

École John W. MacLeod Fleming Tower School



November 2023 News

HAVE YOU HEARD ...

We would like to take a moment to thank you for the overwhelming response to the HSA's Halloween Bingo. Thank you so much for all the fantastic donations; we couldn't have done it without you. Thank you as well going to the organizers and our wonderful volunteers for all your hard work. Funds will go towards the purchase of a gaga ball court. We are excited about future events!

Thank you for supporting our Terry Fox Run on October 19th. Our school set a fundraising goal of \$2000, which we surpassed! We are happy to announce that we raised \$2,355 in donations this year. This year marked our 37th year of participation. In total, JWMFT has raised a remarkable \$152 031.45 in total. Wow. What an incredible accomplishment!

Warm Clothing:

It is hard to believe that November is already here! As the weather will increasingly get colder, we ask that you please talk with your child about the importance of wearing those wonderful warm sweaters and jackets you send with them on a daily basis. Staff work hard to encourage them to wear the proper clothing but your encouragement would certainly help our efforts. Thank you for your support.

Reminder: Life Threatening Allergies:

As you are aware, we have several students who have life-threatening allergies to peanuts/nuts and associated products, as well as kiwi. We are a peanut aware school and ask that parents avoid sending things containing nuts and nut products. The weeks following Halloween can sometimes be tricky as some students put items into their lunch bags without thoroughly checking labels. Additionally, some of our students have medical conditions which can be worsened by scented products. We are also a scent smart school and encourage visitors to avoid wearing strong scents when at school.

School Operations and Student Safety:

It is really important that all students and visitors to the school follow the safety precautions and protocols we have in place. Student Supervision starts at 8:05 am. No vehicles should be driving onto school property during arrival and

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Report cards go home

November 22

Picture Retake Day

November 23

PD Day am; Parent/Teacher Interviews afternoon/evening

December 4

PD Day; No school for students

Principal –
Tracy Marchand

Vice Principal: Denise Jarvis

Administrative Assistant – Kim
Ritcey

1511 Purcell's Cove Road
Halifax, NS B3P 1B7

Phone: 479-4437
Safe Arrival: 1-833-582-6940
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Website: <https://jwm.hrce.ca/>

Email: jwm@hrce.ca



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dismissal time to drop off/pick up students (8:05-9:00; 2:30-3:15). This is in the interest of keeping all students safe. Students arriving late should come to the office to get checked in by office staff, so we can accurately report attendance. All visitors to the building need to enter through the front door and check with office staff before proceeding to other areas of the school, including classrooms. We thank you for your cooperation.

Inclement Weather Plan:

Winter is close at hand and along with it come concerns of ice/snowstorms and possible early dismissals. On rare occasions, schools may also be cancelled because of some type of mechanical/electrical failure. When this happens, we need to be sure that someone is home or that the students have a plan in place if a parent/guardian is not at home. In the event of a mid-day closure, the school will reach out to the names designated as contacts for your child to inform them of the early closure. **No student will be released without a parent, emergency contact or designate being contacted by phone.** In case of early morning inclement weather, HRCE will decide whether or not to cancel school and will announce on the local radio stations, the HRCE website (www.hrce.ca) and through the school cancellation number (464-4636) usually by 6:00 a.m. As well, you can be notified by email and/or text. Click the notification button on the HRCE website to register (www.hrce.ca) We belong to the J.L. Ilsley Family of Schools. If school is cancelled for the J.L family, then JWMFT is closed. If busses are not running but schools are open in the J.L. family, then we are open for walkers and students being driven to school. There is also a possibility that we could have a delayed opening on inclement weather days – with schools starting 2 hours later than normal start time. If this occurs, it will be clearly communicated as well.

Occasionally, the school may be cancelled during the school day. In such cases, the HRCE will inform the schools by 11:00 a.m. Radio stations will also announce school closures. If you see that weather conditions are becoming more severe, then please listen to your radio for a possible announcement of a mid-day closure.

Changes to Dismissal Plan:

As we are sure you can appreciate, the office receives frequent calls to deliver messages to students about changes to afternoon dismissal plans. Due to the busy nature of the office, we cannot guarantee that messages will get delivered by dismissal time, especially if they are left on voicemail later in the day. We

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understand that there are times when emergencies arise and a phone call is necessary, however, we like to ask that, *when possible*, arrangements for after school plans be communicated via the classroom teacher in the form of a note. The teacher can then highlight the message as part of the dismissal plan to ensure students arrive safely to their destination. As a reminder, students are only permitted to ride on the school bus if they are registered to be on that bus. If your child is not yet registered, we would be happy to help you with that process. Bus drivers will be doing manifest checks during the month of November.

New Hot Lunch Program Starting in December:

We will be implementing a new hot lunch program in December called Healthy Hunger. This will give the option to parents/guardians to order on a weekly and/or monthly basis. Pizza, subs and pasta will still be available on the same days, but subs will now be sold through Subway vs. Uncle Buck's.

Remembrance Day, Assessment and Evaluation Day and Parent/Teacher:

There is no school for students on three days this month: Monday, November 13th (Holiday), Friday, November 17th (Assessment & Eval) and Thursday, November 23rd (Parent/Teacher).

Report Cards:

Report cards will be distributed to families via email between November 21st-28th.

Parent Teacher Interviews and PD:

Parent Teacher interviews will be taking place on Thursday, November 23rd. There is no school for students in the am due to PD taking place. Interviews will start in the afternoon from 1:00-3:30 pm and resume in the evening from 5:00-7:30 pm. You will be contacted by your child's teacher to confirm an appointment time.

PD Day:

A professional development day is scheduled for staff on Monday, December 4th. There is no school for students on this day.

Picture Retakes:

Parent/guardians should have received and returned picture proofs. Picture retake day is happening on Wednesday, November 22nd.

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Remembrance Day Assembly:

Remembrance Day is on November 11, a perfect time of year to remember not only those who have served and continue to serve in our military, but all the important people in our lives. When we think of Remembrance Day, we often think of the older soldiers who fought in WW1, WW2, and Korea, but there are thousands of men and women of all ages serving in our country's military today. Despite Canada's international role as peacekeepers, our soldiers are often deployed overseas into areas of armed conflict, and the long-term fallout impacts not only our soldiers when they return home to Canada, but also their immediate family, extended family and friends. As such, November is a good time to reflect on the importance of all the relationships we have in our lives and to value those we often overlook.

Asking questions, sharing memories and telling stories are some simple ways to begin learning from the people around us. Each generation thinks they invented the wheel, but the truth is, we have so much to learn from those who have gone before us. And in the case of our soldiers of all generations, we have much to be grateful for.

During our Remembrance Day Assembly on November 8, we would like to take a moment to remember. We invite you to send in a picture (preferably electronic) of a past or current service member to be included in our assembly. Please make sure the name of the individual is clearly marked (and what student they are related to) along with any description you think is applicable. Please send photos to tmarchand@hrce.ca or you can provide a hard copy to the office (to be returned). Our intent is to keep adding to our photo gallery, year after year. Pictures will be displayed in a slide show format. If pictures could be sent in by Monday, November 6th, that would be appreciated. Thanks in advance!

School Advisory Council Vacancies:

Previously we sent an email asking for your help in filling two vacancies on our School Advisory Council. We are currently recruiting both a parent and community member seat. Please send an expression of interest to our SAC Chair, Maria Pryde - hrce-sac-jwm@gnsps.ca

Affirming Adults in the School Community:

This free interactive 75-minute webinar explores the vital role that all adults across the whole school community can take up in promoting environments where

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2SLGBTQI youth can thrive. The Webinar will consider key characteristics of what being affirming means and share practical strategies / support resources you can put to use right away. Participants will also have an opportunity to exchange promising tips and tools with one another. Teachers, school administrators, support staff, parents/guardians and community partners are all encouraged to join us for this rich and critical discussion! Click on link below to sign up:

[English | November 14, 2023 | 4:30pm-6:00pm ET](#)

Art Cards Fundraiser

JWMFT is participating in an art card fundraiser again this year, as we have the past couple of years. However, we are using a different company to produce our work as they offer a greater variety of items and appear to have better pricing for families. The company we are using this year is Createdbykids.ca. Items available for order will include not only greeting cards but also mugs, canvas prints, calendars, stickers, blankets, water bottles, lunch kits, pillowcases, and more.

Expected timeline:

- 1) Artwork will be completed and sent home by Wednesday November 1st.
- 2) Orders must be placed by Tuesday, November 7th.
- 3) Artwork and order form (on back of artwork) must be returned to school by Wednesday, November 8th.
- 4) Items will be shipped for production on November 9th.
- 5) We expect to receive final products the week of Dec 4-8th.

November Mindfulness Memo: Positive Self Talk:

When children are upset, their self-talk is likely to become negative.

Teach your children how to speak to themselves kindly by asking, "What would you say to a friend who was feeling like this or had this problem?" They are likely to have some kind, supportive words. Encourage your children to use those same kind words when thinking about themselves.

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