

Vanier Vipers Newsletter

1410 Fall River Road
Fall River NS B2T1J1
(902) 860-4182 (Fax) (902) 860-4188
gpvanier.ednet.ns.ca
December 2018



School Hours: Students will be admitted to the school at 8:35 am. Once admitted they are required to remain in the cafeteria until the first bells rings. Please do not drop your child off early as there is no supervision prior to 8:35.

Safe Arrival: Should your child be absent from school call 860-4197 and leave a message. Please ensure that your contact information is up to date in case we need to contact you.

Cell Phones / Electronic Devices: Please remind your child that cell phones may only be used during lunch in the cafeteria, outside and upon teacher request. We are not responsible for lost or damaged phones. Parents / guardians are to contact the office should they need a message relayed to their child.



Newsletters: Newsletters will be available on our website. If you require a hard copy please have your child notify the office.



Volunteers: A volunteer includes but is not limited to a coach, a driver, a classroom helper and a trip chaperone. Students will not be permitted to travel to or from a school sanctioned event with a parent (other than their own) unless the parent has a Criminal Records Check, Child Abuse Registry Search and a J-Form on file in the main office. If you have these checks done through another agency, school, or organization, you can request that they send a copy to Georges P. Vanier. Please see the link on our website under volunteers to access the current Child Abuse Registry form. Criminal Records Check can be done through the RCMP office. We appreciate the time, patience and understanding our parents have shown in ensuring our students are safely transported to extracurricular events.

Cold Weather is Approaching: Please make sure that your child is appropriately dressed as they are outside at noon and are exposed to the elements while waiting for the bus.



Christmas Giving Tree: This year three grade 7 students along with help from the Me to We group are organizing a Christmas Giving Tree to support the less fortunate from December 3rd to December 14th. In the front foyer a Christmas tree will be decorated with ornaments and on each ornament will be a specific item that we are looking to have donated. We are hoping that students, parents and community member will participate by taking an ornament and returning it along with the item to the main office. We would like all items to be donated by Monday December 17th as the group will be putting together Care Packages to be donated to Shelter Nova Scotia.

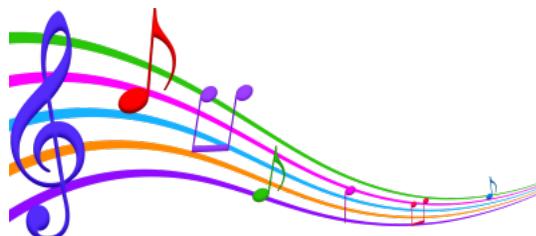


Parent Teacher Interviews: Interviews will follow report cards (going home Wednesday, December 5). They will take place in the gymnasium on Thursday December 6 from 1-3pm and 6-8pm.

Band Concert: The band students have been busy preparing for our concert on Thursday, December 13. The concert starts at 7:00 p.m. and will be approximately one-hour long. There will be a silver collection at the door.

Grade 7 students are asked to wear concert dress (Black Pants/Skirt and a white collared shirt). Grade 8 students are asked to wear black pants/skirt and their GP Vanier band shirt. All students should arrive at the school by 6:30.

It's really important that students are practicing as we prepare for this performance. Please encourage them to do so. It makes a huge difference!



Guidance News: The GPV rock band is hard at work rehearsing for our first concert, December 13 at 7pm. The Treblemakers will be creating treble and bass for Fall River to hear! Come join us as we share our rock and roll talent! Merchandise is available to purchase! Our very own member, Eduardo, created the logo! T-shirts are \$10, sweatshirts are \$35. These make a great Christmas gift! Contact Mrs. Banks if you would like to order. jbanks@hrce.ca

Our Best Buddies Chapter has begun. We had an overwhelming response to our call out for students interested in being a best buddy. The Best Buddies mission is to establish a global volunteer movement that creates opportunities for one-to-one friendships and leadership development for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Our first event included crafts and a dance party, finished off with a few goodies. It was a huge success!

Did you know that there is a free program for students of all grades called My Blueprint that focuses on creating pathways to career goals? It is a comprehensive education and career/life planning program with the tools students need to make the most informed decision about their future. It may seem early to think about a career but My Blueprint also offers comprehensive "Who Am I" assessments to help students discover their learning and personality styles, interests, desires, knowledge, and motivation. Check it out: myblueprint.ca

Viper Athletics: Hey Viper Fans,

Congratulations go out to our Boys and Girls Volleyball teams who won the Mariner Central Championships! Both teams have a challenge game Monday, December 3rd for a chance to go to Regionals – best of luck!



A huge thank you goes to Coach Jen Weatherhead (girl's) and Coach Mike Cadden (boy's) who have put in many unseen hours with their respective teams. Our student-athletes are learning more than just the skills of volleyball! Special thanks to the Lockview students and Jenna (Vanier girl's player who has helped the boys) that have helped with practices/games throughout season.

Basketball try outs will be starting soon. Coach Nugent will hold a skill development for the boys on Friday, Dec 7 until 4:15. Formal try outs for the boys and girls squad will be announced shortly!



A few reminders:

Follow Mary Veinotte at HRCE @HRCE_PhysEd - coordinator of junior high sports and P-12 Physical Education <https://www.hrce.ca/about-our-schools/students/junior-high-sports>

Please have drives arranged for your son/daughter after school for practices/games. Most practices will end between 4:15 – 4:30. Teachers/Coaches cannot leave until all students have left the school property.

All students leaving the school before dismissal must be signed out at the office.

**** Please be advised that we put the wrong contact for Pat Healey in the last newsletter. The following is the correct twitter handle! Pat Healey (@Laker_PatHealey) of the Laker, who is great at re-tweeting any information he receives.

We will do our best through Twitter, e-mail, announcements and whiteboard to update on practice and game schedules. In the junior high world – things can change in an instant!

See you in the gym!

Mr Hanlon

Twitter @VanierSports

Library News and Events: In celebration of Remembrance Day, students decorated a Bulletin board featuring a waterfall of poppies. Students were invited to create their own poppy. Many came in over their lunch hour to contribute - engaged in sewing and colouring personalized poppies. This became a time of thoughtful discussion about what Remembrance Day meant to them, and who they were recognizing specifically. The final display was a meaningful representation of respect for our Veterans and Service Members.



The last few weeks, many students have been busy preparing for our upcoming Scholastic Book Fair. More than 50 student volunteers are planning, promoting, preparing and staffing, the Fair. I am thrilled to be

working with such an enthusiastic group of committed students. It will be open during the scheduled Parent Teacher interviews on Dec. 6th. A newsletter is attached providing additional information about this. Please plan to stop in and support our students' efforts.

A group of students have also started on a clay creation. Their imagination is an inspiration! The Piece will be on display during the Book Fair, if you would like to see it.



Speaking with the students from multiple classrooms can be challenging. For this reason, I have created a Google Library Classroom to make our library accessible at all times.

There are currently 225 students in my virtual classroom. It is lovely having students from so many classes contributing. Ask your child if they are already members, or would like to join. I invite them! GPV Library - 8 French, class code gvlszq; GPV Library - 8 English, class code funn338; GPV Library 7 French, class code fxbo4i; GPV Library - 7 English, class code 1wzv7fj. This is an easy way to keep informed about activities and events happening in the library. It is also a great forum for comments, questions or suggestions too.

Finally, the library is also happy to be partnering with the Halifax Public Libraries. Thank you to Jocelyn Covert of the Bedford Public Library for providing the "Thinking Critically About Fake News" module for our students. She will be offering this lesson with students over the next few months. I will also be offering sessions on Overdrive and accessing electronic resources. A request was sent via the Vipers e-genda for all students to obtain library cards (accounts) for this purpose. If your child does not yet have an account, please apply online at <https://www.halifaxpubliclibraries.ca/membership/card/>. It is free, and your card will be mailed to you.

With many interests and personalities engaged in our library, providing resources can be difficult. I appreciate donations of wool-ends for needlework, craft threads, rainbow looms, lego, anything students may like to use for thinking and expressing themselves creatively. Thank you.

Wishing you Happy Holidays!
Mrs. Dey

Book Fair: Dear GPV parents and guardians,

Our annual Scholastic Book Fair will be happening in our library very soon! We invite you and your kids to come visit us to take a look at our great variety of books, posters and more!

We will be hosting our Fair on the first week of December, to coincide with Parent Teacher interviews. Classes will come to the library for a preview on December the 3rd, and the sales will begin on December the 6th (our chairperson's birthday, Rowan Gibbon) from 1-4pm and 5:30-8:30pm. Books in both English and French languages will be displayed and available. We will have books that will be sure to be of your interest! Maybe plan to do some Holiday shopping.

The Fair will also have a classroom wish list, where students and teachers can order books of their choice for their class library. You can buy books from the Fair and donate them to the class or school library to help enlarge our book collection. Your name, or family name, will be placed on the cover of the book, showing a sign of thankfulness towards your kindness.

If you can't make it to this year's Book Fair, you can always visit the Scholastic Canada website to order books.

Thank you for supporting this valuable fundraiser. The Fair encourages our school community to continue and promote reading to enhance the skill. Plus the school retains up to 40% of all profit, to be used for the purchase of new books and library resources.

If you want more information about the Book Fair, please contact our student Chairperson Rowan, or our Librarian, Michelle Dey for more information.

We hope to see you there!

With kind regards,

Eduardo, Mrs. Dey, and your GPV Book Fair Crew
Scholastic Canada
Mrs. Dey (mdey@gnspes.ca or mdey@hrce.ca)



Big Thank you to GPV Book Fair Crew:

Chairperson: Rowan

Assistant Chair: Ireland

Newsletters: Eduardo

Promotion: Eduardo, Julia, Claire, Isabelle, Natalie, Kaitlin, Laura, Addisen, Chase, Cian, Nicole, Bianca

Decorating (Enchanted Forest): Madison, Sofia, Karli, Connor, Chase, Cian, Rowan, Eduardo and Laura, Emma, Jessie

Fair Set-Up: Natalie, Kaitlin, Katherine, Madelyn, Amy, Freya, Charlie, Kaylen, D'aujah, Julia, Renee, Kyleigh, Eduardo, Katie, Lauren

Sales Staff: Chantal, Tess, Carmen, Jenna, Sophie, Ali, Sophia, Cian, Chase, Jocelyn, Laura, Trinity, Elly, Isabelle, Natalie Webber, Katie

Fair Clean-Up: Claire, Julia, Jocelyn, Madelyn, Ali, Maya, Jenna, Amy, Charlie

Cafeteria: Please remind your child that they are to remain seated while in the cafeteria, refrain from throwing food and to clean up after themselves. Your assistance in this matter will be greatly appreciated. Pre-paid cards may be purchased. Please see Cafeteria staff if interested.



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3 Fettucine alfredo with salad	4 Taco Tuesday	5 Sloppy Joe's with salad	6 Spaghetti & Meatballs	7 Chicken burgers & veggie sticks
10 Grilled Cheese & salad	11 Taco's in a Bag	12 Oven baked subs with veggie sticks	13 Sweet & sour meatballs & rice	14 Poutine
17 Chicken Bacon Ranch Pasta & salad	18 Chicken Tacos	19 Chicken Strips & fries	20 Cafeteria Closed	21 Cafeteria Closed
24 No School	25 No School	26 No School	27 No School	28 No School
31 No School				

DECEMBER CAFETERIA MENU

- All daily specials are \$5.00.
- Wraps, sandwiches, salads, fruit and yogurt are available on a daily basis. Developing
- 4 varieties of homemade pizza made daily (Cheese, Pepperoni, Garlic, specialty).
- Fresh baked goods on a daily basis (low fat brownies, cinnamon buns, cookies and loaves).
- Pizza Wraps & Sandwiches.....\$3.50 Salads.....\$2.50 - \$3.75
- Baked Goods.....\$0.66 - \$1.50 Juice.....\$1.75
- Milk \$0.40 - \$0.80 Choc. Milk \$1.80 - \$2.80 Water \$1.75

******* Reminder: The Cafeteria will be closed the last Thursday and Friday of school before the Holiday Break*******

Aboriginal History and Culture: Miss Wamboldt's homeroom, 802, got to finish up October's heritage month by learning from Mr. Roger J. Lewis, MA, the Curator of Ethnology from the Nova Scotia Museum about Nova Scotia's Aboriginal Peoples: their history, including how reservations were formed, and treaties that were made.

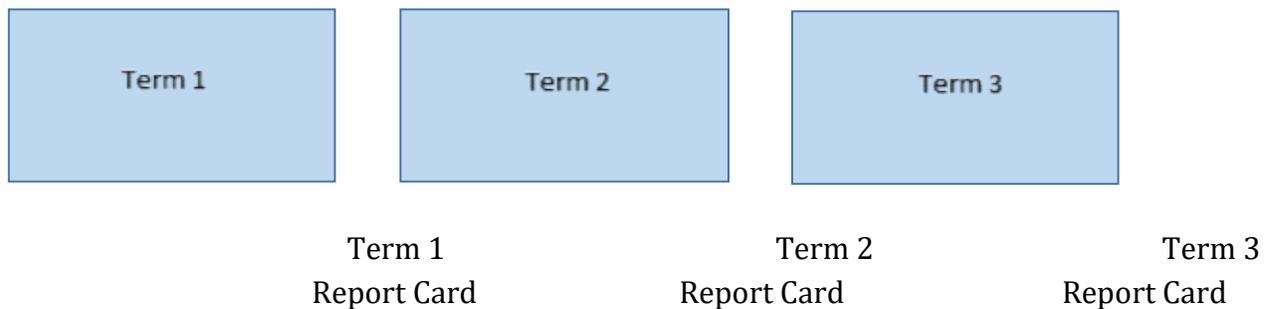


Parent Communication: Reflecting Ongoing Learning in Grades 7-9:

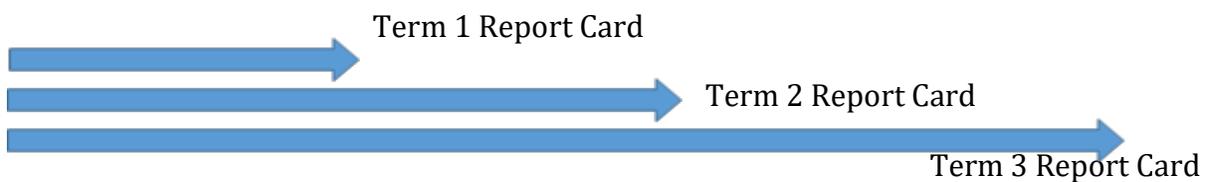
Beginning September 2018 in HRCE, reporting terms in grades P-9 will shift from being separate terms to continuous terms. This will align with the ongoing nature of student learning, the ongoing development of skills students use when they learn (communication, critical thinking, problem solving, etc.), and the method of reporting in grades 10-12.

Traditionally in P-9 teachers have reported on student progress at the end of each term (November, March and June) considering only the evidence of student learning gathered within that term. With continuous terms, reporting will now be a pause and reflect to summarize learning to date since September, based on trends over time and more recent evidence of student learning.

Previously: Three discrete terms with a summary report of *each individual term*.



New Model: Continuous terms with pause and reflect reporting to date.



- **Structure of the Report Card:** looks exactly the same
- **Report Card Comments:** continue to reflect strengths, areas for improvement and suggestions for next steps
- **Report Card Grades:** now reflect *learning to date* since September.
 - **Term 1-** no change from previous, based on evidence of learning from September to November.
 - **Term 2-** based on evidence of learning from September to March
 - **Term 3-** based on evidence of learning from September to June; now reflects overall achievement for the course

Grade 8 Classes Participate in Essential Skills Challenge:

Classes 801, 803 and 805 participated in an Essential Skills Challenge on Friday, November 23 during their Healthy Living classes. Students learned about the essential nine skills and why they are so important in relation to their future education and potential careers. They put their skills to the test with fun and interactive challenges and even won a few prizes. We would like to thank Chloe Arbuckle from Skills Canada: Nova Scotia for a very engaging educational experience.

Early Dismissal of students for Appointments: Parents and guardians are expected to come into the school to sign their child out in the green folder.



No Idling Zone: Please make sure that your vehicle is turned off while waiting to pick up your child as fumes enter the school and disrupt students and staff. This is also a health and safety issue. We thank you in advance for your co-operation



School and/or Bus Cancellation Due to Inclement Weather

School safety is the first priority of the Halifax Regional Centre for Education when making school cancellation decisions. Our schools will be kept open except under extreme circumstances to provide the option of attendance for all, but the decision to attend school during inclement weather conditions is the responsibility of each family.

Full Day Closures:

For full day closures of all schools or some schools, the decision will be announced as close to 6 AM as possible. Announcements will be:

- Posted on the HRCE's website (www.hrce.ca)
- Posted on the HRCE's Twitter account ([Twitter.com/HRCE_NS](https://twitter.com/HRCE_NS))
- Recorded on the HRCE's School Cancellation Information Line 464-INFO (4636);
- Shared with subscribers to the board's email and text notification system; and
- Communicated to local media outlets.

Early Closures:

If conditions deteriorate throughout the day, the superintendent may close schools early when weather or road conditions are considered to be a threat to the safety of students and staff. Should this occur, principals will be notified by e-mail as close to 11 AM as possible regarding information about an early school closure. If forecasted inclement weather is imminent later in the day, at **6 AM** an announcement could be made to inform parents of an early school closure and / or to inform parents that a decision will be deferred until no later than **11 AM** following further examination of developing conditions. Communication of an early school closure due to deteriorating weather conditions will be:

- Posted on the HRCE's website (www.hrce.ca)
- Posted on the HRCE's Twitter account ([Twitter.com/HRCE_NS](https://twitter.com/HRCE_NS))
- Recorded on the HRCE's School Cancellation Information Line 464-INFO (4636);
- Shared with subscribers to the board's email and text notification system; and
- Communicated to local media outlets.



In the event of an early school closure, school buses will be dispatched to schools **two hours** earlier than their normal regularly scheduled pick up for the afternoon dismissal. If the announcement is made at either **6 AM or 11 AM, walking students** will be dismissed at the start of the regular lunchtime. Due to changing weather conditions and early closure procedures some school buses may be delayed.

Cancellation of Bus Runs – Schools Open:

On school days when conditions exist that it is not safe to operate buses there may be a decision to cancel bussing but keep schools open. A decision to cancel some or all bus runs will be announced by **6 AM**. The cancelled buses and impacted schools will be identified in the announcement. Communication of bus run cancellations will be:

- Posted on the HRCE's website (www.hrce.ca)
- Posted on the HRCE's Twitter account ([Twitter.com/HRCE_NS](https://twitter.com/HRCE_NS))
- Recorded on the HRCE's School Cancellation Information Line 464-INFO (4636);
- Shared with subscribers to the board's email and text notification system; and
- Communicated to local media outlets.

Delayed Opening of Schools:

On school days when conditions exist that it is not safe to open schools at the regularly scheduled time but it is predicted that conditions will improve a **2 hour** delayed opening may be considered. Delayed openings would be considered when a severe weather event has concluded but snow clearing or other operations require additional time. Delayed openings would also be considered when the physical plant is experiencing an issue (power, water) and additional time is required to prepare the facility for opening. In the event of a delayed opening the following will apply:

- School opening will be delayed 2 hours
- School bus pick up times will be delayed 2 hours
- Excel childcare will be delayed opening by 2 hours
- Each school will alter morning schedules to best address their time tables.
- Lunchtime will not change.
- Afternoon class schedules will not change.
- Dismissal time will not change.

Important Dates for 2018

December 5	Report Cards go home
December 6	P.D. am (no school); Parent Teacher meetings 1-3pm & 6-8pm
December 13	Band Holiday Concert 7-8pm
December 20	Snow date for the Holiday Band Concert
December 21	Last day of school for Christmas break
January 3	School re-opens

