



Bicentennial School
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September 17, 2025

Lots going on at Bicentennial!!!

Hi everyone,
I hope you have had a good start to the school year. We have almost completed our reconfiguration on the Elementary side of the school. Thanks to all for your patience as we navigate and transition. It looks like Monday Sept. 22nd will be the day when we start our new classes.

Our Sports Teams are starting up, our Female Identifying Soccer Team had their first game today at 3:45 on Maybank Field #2.

The Volleyball Teams will begin play soon as well, and the Cross-Country Team is currently holding tryouts.

Thank you to our generous volunteers who make all of this happen.

Important Dates

- September 29 – Professional Learning Day (No Classes for students)**
- September 30 – Truth and Reconciliation Day (No Classes)**
- October 1 – Terry Fox Run**
- October 7 & 8 – Grade 6 Literacy Assessment (Provincial)**
- October 13 – Thanksgiving Day – No School**
- October 15 & 16 – Grade 6 Math Assessment (Provincial)**
- October 17 – School Picture Day**
- October 23 – Halloween Boo-gie Bash (6:00-7:30pm)**
- October 24 – Prov. NSTU Conference Day (No School for students)**
- October 30 – Jr. High School Dance**
- October 30 – Immunization Clinic**
- November 11 – Remembrance Day – No School**

Male Identifying Soccer	Female Identifying Soccer
Sept 23 vs Astral Drive @ Maybank Field #2 3:45pm	Sept 17 vs Graham Creighton @ Maybank Field #2 3:45pm
Oct 2 vs Graham Creighton @ Maybank Field #2 3:45pm	Sept 22 vs Astral Drive Maybank Field #2 3:45pm
Oct 7 vs Caledonia @ Maybank Field #2 4:55pm	Sept 24 vs Caldwell @ Maybank Field #2 5:00pm
Oct 14 vs Ellenvale @ Maybank Field #2 3:45	Oct 1 vs John Martin @ Maybank Field #2 3:45
Oct 16 vs John Martin @ Maybank Field #2 3:45	Oct 6 vs Eastern Shore @ Maybank Field #2 3:45
	Oct 15 vs Ellenvale @ Brownlow Field 5:00pm

***All games are subject to change

Demographic forms: School Demographic forms were sent to all families through PowerSchool. Please take the time to go through these forms to correct any information that has changed over the last year. There are also some very important options to consider. Please make sure to indicate the Media Permission, Chromebook Permissions and the technology acceptable use policy. These forms are due to HRCE in early October. We appreciate your time.

School Lunch Program: Our School lunch Program is up and running. If you would like your child to have a lunch delivered to the school through the SN LUNCH Program, it is very important that you register for an account and order your child’s lunch at [Nova Scotia School | nslunch](#). We do order extra lunches for emergencies, but we cannot supply lunches to everyone, if they are not ordered through the Lunch Program.

If your child is late for school (after 9:05) please make sure they come to the FRONT DOOR of the school and check in with Ms. Bebe. We are having difficulty tracking student attendance when students do not check in. This is a very important aspect of our day; we do not want our Safe Arrival system to call families for students who are at school. It creates unnecessary anxiety for everyone.

Universal Screening Grades 1-2: In September, classroom teachers spend time getting to know their students and who they are as learners. Schools will be using *Universal Screening in Reading* for Grade 1 and 2 students. *This is one of the many ways teachers will assess learning.*

What is Universal Screening in Reading:

It's a short (1–5 minute) activity that helps us see how your child is developing key reading skills. Think of it as a quick check-in on their reading journey, like looking at a map to see where they are and what might help them move forward.

Why do we do it?

The screening helps teachers understand children's strengths and where they may need extra support. This allows us to plan instruction, so students get what they need to succeed in reading.

Important to know:

This is *not* a test. There's no "pass" or "fail." It's a way for teachers to ensure students are supported in their learning.

Life Threatening Allergies: We have several life-threatening allergies at Bicentennial. Please make sure that your children do not bring nuts or nut products to school.

Free Tutoring Program: If you are looking for FREE in-person math tutoring for grades 4 to 9, there is a new drop-in program at Woodlawn Public Library which starts this Thursday, September 18 until November 20, 2025 from 4:30-6:00pm.



School Advisory Council: Welcome back to school, our 2025-26 year is shaping up to be fantastic! The first Student Advisory Council Meeting of the year for Bicentennial School will be held on **Monday September 22nd at 6pm** in the school staff room.

All are welcome to join and we love different points of view. The details of what your SAC does are outlined below. If you'd like to join us please attend the meeting or send us an email at hrce-sac-bic@gnsps.ca to be included in the SAC mail outs.

We're looking forward to a great year!

What does the SAC do? The SAC is a council designed for opinion sharing to help guide spending decisions in Bicentennial's school community. If you have questions about the school and school community you can find out more at SAC meetings.

Who is Welcome? EVERYONE. We have two options available: in-person in the staff room (kids are welcome) or on Google Meets. You can officially become a voting elected member of the committee or you can attend any meeting as a non-voting member to garner information about our school. We also welcome anyone who is a community member (without a current Bicentennial student). Together we can make our school work for everyone.

Physical Education: As we begin a new year of physical education classes, we would like to pass along a few reminders. Wearing appropriate footwear is essential for both safety and care of our facilities. Proper shoes help prevent injuries and also protect our newly updated gymnasium floors, so they remain in great condition for years to come. Please ensure your child(ren) are wearing/bringing sneakers on the days they have P.E. classes.

Additionally, we encourage our junior high students to bring a change of clothes for P.E. class. This allows them to participate comfortably, freely, and avoid wearing damp clothing for the rest of the school day.

Thank you for helping us support a safe and healthy learning environment for all students!

Lunch Supervisors: If you are interested in being a school Lunch Supervisor, please reach out to our Bicentennial Email address (bicent@hrce.ca) to let us know. Lunch supervisors are very important to our School Community. We can offer between one and four hours per day depending on availability. **If you have been a Bicentennial School Lunch Supervisor before, please contact Ms. Birdsall if you would like to return.**

Water: Please send your child to school with a **full water bottle that has a secure top**. Water refill stations are available at various locations throughout the school and children will have access to water if they run out or spill their bottle

Sick Children: If your child is sick, please do not send him/her/them to school. You may report their absence through the Safe Arrival App (1-833-582-6940) or contact the school to report their absence. 1-833-582-6940.

Cell Phones: Cell phones are *not permitted* for student use during instructional hours in Grades 7-9. P-6 students are not allowed to use phones at any time during the school day. Cell phones can create conflict and privacy concerns. Students have access to the school phone for parent/guardian contact during school hours.

The Department of Education Cell Phone Policy can be found at: <https://www.ednet.ns.ca/cellphones>

Sincerely,

Mr. Hartlen & Ms. Birdsall

Bicentennial School Administration Team