



Dear Bel Ayr Families,

It is hard to believe that October has already arrived! The staff and students are settling in very nicely to the new school year. I would like to personally thank everyone for the warm welcome to the Bel Ayr community.

September was a busy month. We participated in several events such as stand up against bullying day, Truth and Reconciliation by wearing orange, and the students of Bel Ayr participated in the Terry Fox run.

Terry Fox Run Highlights-

- As a school, Bel Ayr students completed 925 laps around the school which is equivalent to 185 kilometers! Our school ran 4.5 full marathons! Well done!
- On Tuesday, September 29th our students participated in our annual Terry Fox Run and received a presentation from the Terry Fox Foundation. To continue our annual fundraising initiatives, we are asking families to continue our tradition of "Toonies for Terry" in an attempt to have the school donate at least \$2 for every student at Bel Ayr. Over the past 28 years our school has fundraised over \$9000.00 with an average of over \$300.00 per school year. This fundraising initiative is optional but we would love to get our community involved. Families and friends can also donate using their online platform through the following website:
<https://schools.terryfox.ca/142034/donate>

School Advisory Council (SAC)

Bel Ayr is presently looking for volunteers to sit on our council. We meet 6 times a year. The meetings are an hour in length and can be a hybrid model. Both in person or virtual. Our first meeting will be in person at 4:30pm at the school on October 19th. I would like to welcome any community members /parents/guardians that might be interested to attend the meeting. We need at least one parent/guardian representative, and one community member. Please feel free to reach out and contact the school for more information or click on the following links below.

[School Operational Documents - School Advisory Councils.pdf - All Documents](#)

[Nova Scotia School Advisory Handbook.pdf](#)

Upcoming Dates:

OCTOBER - Mi'kmaw History Month

1st: Treaty Day

7th: Picture Day (morning)

7th: SAC (6PM) and Home and School (7PM) Meetings

12th: Thanksgiving Day - no classes all schools

13th: Bus Evacuation Drill

19th-21st: Grade 6 Provincial Assessments - Reading and Writing

26th-28th: Grade 6 Provincial Assessments - Mathematics

22nd: Family Halloween Dance 7-8pm with DJ K

23rd: NSTU Provincial conference day - no classes all schools



Upcoming November Dates:

5th : Remembrance Day Ceremony

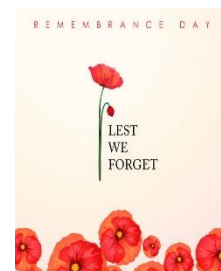
10th: Picture retake day

11th: No School, Remembrance Day

20th: Assessment and Evaluation Day End of Term 1. -no school for students.

Remembrance Day Ceremony,

We will have an assembly on November 5th with musical Guest Terry Kelly. Students are encouraged to wear a uniform (scouts, guides, cadets etc.). We are also inviting any veterans or anyone that has served or is currently in service to attend our ceremony. If there is anyone that would like to say a few words and be an honored guest, please reach out to the school. More information to follow as the date approaches.



Lice

Head lice has been identified at Bel Ayr. Head lice and nits commonly occur in students of this age. While Bel Ayr staff will be vigilant in watching for new cases, please do your part to prevent the spread of this communicable condition by checking your child(ren) daily for the next few weeks and on a regular basis thereafter.

Coordinating efforts between school and home significantly reduces the frequency of lice and nit occurrences and we thank you in advance for your attention to this matter. Please click the following link for more information.

[Head Lice Guidelines Memo.docx](#)

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. You should be at your bus stop 5 minutes before the bus arrives:

Roslyn stop is 8:12am which means you should be at the bus stop at 8:07am,
Cranberry/Pondicherry is 8:13 am which means 8:08am and Regal road is 8:23am
so this means 8:18am.

- 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.

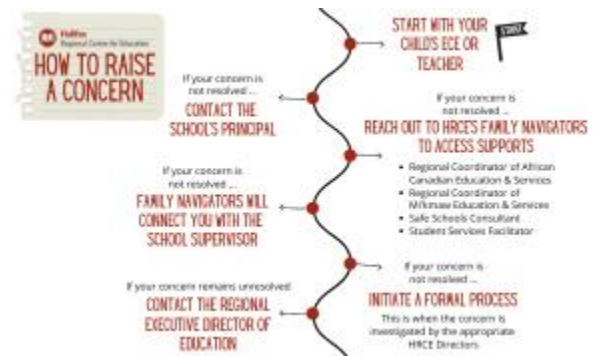
School Bus Safety

- 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](#).

Do you know how to raise a concern?

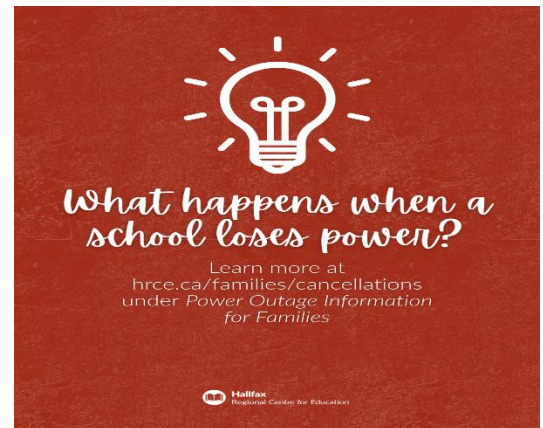


Did you know that there's a protocol in place to help families contact schools or the HRCE office when you have concerns about your student's education or well-being?

- 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.



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](#).

Halloween Howl

The Home and School will be organizing a Halloween Howl on October 22nd at 7pm. There will be a 50/50 draw and prizes for the following:

- ❖ Most creative costume – Student will read the announcements in the morning.
- ❖ Scariest Costume – Student will win extra recess time for their class
- ❖ Best Group Costumes- these students/family will win Concert VIP tickets (front row)
- ❖ Best Dance Moves- will win the chance of being Principal for the day 😊

Good Luck to Everyone!!

