

MARINE DRIVE ACADEMY NEWS

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Principal: Mr. A. Verge

Vice Principal: Mrs. A. Smith

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Welcome back to another new school year!

Thank you to Trevor Gammon, Gammons Home Hardware, for donating the white paint to add the final finishing touch to our Rainbow Crosswalk!

Locks & Lockers: We are very pleased to offer locks and lockers to students of grades 3-4 Quigley, 4-5 Butler, 5-6 Glawson, 6 Power and grades 7-12. **There is no charge for the locks or lockers.** Students who choose to take a locker are encouraged to use the locks provided by Marine Drive Academy. The lockers are available on a first come first serve basis for students in grades 7-12. Students are asked to see Mrs. Smith or Mrs. Levy during non instructional time to be assigned the locker and the lock combination.

Main Office:

The Administrative Assistant, Mrs. Levy, is away from her desk from 11:00am to 12:00pm. If you call the school and leave a message during this time, please be aware, it will not be retrieved until after 12:00pm.

School Yard Safety: Vehicles are not permitted to drive up over the hill during school hours. This route is reserved for buses dropping off and picking up elementary students & emergency vehicles.

Morning Drop-Off Time: There is no supervision at the school **until 8:10** therefore, students cannot be dropped off at school before the staff are available. Please do not drop students off prior to 8:10 as it poses a safety risk. Please take the first driveway to your left and park in the student pick up/drop off loop.

Students Being Picked Up: Students in Gr. P-12 being picked up must be signed out at the office. If someone other than the parent/guardian is picking up a student, the office requires a **note or phone call** from the parent/guardian giving the individual permission to take the student. Pre-Primary students being picked up by a parent/guardian or someone other than the parent/guardian must contact the Pre-Primary teacher(s) at 902-885-2777 ext:1591221.

After School Activities

To ensure the safety and security of our elementary students, we require a **written note** signed by parent(s) or guardian(s) if a child is going to an activity after school. For example, an after-school program with Parks and Recreation requires a written note. **Notes must be written on a separate piece of paper, as they are filed at the office.**

Reporting an Absence for PP-12 Students: For your child's safety, it is very important that you contact the school if your child will be absent or late for any reason. Please call 902-885-2777 and extension 1 to report an absence. **Leave your name, the student's name (first & last) and reason for the absence.** Leaving a message will avoid the school calling home. The absence line is available 24/7.

Students Arriving Late: We, at times, have students arriving late. We are asking for parent/guardian help in reducing the frequency of lates. Classes begin at 8:30 AM. When students arrive late it is very disruptive to the learning in the classroom as it requires the teacher to stop instruction to record attendance, while the other students are waiting to re-engage in the lesson. Thanks in advance for your support.

If a student does arrive late due to an appointment or unforeseen circumstances, they must report to the main office to sign in.

Student Demographic Forms

Student Demographic Forms will be available for updating at the end of September. Parents and guardians, please keep an eye on the email address that you provided to the school for a notification and instructions.

Unexpected Early School Closures

In the event that school is being dismissed early:

- Students in grades Pre-Primary to 6 will not be dismissed until a staff member calls and speaks with a parent, guardian or designated contact person.
- Students in grades 7 to 9 will be dismissed as usual unless parents or guardians have provided written instructions in the *Unexpected Early School Closure Arrangements* section of the Student Demographic Form.
- Students in grades 10 to 12 will be dismissed as usual.

Grad News

Important Dates:

October 2 at 6:30 pm- Grade 12 Information Meeting for Parents, Guardians and Students

October 28 at 1:30 pm- Post-Secondary Fair at Marine Drive Academy. Parents and Guardians are welcome to attend.

All grads have been invited to join the MDA GRAD 2024-25 Google Classroom where they will be notified about open houses, application deadlines, and other graduation news. Please ensure that they are checking the classroom and Ms. Walsh's website regularly (<https://sites.google.com/a/gnspes.ca/tracy-walsh/>).

Schoolcashionline

Our school will post items for purchase and assign school fees relevant to your child. You can make all purchases and payments from your phone, tablet or computer.

To get started, we ask all families to register for SchoolCash Online as soon as possible. It's free and takes less than two minutes. You will receive an email once items are posted for purchase. (To receive email notifications please click "My Account – Manage email notifications")

Visit <https://hrce.schoolcashionline.com/> and click *Register* to get started.

Need support? Connect with the SchoolCash Online help desk at schoolcashionline.com/Home/Support

We hope that *SchoolCash Online* makes paying school-related fees more convenient!



Cafeteria Online Ordering

Cafeteria Services begin on Sept 9th. Please place your order online at <https://marinedriveacademymys-ns-hrce.nutrislice.com/m/>

The new NS School Lunch Program will start on October 28th. In the meantime, visit www.NSLunch.ca for the latest program information.

Stand Up Against Bullying Day is September 12

Stand Up Against Bullying Day is recognized on the second Thursday in September across Nova Scotia. Recognizing this day early in the school year allows us to set a positive tone by engaging students in activities that focus on the importance of building healthy relationships.

HRCE is committed to ensuring that every school is a safe place to learn and succeed. We put this commitment into action through our policies, procedures, staff development, and school support.

[Please join us in taking a stance against bullying by wearing pink on September 12!](#)

Join us in observing National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

Each year, September 30 marks the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

The day honours the children who never returned home and the survivors of residential schools, as well as their families and communities. Public commemoration of the tragic and painful history and ongoing impacts of residential schools is a vital component of the reconciliation process.

Orange Shirt Day is an Indigenous-led, grassroots commemorative day intended to raise awareness of the individual, family and community intergenerational impacts of residential schools, and support the "Every Child Matters" movement. The orange shirt is a symbol of the stripping away of culture, freedom and self-esteem experienced by Indigenous children over generations.

We encourage staff and students to wear orange on **Friday, September 27**. No classes on Monday, September 30th.

Using BusPlanner

BusPlanner will provide everything you need to know about student transportation including eligibility, stop times and stop locations. Once you register and subscribe, you may also receive email notifications on changes to routes, bus delays or cancellations.

To sign up, go to BusPlanner at hrce.mybusplanner.ca and click on Parent Portal. Follow the instructions to create an account.

Don't have a BusPlanner Parent Portal account? Need help logging in? Please contact the HRCE Student Transportation Team at transportation@hrce.ca or call 902-431-4723.

BusPlanner Text Messaging

We are excited to introduce text messaging through BusPlanner. **To ensure compliance with Canadian Anti-Spam laws, you must opt-in to receive information by text message. You can opt-in by logging into BusPlanner Parent Portal.**

By opting in, you will receive texts from BusPlanner, **including late notifications, general notices, and bus cancellations due to inclement weather.**

To opt-in to text messages on BusPlanner Parent Portal, please follow these steps:

1. Log in to BusPlanner Parent Portal
2. Click *Parent*
3. Select *My Account*
4. Click *Mobile Numbers*
5. Check box to confirm you *want to receive text alerts*
6. Enter up to five phone numbers
7. Select *Update*

Don't have a BusPlanner Parent Portal account? Need help logging in? Please contact the HRCE Student Transportation Team at transportation@hrce.ca or call 902-431-4723.

Water Bottles

Students are asked to bring a water bottle to fill up at the water coolers.

Bell Schedule

Elementary Periods

Junior and Senior Periods

8:30-9:00	Period 1	8:30-9:30	Period 1
9:00-9:30	Period 2	9:30-10:30	Period 2
9:30-10:00	Period 3	10:30-10:45	RECESS
10:00-10:15	Period 4	10:45-11:45	Period 3
10:00-10:15	RECESS	11:45-12:30	LUNCH
10:30-11:00	Period 5	12:30-1:30	Period 4
11:00-11:30	Period 6	1:30-2:30	Period 5
11:30-12:15	LUNCH		
12:15-12:45	Period 7		
12:45-1:15	Period 8		
1:15-1:45	Period 9		
1:45-2:15	Period 10		
2:15-2:30	Flexible Meeting Time		

Volunteering

Volunteers make a difference!

HRCE values the many roles that volunteers play in our schools.

Parents, guardians, family members and community members who give of their time provide students with enriched learning experiences. As a volunteer, you will also discover the many rewards of helping students achieve their personal best.

We recognize our responsibility to ensure that all students attending our schools are protected by taking reasonable precautions to screen volunteers who may be working with students without direct supervision of staff. In accordance with Nova Scotia's Provincial [Volunteer Background Check Policy](#), prior to volunteering with the Halifax Regional Centre for Education, all volunteers will provide:

1. A completed Child Abuse Register search, which can be found [here](#)
2. A certified and true copy of a Criminal Records Check with Vulnerable Sector Check available [here](#), from your local Police or RCMP detachment or through online organizations endorsed by Nova Scotia law enforcement agencies

Please note: the Child Abuse Register Search and Criminal Records Check must be issued in the three months preceding volunteering and updated every three years.

Interested in helping out? We would love to have you!

Please connect with the School Principal.

For more information, please read our [Volunteer Handbook](#).






Visit www.sip.ca

Head Lice Prevention Information: The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD), has committed to following the recommendations of health care professionals and supporting school communities in the treatment and prevention of head lice.

The department's focus on the treatment and prevention of head lice is an effort to support student attendance and full participation at school. In accordance with these principles and healthcare standards, students with head lice should be treated at home and continue to attend school as usual. The confidentiality, privacy, dignity, and best interests of students and their families will be respected at all times.

"No-nit" or "no head lice" policies that keep children away from school are not effective. Head lice are common among students: they do not spread disease and cases of head lice are often misdiagnosed.

Additional information on how to prevent, find, and treat head lice is available at <https://www.nshealth.ca/sites/default/files/documents/pamphlets/07135.pdf>

Important School Dates		
September	October	November
		
Sept 5 – First Day of Classes	Oct 1 – Treaty Day/Culturally Significant Day Oct 1-Oct 10 - Gr. 6 RWM testing	Remembrance Day – NO CLASSES
Sept 9 – Cafeteria Services Begins	Oct 2 – Gr. 7 Immunization Gr. 12 Information meeting for parents, guardians & students at 6:30	Nov 22 – Assess & Evaluation Day – P-12 NO CLASSES for PP-12
Sept 12 – Stand Up Against Bullying – WEAR PINK	Oct 11 – P.D. Day – NO CLASSES for PP-12	
Sept 17 – PP-11 Picture Day	Oct 14 – Thanksgiving Day – NO CLASSES	
Sept 26 – Curriculum Night from 6-8pm & Spirit Wear orders available	Oct 18 – Grad Photos and Retake Day	
Sept 27 – Truth & Reconciliation – Wear Orange	Oct 24 – Halloween Activities – more info to follow	
Sept 30 – National Day of Truth & Reconciliation – NO CLASSES for PP-12	Oct 25 – NSTU Conference Day – NO CLASSES for PP-12	
	Oct 28 – NS School Lunch Program Starts – more info to follow Post-Secondary Fair at 1:30	

Events Calendar: You can find our upcoming events on our website at: <https://mda.hrce.ca>