

Robert Kemp Turner Elementary School

# NEWSLETTER

October 2024 Edition

Dear RKT Families & Community,

As we welcome October, I want to take a moment to reflect on the wonderful start to the school year. It was great to see everyone at our Open House/Meet the Teacher night on September 3rd. We received a lot of positive feedback from the community about hosting this event before the start of the school year as apposed to waiting to later in the month. We will definitely consider continuing on with this format moving forward.

Students have settled into their new classes and routines for the 2024-2025 school year. We have been experiencing beautiful autumn weather, which has been conducive to taking our learning outdoors. We have a lot of great things happening at RKT over the next few months. Follow us on twitter at @RKTelementary for a glimpse into what is happening.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank parents/guardians for their care and cooperation when navigating our parking lot area during the morning drop off and pick up time at the end of the school day. Your consideration for everyone's safety is appreciated.

As always, thank you for partnering with us. As the old adage goes, "It takes a village."

*Becky Stickings, Principal*

## Important Dates

- October is Mi'kmaq History Month
- October 1: Treaty Day
- October 4: National Day of Action for Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls
- October 11: Professional Learning Day (no classes for PP-12)
- October 14: Thanksgiving (no classes for PP-12)
- October 23: SAC Meeting 5:30-6:30pm
- October 24 - Halloween Dance
- October 25: NSTU Conference Day (no classes for PP-12)
- October 30 - Bus Evacuation Drill
- October 31: Diwali

## Head Lice in Schools



Head lice and nits commonly occur in students of elementary school age. While RKT 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) on a regular basis.

When a child is found to have head lice, they may remain at school. There is no medical reason for excluding a child with nits or live lice from school. While there is nothing to be embarrassed about, please note that our staff handle this situation sensitively when it arises in order to maintain the dignity and privacy of our students. We do inform parents/caregivers if a child is suspected of having head lice so they can receive treatment. Please note, that while head lice infestations are common, they are not dangerous, nor do they indicate uncleanliness or spread disease.

Information on finding and treating head lice may be found in this updated pamphlet from the Nova Scotia Department of Health:

<http://www.novascotia.ca/dhw/publications/public-health-education/07135-head-lice-pamphlet-en.pdf>

## Cold & Flu Season



It's cold and flu season again, which means kids will catch viruses including COVID-19. What does this mean for your child? If your child is feeling under the weather and has a fever, we ask that they stay home until the fever subsides and they are feeling well enough to be at school. Students no longer have to test for Covid-19 or have a negative test to attend school. Students can continue to mask and hand-sanitize as an extra layer of prevention if they choose.



## RKT School Advisory Council

School Advisory Councils play an important role in supporting student success at the school community level. A SAC is an advisory body to the school principal, Regional Centre for Education, and the Conseil scolaire acadien provincial on a range of issues related to the school and the school system. Membership can vary, but generally consists of the school principal, parents, teachers, and other community members.

**Click here** to learn more about School Advisory Councils, including how the role changed in 2018.

**Click here** to see the Nova Scotia School Advisory Council Handbook. See below for more important SAC documents.

For more information, visit the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development **website**

SACs are responsible for advising principals and Regional Centres (or the CSAP) on various matters, such as the development of policies that promote student achievement and safe and inclusive schools, communication with parents and the school community, and any other matters referred to the SAC by the principal, RCE, CSAP, or the Minister.

## RKT Home & School Association



Home & School is looking for volunteers to join the committee. Our next meeting is Wednesday, October 9th 5-6pm. Please feel free to attend a meeting first, before committing to joining.

If interested, please email [rkthomeandschool@gmail.com](mailto:rkthomeandschool@gmail.com).

Unable to commit right now, but want to volunteer at our events? We would be happy to hear from you! We are always looking for volunteers to help out with our events!

**Save the Date - Halloween Dance Thursday, October 24th**

## Volunteers make a difference!

HRCE values the many roles that volunteers play in our schools. Parents, guardians, family members and community members who give of their time provide students with enriched learning experiences. As a volunteer, you will also discover the many rewards of helping students achieve their personal best. Volunteers perform many different tasks in our schools. Some of the more common experiences include chaperoning field trips or special events.

## Student safety is paramount

We recognize our responsibility to ensure that all students attending our schools are protected by taking reasonable precautions to screen volunteers who may be working with students without direct supervision of staff. In accordance with Nova Scotia's Provincial **Volunteer Background Check Policy**, prior to volunteering with the Halifax Regional Centre for Education, all volunteers will provide:

A completed Child Abuse Register search, which can be found [here](#)

A certified and true copy of a Criminal Records Check with Vulnerable Sector Check available [here](#), from your local Police or RCMP detachment or through online organizations endorsed by Nova Scotia law enforcement agencies.

Please note: the Child Abuse Register Search and Criminal Records Check must be issued in the three months preceding volunteering and updated every three years.

Get  
INVOLVED





### \*New Provincial School Lunch Program

Families across Nova Scotia will soon be able to order school lunches that are affordable, nutritious and delicious. Lunches at RKT will start on October 28, with ordering opening two weeks before the first lunches are served.

Families will be able to choose between two lunch options every school day, with at least one vegetarian (no meat) lunch offered each day. In total, there will be 40 menu options that rotate weekly when the program starts in October.

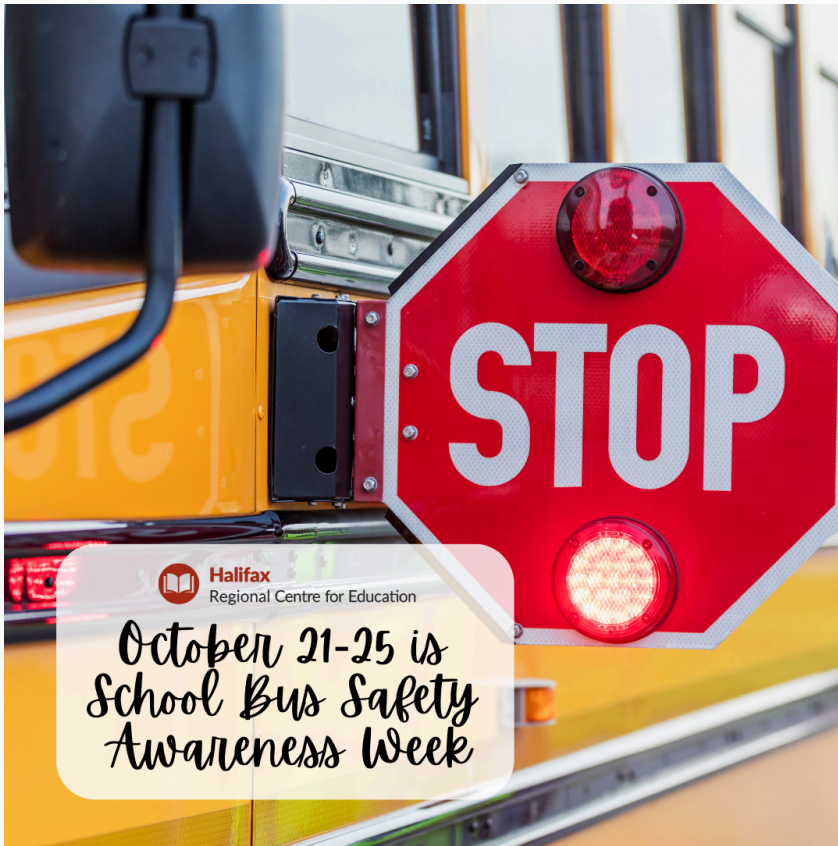
Each meal provides balanced nutrition and meets the standards outlined in Canada's Food Guide and the Nova Scotia School Food and Nutrition Policy. The menu offers options that celebrate the diversity of Nova Scotian students, such as Acadian chicken fricot, murg makhani (butter chicken), corn chowder with l'uskinikn (a traditional Mi'kmaw biscuit) and moujadara (a baked rice dish with lentils and caramelized onions). Popular student-approved favourites like macaroni and cheese and pizza are also on the menu.

Other school food programs, including the free breakfast program and snack programs will continue as usual.

If you are interested in learning more about the new school lunch program, the information can be found here:

<https://nslunch.ca/>

Here you will find answers to frequently asked questions, the list of more than 250 schools where lunch will be offered by the end of October, examples of meals and more. Program start dates for all Phase 1 schools, the full menu and the online ordering system will be added to the site throughout September.



 **Halifax**  
Regional Centre for Education

*October 21-25 is  
School Bus Safety  
Awareness Week*



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with us!**

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