ask parents to please do the following: Phone the Safe Arrival Line at **902-832-5800 ext. 1** whenever your child will be absent or late, (even if you have informed the classroom teacher).

1. To leave a message, state your child's name, grade, teacher's name, length of absence or approximate time of arrival, and the reason for being absent.
2. To sign in your child if arriving at school after the first bell has rung, in the Sign In/Out binder in the school office, They will receive a late slip at this time.
3. To inform the school office of changes in contact information.

Should you have any questions call Jennifer Ashton/Sonja Moore at 902-832-5800.

**Drive way**

As you have noticed our driveway is closed to traffic during certain hours in the morning and at in the afternoon. This closure was implemented last year due to the high volume of traffic using the loop and the danger it caused for children during drop off and pick up. We have had a reminder sign at the bottom of the driveway since last June. We will be removing this sign at the end of October; however, the driveway will still remain closed during the following times:

8:15 to 9:15am

2:15 to 3:15pm

We would ask drivers to respect the gate/driveway closure to ensure the safety of our children

**Medication:**

*Administration of Medication*

**In general, school personnel will not be involved in the administration of medication and/or medical procedures to students. Parents or guardians are responsible for making arrangements to eliminate the need for staff to be involved in the administration of medication and medical procedures to students.**

Students who use puffers may, with the parents' written permission and having completed the appropriate form in the office, self-administer.

Children who have any life threatening allergies must contact the office to receive the appropriate forms and guidelines regarding parent/student and school responsibilities.

### School Visitors:

While we welcome Parents/Guardians to the school, you are reminded to check in at the office before proceeding through the school.

If you wish to pick up your children before dismissal, you must report to the office and we will page your child.

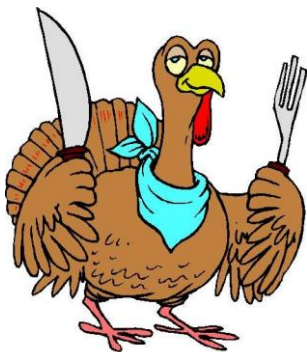
**Also, students may not be dropped off before 8:25 am in the morning, as this when outdoor supervision begins. They must be picked up by 2:50pm.**

Parents/Guardians should not be in the hallways unless they have signed in at the office. If you need to visit your child's teacher, please report to the office to obtain a visitor pass or call and make an appointment.

### Thanksgiving:

*Thanksgiving Day in Canada*

Thanksgiving Day in Canada has been a holiday on the second Monday of October since 1957. It is a chance for people to give thanks for a good harvest and other fortunes in the past.



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### **Provincial Student Attendance and Engagement Policy:**

Student attendance matters.

*On average, 25% of all students miss 16 or more days of school.*

#### **What is the student attendance policy?**

It is a province wide policy that sets a clear expectation for students, parents and teachers

*"Truancy is associated with poorer student performance in mathematics" and "skipping days of school is associated with poorer performance"- PISA in Focus*

#### **Are there consequences under the policy?**

For junior high and elementary students there will be more emphasis on working with parents to address missed class time.

#### **How many days can my child miss?**

We want students to be in school every day, but we know that that is not always possible, Communication between the family and school is key when a student is absent, at all levels, but especially in elementary grades, the focus will be on identifying attendance issues early and responding in a way that helps build good attendance habits.

#### **What is considered an absence?**

Any time a student is not in class, except when they are taking part in a school activity, is considered an absence.

#### **I have a child with special needs.**

#### **How are they affected by this policy?**

The goal is to help all students attend school as much as they are able. For children with special needs, parents will work closely with the school and community partners as appropriate to develop the right support for the student. (cont'd)

### **Where can I find more information?**

For more information visit:

<https://www.ednet.ns.ca/student-attendance-and-engagement-policy>.

*On average, about 6% of all students missed more than 35 days of school in 2015-16.*

**Parents and guardians are responsible for monitoring and ensuring that their children** maintain regular attendance and arrive at school on time, and for communicating with the school regarding their child(ren)'s attendance.

### **Mi 'kmaq History Month**

October is Mi kmaq History Month in Nova Scotia. The goal of the month is to help Nova Scotians build awareness of Mi 'kmaq history and heritage, and to increase understanding of the province's rich Mi 'kmaq culture.

Treaty Day marks the beginning of Mi 'kmaq History Month in Nova Scotia as proclaimed by Premier John Savage and Mi 'kmaq Grand Chief Ben Sylliboy.

A poster is produced and numerous events are organized throughout the month in recognition of Mi'kmaq History Month.

For more information visit the [Mi'kmaq History Month Committee's website](#)

### **Nut free and Scent free:**

Remember no nuts or nut products; ie. Nutella, are to be brought to school.

Also, our school is scent free. Do not wear perfumed or scented products to school as staff and students are severely affected by these products.