

October 2026 Newsletter

Kingswood Elementary School

34 Vrege Court, Hammonds Plains, N.S., B4B 1K2

PRINCIPAL: David Madgett **VICE PRINCIPAL:** Joanne Treen

ADMIN. ASSISTANTS: Jennifer Kennedy & Tracey Power



Principal's Message

Dear Kingswood Elementary Families,

It was a very busy September here at Kingswood Elementary School. True to form, we had to reconfigure some of our English classes due to increasing enrollment. Once that was completed, teachers and students were once again ready to confront the excitement of the new school year ahead! This month, we had a very successful Curriculum Night. Thank you to our mighty PSA and volunteers who organized the distribution of frozen treats! We also had our Terry Fox Run and ended September with annual school pictures and Truth & Reconciliation Day where we reflected on and honoured the children who never returned home and survivors of residential schools, as well as their families and communities.

Throughout the month of October, we highlight and celebrate the rich culture and heritage during Mi'kmaq History Month. The theme for this year is "We are Healing, inviting people across Mi'kma'kik to reflect on healing as a lifelong journey—one rooted in understanding ourselves, our histories, our relationships, and our connectedness to one another."

Our Grade 6 Provincial Assessment will also take place between Oct. 20th-28th. Please also be reminded that nestled within October are Thanksgiving Day and Provincial Conference Day, which are both days with no school for students.

Don't forget, the ever-popular KWE PSA Halloween Dance on Oct. 29th. More details will come out in the coming weeks! Finally, I'm sure there is no need to remind you all of Halloween on Saturday, Oct. 31st!

Have a lovely October!

Yours in Learning,

Dave Madgett, Principal and Joanne Treen, Vice-Principal

Upcoming Events

Thursday, Oct. 1st

- Mi'kmaq History Month begins
- Treaty Day

Oct. 5th-9th

- 2nd Fire Drill

Monday, Oct. 12th

- Thanksgiving Day (School Closed)

Tuesday, Oct. 13th

- 5:30pm SAC Meeting
- 6:30pm PTA Meeting

Oct. 20th, 21st & 27th, 28th

- Grade 6 Provincial assessment

Friday, Oct. 23rd

- Provincial Conference Day (School Closed)

Thursday, Oct. 29th

- Halloween Dance

Saturday, Oct. 31st

- Halloween

Sunday, Nov. 1st

- End of Daylight Savings time

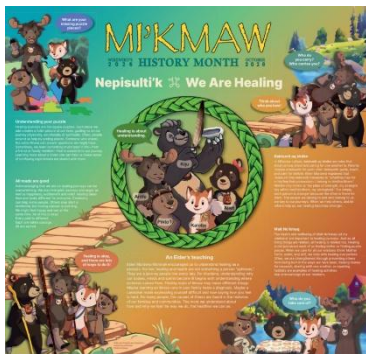
Friday, Nov. 6th

- Picture Retake Day



What's New

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](#).

Fire Prevention Week: October 4-10

Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency is inviting families to take part in Fire Prevention Week, October 4–10. Visit <http://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 <http://halifax.ca/fpw> 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



With school underway, October is a good time 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 please don't run to/from the bus.
- Stand back off the road and don't 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.

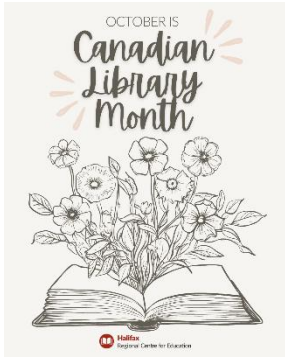
School Bus Safety

- 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.

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

You can find out more information about riding the school bus in HRCE [here](#).

October is Canadian Library Month



October is a chance to celebrate the important role libraries play in our schools — and the Library Support Specialists who bring those spaces to life. Every day, our school libraries help students discover new interests, build literacy skills, find reliable information and, sometimes, simply find a welcoming place to spend some time. Ms. Bent, our Library Support Specialist, is an important part of making that happen. Canadian Library Workers Day is recognized on the third Friday of October, followed by Canadian School Library Day on the fourth Monday. These are great opportunities to recognize the people who help make our libraries' engaging, inclusive and supportive spaces for students. Please join us in thanking Ms. Bent for all she does to support students and staff at Kingswood Elementary.

Parent-School Association (PSA) Meetings

We hope you enjoyed the Ice Cream Social during Curriculum Night. This was the first of many fun events that the PSA organizes throughout the school year. Fundraising throughout the year allows us to support these events, so stay tuned for more information about upcoming fundraising opportunities as well as information about our next event, the Halloween Dance, on October 29th. Our next PSA meeting is October 13th at 6:30PM in the library, and we hope you can join us to help make this an amazing school year for our students. To contact the PSA please email kingswoodpsa@gmail.com.

Growing independence doesn't have to start with a smartphone



As children get older, parents naturally want to give them more independence, such as walking to the park, playing at a friend's house, staying home for a short time, or getting to activities on their own. A smartphone can seem like the obvious way to make this possible, but it isn't the only option.

There are lots of ways families can give children more freedom while keeping communication simple and age-appropriate:

- **Long-range walkie-talkies:** A simple way for kids to check in while playing in the neighbourhood or exploring outdoors, without access to the internet or social media.
- **A home phone:** Allows children to call friends, make plans or contact a parent when they're home alone.
- **A kids' smartwatch:** Some watches offer limited calling or messaging, without the apps, social media and internet access of a smartphone.
- **A basic talk-and-text phone:** When children eventually need a way to coordinate rides or activities, a simple phone can provide communication without introducing the distractions and social pressures of a smartphone.

The goal is to match the technology to what children need. A child who needs to call home doesn't necessarily need a device that also gives them access to social media, games and the internet.

Starting with a more limited device can give children time to develop the responsibility, judgment and independence they'll eventually need to manage a smartphone.

Explore more resources from Unplugged Canada and join thousands of Canadian families taking the [Unplugged Canada Pledge](#) to delay smartphones and support connected childhoods.

Life Threatening Allergies and Scent Sensitive School

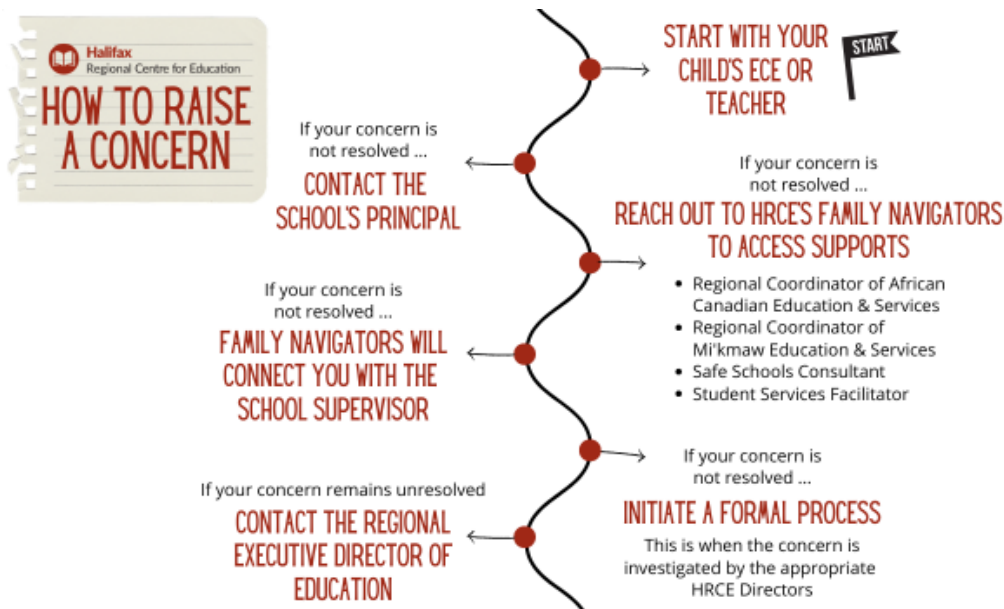


We have several students who have life threatening allergies to peanuts and nut products. Please respect their health and well-being by sending your child with snacks and lunches that do not contain nuts. Additionally, some of our students have medical conditions that are worsened by scented products.

Do you know how to raise a concern?

Did you know that there's a protocol in place to help families contact schools or the HRCE office when you have concerns about your student's education or well-being?

- All concerns should first be shared with your child's teacher.
- If your concern is not resolved, you should then contact the principal.
- If your concern remains unresolved, you can reach out to HRCE's [Family Navigators](#) who can provide information about a wide range of supports and resources.
- If your matter continues to be unresolved, you can then initiate a formal review process in which the matter will be investigated by the appropriate HRCE Directors.
- The final step is for your concern to be passed on to the Regional Executive Director.
- [Click here](#) to learn more.



Label, Label, Label



FUNDRAISING

As we approach winter, we tend to see an accumulation of hats, mitts, gloves, snow pants, etc. in our lost and found. Please label your child's items, such as clothing, boots, shoes, lunch bag, school bag, hats and gloves. To help families ensure that misplaced clothes are returned to their rightful owners, we have an ongoing fundraiser with Mabel's Labels. Mabel's Labels are laundry, dishwasher, and microwave safe, and easy to apply. Visit Mabel's Labels at <https://mabelslabels.ca/en-CA>, click "Fundraising" then select "Support a Fundraiser" and type "Kingswood Elementary School (Hammonds Plains)". They have a 15% back-to-school sale on. Use code: LABEL15 at checkout.

What is SchoolsPlus?

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.

Manage complex situations

Sometimes students and their families are already connected to many services, but still need help managing it all. Our Facilitators offer comprehensive case management support to ensure everyone involved is communicating clearly and families are receiving the best support possible.

Connect with us!

Parents, guardians and students (12+) can self-refer to SchoolsPlus - 12 months a year! Just contact the SchoolsPlus Facilitator at your school.

West Bedford FOS

Megan Tobin
SchoolsPlus Facilitator

Amy LaPlante
Community Outreach Worker

902-240-1148
megan.tobin@hrce.ca
@HRCESchoolsPlus



Halifax
Regional Centre for Education

Resources & support

We can connect students and their families to resources and supports, such as:

Recreation

Help finding and applying for rec programs or related funding.

Tutoring

Help understanding and accessing tutoring supports.

Food supports

Help accessing food banks and other local food supports.

Health & wellness

Help navigating healthcare systems.

General support

Help completing paperwork and applications, as well as transportation and accompaniment to appointments.