

MARINE DRIVE ACADEMY NEWS

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Principal: Mr. A. Verge

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V7 Issue 1 September/October 2026

Welcome back to another new school year!

Locks & Lockers: We are very pleased to offer locks and lockers to students of grades 3 Quigley, 4-5 Bateman, 5-6 Johnson 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. 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.

Students walking after school: For the safety of our students, we ask any students who are walking after school to please wait in the cafeteria until buses leave.

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.

Using BusPlanner

Everything you need to know about student transportation including eligibility, stop times and stop locations can be found on BusPlanner. Once you register and subscribe, you can choose to receive email and/or text message 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 through the Transportation Inquiry Form [here](#).

Universal Screening for Grades 1 and 2

Throughout the year, classroom teachers spend time getting to know their students and who they are as learners. In September, our school will be using Universal Screening in Reading for Grade 1 and 2 students. This is one of the many ways teachers will assess learning.

What is Universal Screening in Reading? It's a short (1–5 minute) activity that helps us see how your child is developing key reading skills. Think of it as a quick check-in on their reading journey, like looking at a map to see where they are and what might help them move forward.

Why do we do it? The screening helps teachers understand children's strengths and where they may need extra support. This allows us to plan instruction, so students get what they need to succeed in reading.

Important to know: This is not a test. There's no "pass" or "fail." It's a way for teachers to ensure students are supported in their learning.

Water Bottles

Students are asked to bring a water bottle to fill up at the water filling stations

Unexpected Early Closure Arrangements

- In the event of an early school closure, Marine Drive Academy will follow the Halifax Regional Centre for Education Cancellations Policy:

Students in Grades PP-6	Students in Grades 7-12
<i>In the event of an early dismissal, students in grades pre-primary to six will not be released from school unless parents/guardians or designates have been notified by the school.</i> (https://www.hrce.ca/families/cancellations) A Marine Drive Academy staff member will call the people whose names and telephone numbers are provided by parents and guardians in the <i>CONTACTS</i> section of the Registration/Demographic Form until someone is reached for dismissal instructions.	<i>If you have a child in junior high or high school, you should prepare and discuss a plan for what to do if schools close early.</i> (https://www.hrce.ca/families/cancellations) There will be no phone call home.

SchoolCash Online

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](https://hrce.schoolcashionline.com/Home/Support)

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

Stand Up Against Bullying Day is September 10

On Stand Up Against Bullying Day, we come together to promote kindness, inclusion and respect in our school communities.

Every student deserves to feel safe, supported and welcome at school. On Thursday, September 10, **we invite students and staff to wear pink**, if they're able, and help show that bullying has no place in our schools.

Together, we can help create school communities where everyone feels they belong.

Join us in observing National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

On September 30, we honour the children who never returned home from residential schools, and the survivors, families and communities who continue to live with their lasting impacts.

Orange Shirt Day is an Indigenous-led movement that reminds us that Every Child Matters and encourages all of us to learn, reflect and support truth and reconciliation.

As there are no classes on Wednesday, September 30, **we invite students and staff to wear orange, if they're able, on Tuesday, September 29.**

Bell Schedule

Elementary Periods

Junior and Senior Periods

8:30-10:15	Class Begins	8:30-9:30	Period 1
10:15-10:30	RECESS	9:30-10:30	Period 2
10:30-11:30	Classes	10:30-10:45	RECESS
11:30-12:15	LUNCH	10:45-11:45	Period 3
12:15-2:30	Classes	11:45-12:30	LUNCH
		12:30-1:30	Period 4
		1:30-2:30	Period 5

Non-Teaching Substitutes

The Halifax Regional Centre for Education maintains substitute lists for non-teaching positions to provide short term coverage to schools when permanent staff are away. Substitutes are placed in day-to-day assignments on an as needed basis.

Do you or someone you know have experience as an administrative assistant/secretary and would like to have your name added to the substitute list, please visit <https://www.hrce.ca/employment>.

We are also looking for lunch monitors to monitor Gr. P-6 students at lunchtime (11:25-12:25) if interested please call Mrs. Levy.

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**](http://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**](https://www.nshealth.ca/sites/default/files/documents/pamphlets/07135.pdf)

Indigenous Significant dates

September - WIKUMKEWIKU'S - Sounds like: We-gump-ge-we-gose - Means: Moose Calling Time	September 30 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Lukowinu'k Na'kwekmuow (Labour Day) Toqa'q (Autumn)
October - WIKEWIKU'S - Sounds like: We-gea-we-goose - Means: Animal Fattening Time	October 1 Treaty Day in Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq History Month Mu'ualut Niskam (Thanksgiving Day) Sktte'kmujaia'timk (Halloween)
November - KEPTEKEWIKU'S - Sounds like: Gep·tê·ge·wi·guus - Means: River Freezing Moon	Nov 9-15 Rock Your Mocks Sma'knis Na'kwekm (Remembrance Day) Kesik (Winter) Nipi Alasutmamk (Christmas Day)

Important School Dates		
September	October	November
		
Sept 3rd – First Day of Classes	Oct 1 st – Treaty Day	Nov 4th - Take Your Kids to Work Day
Sept 7th - Labour Day - NO CLASSES	Oct 5th - Gr. 7 Immunization Oct 5-16th - Gr. 6 RMW Testing	Nov 6th - AARAO 1:30-2:30
Sept 8th - Lunch Program Begins	Oct 12 th – Thanksgiving Day – No Classes	Nov 11th - Remembrance Day - NO CLASSES
Sept 10 th – Stand Up Against Bullying – Wear Pink	Oct 19th - Grad Photos and Gr PP-11 retake Day	Nov 20th - Assess & Evaluation Day - Gr. PP-12 NO CLASSES

		Term 1 Ends
Sept 15 th – Lunch Program Begins	Oct 25 th - NSTU Conference Day - NO CLASSES	
Sept 15 th – PP-11 Picture Day	Oct 29 th - Grad Information Meeting at 6:30pm	
Sept 24 th - PMG School Clothing - more info to follow	Oct 31 st - Happy Halloween	
Sept 25 th P.D. Day - NO CLASSES PMG School Clothing - more info to follow		
Sept 29 th – Wear Orange for National Day for Truth and Reconciliation		
Sept 30 th - National Day for Truth and Reconciliation – No Classes		

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