

# Robert Kemp Turner Elementary School

# NEWSLETTER

September 2024 Edition

Dear RKT Families & Community,

Welcome back to school! For those who are new to Robert Kemp Turner Elementary School, I extend my warmest welcome to you and your family as you begin your learning journey with us.

Our team is committed to partnering with you to ensure that your child/children have a positive learning experience and are set up for success. Communication between home and school is important not just for teachers and parents/guardians but also for students. Educators and caregivers can work together to provide a support system that helps children thrive in school.

In the coming days you will be receiving important documents (media release forms, student information forms, and/or health care forms –if required). Please complete and return these to school as soon as possible. Also, please let us know if you have had a change of address and/or phone numbers so that we can update our system with accurate, up to date information.

It's going to be a wonderful year!

*Becky Stickings, Principal*

## Important Dates

- Tuesday, September 3 - Open House/Ice Cream Social 6-7pm
- Thursday - September 5 - First day of school for students
- Thursday, September 12 - Stand Up Against Bullying Day (Students are encouraged to wear pink)
- Monday, September 23 - School Picture Day
- Friday, September 27 - Truth & Reconciliation Day observed in schools (students are encouraged to wear orange)
- Friday, September 27 - Terry Fox Walk/Run
- Monday, September 30 - Truth & Reconciliation Day (no school)

## Safe Arrival

To report your student absent, you can use any of the following methods:  
PowerSchool Parent/Student Portal:

- Parents/guardians can log in to access the link to the SchoolMessenger website to report absences.
- 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.
- Toll-Free Number - Parents/guardians can call 1-833-582-6940 to report 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.

Students who will be absent for a portion of the school day should still be reported using the code *Absence with Notification*. When they arrive to school, we will update PowerSchool to reflect that they are present.

## \*New\* Cell Phone Policy

Nova Scotia is implementing a new Provincial Directive on Cell Phone Use in Schools to create an optimal educational environment at all grade levels that maximizes student learning, safety, and positive social interactions. This directive aims to reduce distractions and the potential for cyberbullying and inappropriate use of technology, creating school environments where children and youth can thrive. This Policy and Information Release is intended to support the Provincial Code of Conduct Policy and provide direction and clarification related to the use of personal cell phones in schools.

Beginning September 2024, all public schools in Nova Scotia will be implementing this new policy. Expectations for Elementary Schools are as follows:

- Every student, PP–12, will have their personal cell phones turned off and stored during instructional time.
- Students in grades PP–6 will turn off and store their cell phones for the entire school day, including non-instructional times.
- Cell phones are not permitted in washrooms and/or change rooms at any time.
- Exceptions may be made to address students' individual needs (medical or ability) when determined in consultation with Student Planning Team, which includes parents/caregivers.

Click here for more information: <https://www.ednet.ns.ca/cellphones>

## Emergency Drills

The start of a new school year requires us to practice being safe while at school. One way we do this is to practice exiting the building in case of a fire. School staff will be discussing this in their classrooms, at age-appropriate levels, this week and we will be doing our first drill tomorrow, Wednesday, September 11.

Another way we practice being safe at school is by participating in what we call Lockdown and Hold and Secure Drills. Look for a separate message with more information regarding this in the coming days.

The third way that we practice safety is with bus evacuation drills. This is especially important when classes begin to take field trips. Our bus evacuation drills will take place sometime in October.

## Painting in the School

Facility painting in the HRCE is done in order to preserve and maintain our buildings, to cover graffiti and to improve conditions aesthetically. While painting is a necessary function, Occupational Health and Safety guidelines are followed to prevent exposure of sensitive individuals to products and procedures that may affect their health.

Painting at RKT school began over the summer and will be completed in the coming days starting on Thursday, September 12. The areas in which the painting will be completed include the hallways, door frames and coat racks. Painting will be occurring during the instructional day but will not interfere with regular school operations. Our painter will be using Dulux Zero-VOC paint products. This is a low odour paint product, specifically formulated for public spaces such as schools, hospitals and nursing homes. If you have any questions or concerns about the painting that will be occurring at RKT, please reach out to Mrs. Stickings at [rstickings@hrce.ca](mailto:rstickings@hrce.ca).

## Reminders & Thanks

- Please do not send peanut products to school with your child as we have some students with life threatening allergies to tree nuts within our school population.
- Supervision starts at 8:10am. Please ensure that your child/children do not arrive to school before that time.
- Please send a water bottle to school with your child/children. Teachers will remind students to bring their water bottles home to be washed at the end of each day.
- Thank you everyone for adhering to our **Kiss and Drop** protocols at the beginning of each day. The safety of all staff and students is of utmost priority. We appreciate your cooperation during this busy time of the day.

# Nova Scotia Provincial Directive on Personal Cell Phone Use in Schools

Learn more: [www.ednet.ns.ca/cellphones](http://www.ednet.ns.ca/cellphones)

 Halifax  
Regional Centre for Education



Stand Up Against Bullying Day

*In a world where you can  
be anything. be kind!*

Wear pink on September 12!

 Halifax  
Regional Centre for Education





Please wear orange shirts on Friday, September 27  
to honour Orange Shirt Day and  
National Day for Truth and Reconciliation



*Don't miss  
an update!*

Sign up for BusPlanner  
updates today

