

May 2026

# SYCAMORE LANE

## NEWSLETTER



69 Sycamore Lane, Lower Sackville, NS, B4C 1E8

Website: [sle.hrce.ca](http://sle.hrce.ca)

Safe Arrival: 1-833-582-6940

**Spring 50/50** – This spring we are running a 50/50 fundraiser. We are raising funds to purchase needed supplies and materials for our students.

Tickets available here:

<https://www.rafflebox.ca/raffle/sles-spring-5050>

Thank you for your support! We invite you to share the link with friends and family.

On sale starting **March 27<sup>th</sup> to May 29<sup>th</sup> at noon. Draw date May 29<sup>th</sup> at 2 PM.**

Open to Nova Scotia Residents who are 19 years of age or older.



**SLE Spirit Wear** – Thank you to everyone who purchased Spirit Wear! Orders have been finalized and our schools order has been placed with the supplier. Spirit Wear is expected to be completed mid to late May. When we have the order is in and items are ready to be sent home we will email families to let them know we are sending home the Spirit Wear with students! Stay Tuned.

## May 15 is Black Excellence Day

Black Excellence Day 2026 in Nova Scotia is an opportunity for schools to reflect on the learning and exploration of Black people and culture over the past year. It recognizes, celebrates, and supports learning from the achievements, contributions, and leadership of Black individuals and communities. More than a single-day celebration, Black Excellence is the recognition of meaningful steps toward strengthening inclusive learning environments where all students see themselves reflected in curriculum materials, through the stories we tell and the histories we honour.

The purpose of celebrating Black Excellence in our schools and classrooms is to affirm student's identities, build confidence, and inspire futures by highlighting role Black people have made in education, science, arts, leadership, and community advocacy. It reflects and celebrates thoughtful conversations in schools about equity, representation, and the ongoing work to remove systemic barriers.

This moment of reflection also invites educators and school communities to consider how Black Excellence is represented within their own classrooms and learning spaces. For some, this may affirm intentional work already underway; for others, it may serve as an opportunity to begin or deepen this practice. Black Excellence Day reminds us that this work is ongoing, and that there is always time to plan, reflect, and be deliberate in ensuring all students see themselves meaningfully reflected in our schools.

**We welcome everyone to wear a black shirt, if you're able, on May 15 to show your support for Black Excellence Day!**



Free Live Event

# UNPLUGGED CANADA



## A National Conversation

with Unplugged Canada Ambassadors

*Tania Johnson,  
M.C.*

Co-founder of the Institute  
of Child Psychology  
Award-Winning Author

*Dr. Michele Locke,  
Ph.D.*

Clinical Psychologist  
Toronto Chapter  
Co-founder

*Kirsten Sweet,  
M.Ed.*

National Program Director  
Alberta Chapter  
Co-founder

- ✓ Explore the research: Smartphones and Social Media
- ✓ Review the Unplugged Pledge and Resources
- ✓ Join our National School Champion Program
- ✓ Check out our new resource: Operation Landline
- ✓ Invite all parents and caregivers in your school community

*Wednesday,  
May 6th*

5pm PT | 8pm ET

### Unplugged Webinar on Smartphones, Social Media and More

Unplugged Canada is hosting a LIVE webinar on May 6 every parent and caregiver needs to hear. We're talking smartphones, social media, the research — and most importantly, what we can do about it.

Hosted by Kirsten Sweet, educator and National Program Director with Unplugged Canada with Tania Johnson, Co-founder of the Institute of Child Psychology and Dr. Michele Locke, Clinical Psychologist, learn about the impact of smartphones and social media on youth and how the Unplugged Canada Pledge and our resources can spark meaningful conversations in your home, school, and community.

We'll also introduce two new initiatives: the National School Champion Program and Operation Landline — a summer campaign helping families delay smartphones and reconnect in simpler, more intentional ways.

Come ready to learn, connect, and be part of the movement. Register [here](#).



## BOGO Book Fair June 1-4

Due to the success of our 2 Book Fairs this school year, we have qualified to have a BOGO Book Fair!

That's right Buy One, Get One Free!

Excellent time to pick up some books for summer reading.

Stay tuned for more information in May about this awesome Book Fair.

## **Screen Free Summer: Digital Diet Guidance**

As summer approaches, many families are thinking about screen time. This article introduces the idea of a “digital diet,” encouraging a focus on the quality and purpose of screen use rather than just limiting it. It offers practical ways to help children build healthier, more balanced habits with technology. Read more [here](#).

## **A Few Reminders**

### **Arriving on Time**

We understand that at times students will have morning commitments and appointments that will result in arriving late to school. On regular days it is important that students arrive on time to ensure they are missing as little instructional time as possible. Instruction begins daily at 8:15 AM.

### **Early Pick Up**

When picking up students early from SLE please plan to arrive with enough time to have your student(s) called from class, gather their belongings and come to the main office for sign out. It is not necessary to phone the school before hand. Once you are here in person we will call students from class to get ready to go. Thank you for your cooperation.

### **Toys stay at home:**

A friendly reminder that students should not bring toys, fidgets, electronics, cell phones, or valuable items of any kind. These items cause distractions during learning time. Additionally, it is very heartbreaking when these items get lost or broken, please leave them at home. The school has items for students to use during non instructional time such as toys and board games for inside and equipment for outside.

### **Safe Arrival**

**-To report a student as absent choose- Absent with Notification for the FULL DAY**

**-To report a student who will arrive late choose- Absent with Notification for the FULL DAY and their attendance will be updated when they arrive at school.**

There are 3 Ways to do this:

✓ PowerSchool Parent/Student Portal (Internet) ✓ SchoolMessenger App ✓ Toll-Free Number- 1-833-582-6940

For more detailed information, Frequently Asked Questions and even a video tutorial, please visit <https://www.hrce.ca/families/general-information/safe-arrival>

# IMPORTANT DATES

May is Gaelic Nova Scotia Month  
 May is Canadian Jewish Heritage Month  
 May is Speech and Hearing Month  
 May is Asian Heritage Month  
 May is Polish Heritage Month

- May 5: Red Dress Day
- May 10: Mother's Day
- May 10-16: Education Week
- May 14: Maritime Centre for African Dance:  
African Drumming, Dance and Storytelling
- May 15: Black Excellence Day
- May 17: International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia
- May 18: Victoria Day NO SCHOOL
- May 22: Popcorn Day (purchase on SchoolCash May 14-21 at noon)
- May 26: P-5 Field Trip
- May 31-June 6: Access Awareness Week

## 2025-26 CALENDAR NOVA SCOTIA REGIONAL CENTRES FOR EDUCATION

SEPTEMBER 2025							OCTOBER 2025							NOVEMBER 2025							DECEMBER 2025											
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S					
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20					
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28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31								
														30																		

JANUARY 2026							FEBRUARY 2026							MARCH 2026							APRIL 2026						
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4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	26	27	28	29	30		
25	26	27	28	29	30	31								29	30	31											

MAY 2026							JUNE 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30				
31													

### LEGEND

- ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE/JUNIOR**
  - Term 1: Sept. 4 to Nov 21, 2025
  - Term 2: Nov 24 to Mar 23, 2026
  - Term 3: Mar 23 to Jun 30, 2026
- HIGH SCHOOL**
  - Semester 1: Sept 1, 2025 to Jan 30, 2026
  - Semester 2: Feb 2 to Jun 30, 2026
- Progress Conference meetings formerly known as Parent/Teacher Meetings will be held on the dates marked on the calendar.**

- No School ALL STUDENTS
- First Day of School/Last Day of School
- No School High School Only
- No School Elem/Middle/Jr Only
- Culturally Significant Day Schools Open

Sept 2 School Organization Day (No Classes ALL SCHOOLS)	Dec 19 Last Day for Students Before Holiday Break	Apr 6 Easter Monday (No Classes ALL SCHOOLS)
Sept 3 Professional Development Day (No Classes ALL SCHOOLS)	Dec 22 Teacher Professional Practice Day (No Classes ALL SCHOOLS)	Apr 21-Apr 28 Report Cards High School
Sept 4 First Day of School for Students	Jan 5 First Day Back After Break	Apr 29 Elem/Middle/Jr Professional Development & High School Progress Conferences/Teacher Professional Practice Day (No Classes ALL SCHOOLS)
Sept 29 Professional Development Day (No Classes ALL SCHOOLS)	Jan 27 NS Examination English 10	May 11 M'Namee Language Day (Culturally Significant Day Schools OPEN)
Sept 30 National Day for Truth & Reconciliation (No Classes ALL SCHOOLS)	Jan 28-29 High School Summative Assessments	May 15 Black Excellence Day (Culturally Significant Day Schools OPEN)
Oct 1 Treaty Day (Culturally Significant Day Schools OPEN)	Jan 30 High School Assessment & Evaluation Day/Semester 1 Ends (No Classes HIGH SCHOOL ONLY)	May 18 Victoria Day (No Classes ALL SCHOOLS)
Oct 13 Thanksgiving Day (No Classes ALL SCHOOLS)	Feb 2 Semester 2 Begins (High School)	Jun 21 National Indigenous Peoples Day (Culturally Significant Day)
Oct 24 NSTU Conference Day (No Classes ALL SCHOOLS)	Feb 3-13 Semester 1 Report Cards (High School)	Jun 22 NS Examination English 10
Nov 11 Remembrance Day (No Classes ALL SCHOOLS)	Feb 16 Nova Scotia Heritage Day (No Classes ALL SCHOOLS)	Jun 23 NS Examination Mathematics 10
Nov 21 Elem/Middle/Jr Evaluation Day (No Classes ELEM/MIDDLE/JR ONLY)	Mar 13 Elem/Middle/Jr Assessment & Evaluation Day (No Classes ELEM/MIDDLE/JR ONLY)	Jun 23-25 High School Summative Assessments
Nov 17-20 Report Cards High School	Mar 16-20 Spring Break (No Classes ALL SCHOOLS)	Jun 26 High School Assessment & Evaluation Day (No Classes HIGH SCHOOL ONLY)
Nov 24-Dec 3 Report Cards Elem/Middle/Jr	Mar 22-Apr 2 Report Cards Elem/Middle/Jr	Jun 29 Elementary and High School Assessment & Evaluation Day (No Classes ALL SCHOOLS)
Dec 4 Progress Conferences/Teacher Professional Practice (No Classes ALL SCHOOLS)	Apr 2 Elem/Middle/Jr Progress Conferences/Teacher Professional Practice Day & High School Professional Development (No Classes ALL SCHOOLS)	Jun 30 Last Day of School
	Apr 3 Good Friday (No Classes ALL SCHOOLS)	



## 2025-2026 Calendar

Did you know that you can sync the HRCE Calendar to your digital calendar?

Find the instructions here:

<https://www.hrce.ca/families/calendars>

# May 2026 CALENDAR

Thank you to our Teachers and Staff who are volunteering their lunch time to provide great clubs for our students.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				1 Recess: Open Library Open Gym R1: 4/5B & 4/5C R2: 3P & 4M Intramurals: 2's Free Choice Gr1
4 Recess: Open Library  <b>Lunch Clubs</b> -Dodgeball Gr3	5 Open Gym R1: 2/3D R2: 1L & 1/2B Intramurals: 4's <b>Lunch Clubs</b> -Pokemon 3-5	6  <b>Lunch Clubs</b> -Wind Down Wed -Art Gr1	7 <b>Lunch: Glee</b>  <b>Lunch Clubs</b> -Basketball -Multicultural 3-5	8 Recess: Open Library Open Gym R1: PTh & PTu R2: 1/2D & 2B Intramurals: 5's Free Choice Gr2
11 Recess: Open Library  <b>Lunch Clubs</b> -Dodgeball Gr4 -Bots	12 Open Gym R1: 4/5B & 4/5C R2: 1L & 2 B Intramurals: 3's <b>Lunch Clubs</b> -Pokemon 3-5	13 Open Gym R1: 2/3D R2: 3P & 4M <b>Lunch Clubs</b> -Wind Down Wed -Art Gr2	14 <b>Lunch: Glee</b>  <b>Lunch Clubs</b> -Basketball -Multicultural 3-5	15 Recess: Open Library  Open Gym R1: 4/5B & 4/5C R2: 3P & 4M Intramurals: 2's Free Choice Gr3
18	19 Open Gym R1: 2/3D R2: 1L & 1/2D Intramurals: 4's <b>Lunch Clubs</b> -Pokemon 3-5	20  <b>Lunch Clubs</b> -Wind Down Wed -Art Gr3	21 <b>Lunch: Glee</b>  <b>Lunch Clubs</b> -Basketball -Multicultural 3-5	22 Recess: Open Library Open Gym R1: PTh & PTu R2: 1/2D & 2B Intramurals: 5's Free Choice Gr4
25 Recess: Open Library  <b>Lunch Clubs</b> -Dodgeball Gr5	26 Open Gym R1: 4/5B & 4/5C R2: 1L & 2 B Intramurals: 3's <b>Lunch Clubs</b> -Pokemon 3-5	27 Open Gym R1: 2/3D R2: 3P & 4M <b>Lunch Clubs</b> -Wind Down Wed -Art Gr4	28 <b>Lunch: Glee</b>  <b>Lunch Clubs</b> -Basketball -Multicultural 3-5	29 Recess: Open Library  Open Gym R1: 4/5B & 4/5C R2: 3P & 4M Intramurals: 2's Free Choice Gr5



# April Snapshots

Emma and Madihaa delivered outstanding speeches at the Grade 5/6 Core French Regional Concours Oratoire competition held at the board in March. Their impressive performances have earned them the honor of representing us at the provincial competition on April 25 at MSVU, hosted by the Canadian Parents for French. Congratulations Emma and Madihaa!

From: Mme. Buffett and all of us here are SLES!



## In April we learned about Initiative

