

13 September 2022

Hello HCJH Families,

It has been a great start to the year to see all our students back. Teachers are taking the time over the first week and half to get to know your children about their interests inside and outside of school so they can incorporate those interests into their lesson planning for the year.

School Dance

The very first school dance of the year is this Thursday from 6:30 to 8:30pm. The cost \$6:00. We know that many people are not set up for the online payment yet, thus students can **pay in cash** by the end of the school day Thursday. There will be a canteen set up at the dance for students to purchase snack items that evening.

School Locks

Only grade 6 and new students will need to pay for school lock. Cost is \$6.00. Please bring in money asap if you have not done so.

Back to School Plan

Although we are returning to a more normal school experience, please know we will continue to follow the advice of public health. We encourage everyone to get vaccinated, stay home if you are not feeling well, sanitize your hands and support those who continue to wear a mask.

Off Property at Lunch Time

Forms were handed out to grade 7 and 8 students to be signed by parent. Students in grade 7 and 8 can leave property at lunch if permission form has been signed and returned. **Grade 6 students are not permitted off property at lunch time.**

Hold & Secure / Lockdown Drills

During a **ILockdown** drill, classroom doors are secured and the students remain out of site and quiet inside the room until instructed by the administration to resume their activities. All exterior doors are locked and no one is permitted to enter or leave the building.

During a **Hold and Secure** drill, classroom and school doors are secured, but teachers carry on as usual in their classrooms teaching the curriculum.

Just as we prepare our students to properly respond to a fire drill, they also need to be aware of the proper response during a lockdown drill. These drills should be treated with the same level of importance as fire drills.

Please be assured that staff at our school will spend time discussing the importance of this procedure with students prior to running a drill. We will also take time after the drill to remind them that it was only a practice and there was no danger. When possible, our School Liaison Officer may assist us in conducting the lockdown drills just as the Fire Department assists with evacuation drills.

Please take the time to speak with your child about this procedure and reinforce its importance. We practice these drills to ensure our school remains a safe place for teaching and learning.

Please contact us if you have any questions about these drills.

Curriculum Night

Tuesday, September 27th. Details will be sent out next week.

SchoolCash Online

Paying school-related fees is now easier and more convenient.

HRCE has launched a new system that will allow you to make payments electronically, with the click of a button. From lunch orders to yearbook fees, you will be able to make all payments safely, securely and quickly through **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.

We would like families to register as soon as possible.

To get started, please register for **SchoolCash Online**. It's free and takes less than two minutes. You will receive an email once items are posted for purchase. There is a small fee attached to each transfer that goes to the service provider (4%) but signing up does not have any cost.

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

Safe Arrival

SchoolMessenger Safe Arrival is now available to parents/guardians for reporting student absences using one of the three methods below:

For all methods, parents will have two choices.

- **Full Day** absence with a reason of **Absent with Notification**.
- **Multiple Days** absence with a reason of **Absent with Notification**. **Up to five consecutive absences** can be entered at a time.

If your child will be arriving late or if your student will only be absent for part of the day, please report a **Full Day Absence**, and when the student arrives the absence will be adjusted by the school.

If your child is absent and the absence has not been reported in advance, you will receive notifications via email, text, and phone calls from SchoolMessenger.

To report your student absent, you can use any of the following methods:

1) PowerSchool Parent/Student Portal

Parents/guardians can log in to <https://sishrsb.ednet.ns.ca/public/> to access the SchoolMessenger website to report future absences.

2) SchoolMessenger App

Parents/guardians can download the SchoolMessenger app for Android and iOS devices, create an account and use their email that the school has on record for them as their username.

3) Toll-Free Number

Parents/guardians can call 1-833-582-6940 to report future absences using an automated system.

All three methods are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Absences can be reported at any time before the start of school on the day the student will be absent. Up to five consecutive absences can be recorded at once.

If you have students attending other schools, please continue to report absences using the existing procedures for those schools.

For more detailed information and Frequently Asked Questions, please visit <https://www.hrce.ca/SafeArrival>.

Important Dates

September 15 - School Dance

September 27 - **School Picture Day** / Curriculum Night

September 30 - Truth & Reconciliation Day (NO SCHOOL)