



Dartmouth South Academy

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Principal: Jacquelyn Reid

Vice Principals: Ashley Grant & Sarah Petrie

Administrative Assistants: Amanda Drake & Doug Jarvis



Dear Dartmouth South Academy Families,

What a fabulous first month we have had at DSA! September has been filled with many learning opportunities and lots of activity around the school. Our students have been busy with soccer, cross country, Kids Run Club, and Stand Up Against Bullying Day, and we've also enjoyed learning about a true Canadian hero during our Terry Fox Run. We closed out the month by honouring Orange Shirt Day and the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, giving us all an opportunity to learn, reflect, and reaffirm our commitment to reconciliation.

It has also been wonderful to see our students being celebrated in so many ways already this year, including our Fantastic Friday Phone Calls! There is nothing better than hearing about the great things our students are doing and sharing those moments with families.

We have lots to look forward to in October! Our Halloween Howl is coming up on October 22. Stay tuned for more information on this event in the coming weeks. Thank you to everyone who joined us for our first SAC/PTO meeting in September. We are excited to continue building opportunities for families to be involved in the life of DSA.

Staying connected is important to us. Recently, you should have received an email from PowerSchool asking you to complete the annual Returning Student Registration Form. Even if your information hasn't changed, please be sure to log in and submit the form. This update also includes the *consent for publication* and dismissal plans for early closures. If you run into any issues, please don't hesitate to call the office; we're happy to help.

A reminder to please pack a water bottle every day for your child. It's also that time of year when the weather can change throughout the day. We like to get our students outside as much as possible, so layers are always a good idea. Thanks for all you do! We appreciate your support and are happy to be off to a great start together.

Yours in Education,
Mrs. Reid, Ms. Grant, Ms. Petrie & The DSA Team





Date	Event
October 1	Treaty Day & Mi'kmaq Heritage Month Begins
October 12	Thanksgiving Monday (no school)
October 14	Grade 7-8 French Immersion Classes to French for the Future Conference
October 20	SAC/PTG Meeting 6:00 PM in the Library (all welcome!)
October 20-21, 27-28	Grade 6 Provincial Assessment (Literacy & Mathematics)
October 22	Halloween Howl (6:30 PM)
October 23	Provincial Conference Day (no school for students)
October 30	Halloween Celebrations in Classrooms
November 10	Remembrance Day ceremony
November 11	Remembrance Day (no school)
November 19	Grade 7 Immunization Clinic
November 20	Assessment & Evaluation Day (no school)

[Click here for the 2026-27 HRCE School Calendar](#)

October 5th is World Teachers' Day!

World Teachers' Day has been recognized around the world since 1994 and is now celebrated in more than 100 countries. At Dartmouth South Academy, we are fortunate to have such an incredible team of educators. Our teachers bring so much care, creativity, energy, and heart to their classrooms every day. They know their students, celebrate their growth, and keep showing up to help them learn and shine. It truly takes a village, and ours is something special.



October 1 is Treaty Day

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.



October is Mi'kmaq History Month

Mi'kmaq History Month gives us an opportunity to learn more about Mi'kmaq culture, history, language, and traditions, while recognizing the important contributions of Mi'kmaq people, past and present. This year's theme, "Nepisu'lit'k (We Are Healing)" invites us to think about healing, understanding, relationships, and learning from one another.



Throughout October, students at DSA will have opportunities to learn about and celebrate Mi'kmaq culture through stories, art, language, and classroom learning. As we learn together, we are reminded of the importance of listening and continuing our shared commitment to truth and reconciliation. Learn more about Mi'kmaq History Month [here](#).

Halloween Howl

Our Halloween Howl will take place on Thursday, Oct. 22 from 6:30-8:00 PM. We will need volunteers to make this a great success. Please consider coming to our PTO Planning Meeting on Tuesday, October 13th (6:00 PM in the cafeteria). If you can volunteer for a 30 minute shift at the Halloween Howl, please email Mrs. Reid at jacqulynn.reid@hrce.ca. We are also looking for donations of Halloween decorations- new or used! Please send them in as soon as possible.

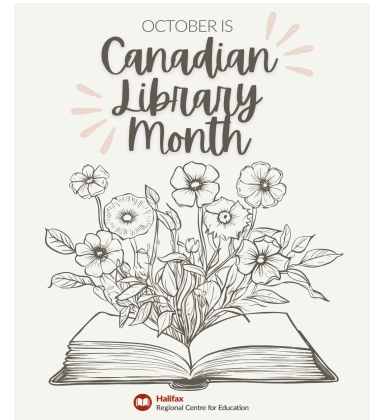


Halloween On Friday, Oct 30 students are invited to wear or bring their costumes to school. We kindly ask that students do not bring masks or toy weapons. We can't wait to see the Royals get into the Halloween spirit!



October is Canadian Library Month

October is a chance to celebrate the important role libraries play in our schools and the Library Support Specialists who bring those spaces to life. Every day, our school libraries help students discover new interests, build literacy skills, find reliable information and, sometimes, simply find a welcoming place to spend some time. Please join us in thanking our Library Support Specialist Mr. Livingston for all he does to support students and staff!



Fire Prevention Week: October 4-10

Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency is inviting families to take part in Fire Prevention Week, October 4–10. Visit halifax.ca/fpw to complete an online fire safety quiz. Want to win a Nintendo Switch, Apple products or LEGO sets? Participants who score 100% will be entered into a draw for a prize in their age category. This year's theme, "Safe Charging is a Superpower," focuses on the safe use and charging of rechargeable devices powered by lithium-ion batteries. These batteries power many everyday devices, including phones, tablets, laptops, e-bikes and power tools. If damaged or charged improperly, they can overheat and cause fires. Visit halifax.ca/fpw for contest details, videos and fire safety resources, and take a few minutes to test your smoke alarms and review your home fire escape plan.

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. 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 school: How close is dismissal? What is the temperature in the building? Does the school rely on power for water or septic systems? These factors 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 and 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.

Grade 6 Provincial Literacy & Mathematics Assessment

Students in grade 6 will participate in the Nova Scotia Provincial Assessment in Literacy and Mathematics this month. A detailed brochure will be sent to all families with students in grade 6. It is important that students are **present** on the mornings the assessment is being administered, and that they arrive **on time** so they are ready to start with the class. This will help set them up for success!

The assessment will be administered on the mornings of:

- October 20 and 21 (Literacy)
- October 27 and 28 (Mathematics)

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 what 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. 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](#).

Bus Stop Safety	School Bus Safety
• Be on time for the bus and 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.	• Please respect and listen to the drive 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 windows. • Do not throw anything inside the bus or out of the windows. • Keep the aisle clear when the bus is in motion.

Dear Families,

Hello. My name is Helen, I am a School Settlement Worker at Dartmouth South. My role is to support international families. The YMCA is here to support your family! If you have Permanent Residence, all our programs are **free** for you. We're here to make settling easier and help you feel at home in the community. Please see below a list of ways I can support.



If you are interested in accessing any of these options, please make sure you are registered with YMCA Immigrant Services. How to do that:

I'm here on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Email me to make an appointment, just bring copies of your immigration papers (PR cards) for each family member, and I'll help you get started.

For any questions, email me at helen.andrusenko@halifax.ymca.ca or call **902-830-2807**

Looking forward to meeting you,

Helen Andrusenko

For Children (Ages 5-12):

School Support: Educational support, so kids can feel comfortable and confident at school

In-school Activities: Students can join International Club at school (arts, crafts, games, celebrating international holidays). Perfect for making friends, trying new things, and getting engaged in school

Free Programming and Camps for kids: We host family/children's activities and events, including free summer camps, sports programs, art/craft programs, as well as applying for financial support for community programs

For Youth (Ages 13-21):

Language and Community Programs: Free English classes and other programs to improve language skills and build connections through our Youth Outreach Program

Employment Support: Help to create resumes/cover letters, job searches, applying for jobs, and interview preparation. College/University Program Exploration. Application and Scholarship Support

Social Programs: Activities designed to help youth make friends and enjoy their community (volunteering, leadership programs, field trips, attending special events and places, celebrating cultural holidays, sports, art, etc.)

Homework Hub: Free tutoring and homework help runs weekly, English practice

For Adults and Seniors:

Free English Classes: Improve language skills online or in-person at our Centre for Immigrant Programs

Employment Support: Assistance with resumes, job applications, and interview practice. Newcomers Job Fair

Social Groups: Groups designed for women, men, seniors, and more

Community Referrals: External referrals to resources that support your settlement and integration

Support with systemic barriers: Help applying to CCB, food supports, rent subsidies, and other financial assistance routes

Helping with emergency situations