Atlantic Memorial Terence Bay Elementary

October 2026

Principal: Carrie McBay
Vice Principal: Nancy Smith
Administrative Assistant: Genna McDonald

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www.amc.hrce.ca

Message to Atlantic Memorial Terence Bay Families:

A Wonderful Start to the School Year!

We've had a wonderful start to the school year! September was a busy and productive month, with several safety drills taking place. Our students and staff handled each one exceptionally well. We also loved welcoming families for Curriculum Night, providing a wonderful opportunity to connect with and introduce you to the amazing AMTB team.

Throughout September, our teachers worked hard to establish classroom routines, build relationships with their students, and learn more about each child's individual strengths and areas for growth. Students have been engaged each day in purposeful, curriculum-based learning experiences.

We're also delighted to share that, thanks to the generosity and support of our school community, we raised $756.40 for the Terry Fox Foundation. Thank you for helping make this possible!

Carrie McBay — Principal
Nancy Smith — Vice Principal

School Photo Days:

Adam's Photography will be taking school photos on Monday, October 5th P-2 and Pre-Primary and Tuesday, October 6th 2/3-5. Please see email sent on Monday for more specific information.

End of Day Dismissal Requests:

Whenever possible, if you need to pick your child up early, please do so before 2:45p.m. After this time, classes are preparing for dismissal, making it difficult to reach students. If your child's dismissal plans change, please notify the office by 2:30 p.m. at 902-852-2166 to ensure we can make the necessary arrangements.

Thank you for your cooperation!

Upcoming Dates

October is Mi'kmaq History Month
Learn more here.

October 1
Treaty Day (schools open)

October 5
School Photos Day P-2 and PP and SAC Meeting at 6pm
(see School Website for SAC information)

October 6
School Photos Day 2/3-5 and P-5 Sibling Photos if requested

October 12
Thanksgiving Day
(no classes)

October 23
NSTU Conference Day (no classes)

Coming Up:
November 2
SAC Meeting at 6pm

November 11
Remembrance Day (no classes)

November 20
Assessment and Evaluation Day
(no classes)

November 21
Holiday Market and Fair
10am-1pm *Save the Date*

School Hours P-5
8:40 Playground Supervision Begins
8:55 Students enter
9:00 Classes Begin
10:35-10:50 Recess
12:00-12:55 Lunch
3:00 Dismissal

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**.

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. We can help families navigate complicated situations when they are involved with many different services. This helps ensure everyone is communicating clearly and working on shared goals. SchoolsPlus can also help connect families to community resources and offers mental health support in schools. Contact the SchoolsPlus Facilitator for your school to make a referral. You can find additional information here.

Drop Off & Bus Loop Reminders:
- Drop Off Loop is for quick drop-off only. Pull up to the front of the loop and put your vehicle in park.
- Your child should be ready to **exit quickly on the sidewalk side** with all their belongings.
- Do not pass other vehicles or park in Drop Off Loop.
- If you need to walk your child to the front door, park in the parking lot instead of using Drop Off Loop.
- The Bus Loop is not for student drop-off. Only staff vehicles are permitted there for parking**.**

Lunch Monitors:
We are looking for a few people who love spending time with children who have an hour a day (12pm-1pm Atlantic Memorial Site) to join our Lunch Monitor Team. This is a paid position which is excellent for someone looking for a part-time job. If you or someone in the community is interested, please reach out to us at email: amtb@hrce.ca for more information on how to apply.



Fire Prevention Week: October 4-10
Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency is inviting families to take part in Fire Prevention Week, October 4–10. Visit 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 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:
Every school day, thousands of HRCE students rely on the bus to get to and from school safely.

School Bus Safety Week is a chance to highlight the simple habits that help keep everyone safe – from waiting well back from the road, to following the driver's instructions, to staying alert around stopped school buses.

With more than 33,000 HRCE students travelling on more than 400 buses each day, safety depends on all of us: students, families, drivers, schools and motorists.

This week is a good opportunity 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.



Power Outage Information for Families:
As we move into the winter months, we want to share how decisions are made when a school experiences a power outage.

Our priority is always to keep schools open safely when possible. A power outage does not automatically mean classes are cancelled – even if it happens during the school day. The decision depends on when power is expected to be restored.

Here's what happens

When a school loses power, HRCE's Operations Team contacts Nova Scotia Power to gather available details on the cause and an estimated restoration time.

Once we have this information, we consider:

- Before school starts: Have buses begun their routes? If so, we wait until students arrive before making a decision. If classes are cancelled, elementary families will be contacted before dismissal.
- During the school day: How close is dismissal? What is the temperature in the building? Does the school rely on power for water or septic systems? These factors, among others, help us decide whether to stay open or close. Often, power returns faster than we could safely send students home.

If classes are cancelled:

- HRCE will notify families by email and text.
- Families of elementary students will also receive a phone call before dismissal.
- Deciding to close schools during a power outage is never simple, but safety is always our top priority. We understand that cancellations can be inconvenient, and our goal is to keep students learning in class whenever possible.

More information about school cancellations for any reason can be found here.

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.

