

AJ Families,

Please find below information for our school community:

Picture Day: Picture day has been rescheduled! It will be on Friday, October 18th and retakes will take place on Monday, November 18th.

School Advisory Council: Our first meeting will take place online on Wednesday, October 2nd. We have parent volunteers for all grades but are happy to have additional parent volunteers or community members attend. Please reach out to [adoucette@hrce.ca](mailto:adoucette@hrce.ca) if you would like the meeting link.

Here is another way to stay connected to our school community:

Follow us on X: @AJSmeltzer

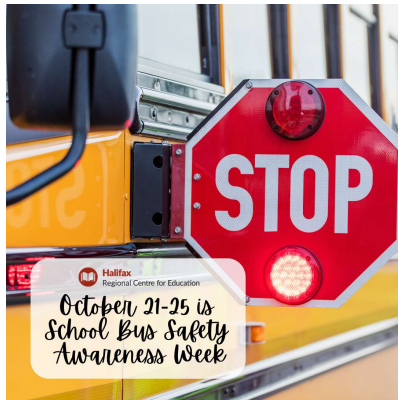
Follow us on Instagram: @ajsmeltzerjuniorhigh



**National Day for Truth and Reconciliation:**

Each year on September 30, National Day for Truth and Reconciliation honors the children who didn't return from residential schools, as well as survivors, their families, and communities. Orange Shirt Day, led by Indigenous communities, aims to raise awareness about the intergenerational impacts of residential schools and allows us all to show our support for the Every Child Matters movement.

As there are no classes on Monday, September 30, we welcome staff and students to wear orange on Friday, September 27.



## School Bus Safety Week

October 21-25, 2024 is School Bus Safety Week in Nova Scotia!

Did you know that more than 30,000 HRCE students ride the school bus every day?

School Bus Safety Week is a great time to remind students, families and schools of a few daily safety tips that everyone can follow to ensure all students get to school safely.

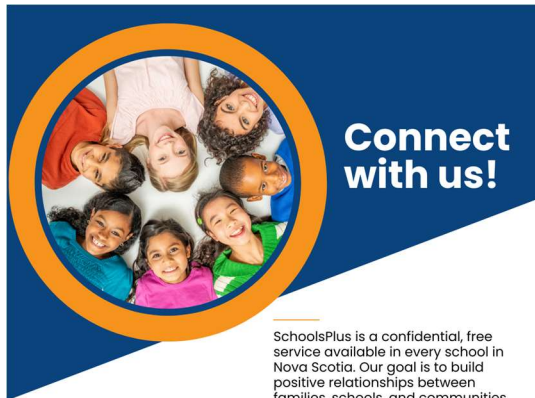
### Bus Stop Safety

- 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.

You can find out more information about School Bus Safety Week, including more safety tips, [here](#).



**Connect  
with us!**

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.



**Phone:** 902-464-2041  
**Email:** schoolsplus@hrce.ca  
**Twitter:** @HRCESchoolsPlus

### 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](#).

Mark these important HRCE dates on your calendar!

OCTOBER <b>11</b>	<b>NO CLASSES</b> Professional Development Day - PP-12
OCTOBER <b>14</b>	<b>NO CLASSES</b> Thanksgiving - PP-12
OCTOBER <b>25</b>	<b>NO CLASSES</b> NSTU Conference Day - PP-12

Halifax  
Regional Centre for Education

Important dates in October:

October is Mi'kmaq History Month

October 1: Treaty Day

October 4: National Day of Action for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

October 11: Professional Learning Day (no classes for PP-12)

October 14: Thanksgiving (no classes for PP-12)

October 18: Picture Day at AJ

October 25: NSTU Conference Day (no classes for PP-12)

October 31: Diwali

Please reach out to me with any questions or concerns.

Best,  
Andrea Doucette  
Principal AJ Smeltzer