



Good Afternoon AJ Families,

Hope that you had a great long weekend. Please take a moment to review the information below:

Nova Scotia School Lunch Program:

AJ Smeltzer is a part of the Nova Scotia School Lunch Program! This year's lunch program is better than ever, and we encourage all families to take part. The menu has been updated with more kid-approved favorites like chicken nuggets, pancakes, and more pasta dishes. We've also updated our school kitchen, and meals will be prepared onsite with a food service vendor. Every day, students can count on a tasty and nutritious meal at school beginning October 6th, 2025. Please see the menu and order at nslunch.ca. The lunches are affordable for every family because the Program is pay-what-you-can. After choosing lunches, the ordering system gives families three payment options: pay the \$6.50 cost of the lunch, pay a part of the cost, or pay nothing.

School Advisory Council:

School Advisory Councils play an important role in supporting student success at the school community level. We are currently looking for two parent volunteers (one grade 6 and one grade 7) that would be interested in serving on the School Advisory Council. Please reach out to dlee@hrce.ca to express your interest. Meetings will be held online beginning in October.

Grade Six Provincial Assessment:

The Nova Scotia Assessment: Reading, Writing, and Mathematics/Mathématiques Assessment in Grade 6 is administered over 4-days in October. Our dates at AJ Smeltzer are listed below. Please see the attached pamphlet for additional information

Tuesday October 7th and Wednesday October 8th, 2025: Reading and Writing
Wednesday October 15th and Thursday October 16th, 2025: Mathematics

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation:

Each year on September 30, National Day for Truth and Reconciliation honours 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 inter-generational 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 29 and Tuesday, September 30, staff and students wore orange on Friday, September 26.

Treaty Day: Wednesday October 1st, 2025:

Celebrating and recognizing Treaty Day is an important way we can strengthen understanding and respect for Indigenous cultures and histories. It highlights the significance of treaties as living agreements that shape relationships between Indigenous peoples and the government. By educating students about Treaty Day, we promote awareness of Indigenous rights and contributions and encourage reconciliation. This celebration helps build a more inclusive and respectful society, where students learn the importance of honouring commitments and working together for a better future.

Mi'kmaq History Month:

October is Mi'kmaq History Month, a time to celebrate and recognize the rich culture, history, and contributions of the Mi'kmaq people. In our schools, we can honour this month by incorporating Mi'kmaq stories, traditions and teachings into our curriculum. Activities such as guest speakers, art projects and cultural events can help students appreciate and understand the significance of Mi'kmaq heritage. Please join us in offering our respect, awareness and appreciation for the Mi'kmaq community and their enduring legacy. Learn more [here](#).

HRCE Demographic Information:

Families received an email last week requesting you to complete the 2025 – 2026 Demographic Updates form. The email notification will come from *PowerSchool Enrollment* with a subject line of **HRCE Student Demographic Update for “Your Student.”** This form should be updated by every family to ensure that all information about your child is current, including contacts, medical information, and demographics. Even if there are no anticipated changes, please review this information and submit the form. This information will then be reviewed by the school before updates are finalized. The deadline to submit the form online is October 6, 2025.

Upcoming Dates: 2025 / 2026

October 1st: Treaty Day

October 6th: School Pictures

October 7th & 8th: Grade Six Provincial Assessment (Reading and Writing)

October 13th: Thanksgiving Day, No Classes Primary to Grade Twelve

October 15th & 16th: Grade Six Provincial Assessment (Mathematics)

October 24th: Nova Scotia Teachers Union, Conference Day No Classes Primary to Grade Twelve

October 30th: AJ Smeltzer School Dance

Best,

Dean Lee

AJ Smeltzer Principal