

# Vanier Vipers Newsletter

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November 2019



**We Remember:** GPV will be commemorating Remembrance Day on Friday November 8<sup>th</sup>. During the ceremony students and staff will take the time to remember the sacrifices made by all of the members of our armed forces, both past and present. Poppies are available in the main office for a donation that goes to support the Royal Canadian Legion.

**Term 1:** November marks the end of our first term and report cards will go home on November 27<sup>th</sup>. Parents Teacher interviews will be held November 28<sup>th</sup> from 1-3 and 6-8. Teachers will be in the gym – no appointments. Parents/students are encouraged to check PowerSchool now for missing assignments.

## Viper Athletics

Notice to parents/guardians: Please have drives arranged for your son/daughter if they are involved in extra-curricular activities or supporting events going on after school. Most activities end around 4:30. Teachers and volunteers coaching or facilitating a program cannot leave until all students under their care are gone. Many coaches have families or responsibilities in the night time as well so we appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

Congrats goes out to the girls cross country team who advanced to NSSAF provincials on October 28 in Trenton, NS. Highlights of the race were Clare M finishing 16<sup>th</sup> and Jenna H following her in 19<sup>th</sup> place. Thanks to Coach Nugent for taking on this task once again this year and to all the runners who participated in Cross Country since the beginning of September.

Volleyball is in full swing! As of October 29 both teams have won their first regular season game and are looking forward to the next few weeks!

Follow Mr Hanlon on Twitter @VanierSports or follow Pat Healy (@Laker\_PatHealy) of the Laker, who is great at re-tweeting any information he receives. We will do our best through Twitter, e-mail, announcements and school lobby to update on practice and game schedules. In the junior high world – things can change in an instant!

## GPV Breakfast Program

The Breakfast Program is now underway at Georges P. Vanier. We have an assortment of breakfast items to offer all students as they come in to the school every morning. We are fortunate to have The Vegetorium Country Farm Market to deliver fresh valley apples and bananas weekly. We also have an assortment of granola bars, Nutrigrain bars and cereals which we will be rotating through on a weekly basis

## Guidance

The grade 7 students received their immunizations on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. The students were amazing with overcoming their needle anxieties. The Public Health nurses were very impressed with how the grade 7 students behaved, which contributed to how well the clinic went. Our next immunization clinic will take place in the Spring.

## Library News

Our students all took part in the Student Vote on October 17th and 18th. We also had 4 teams of students running the Polling Station in the library. It was an enjoyable learning experience for all of us! And timely too, as I piggy-backed on the Student Council GooseChase scavenger hunt and included 'democratic missions' to promote and teach about our government in preparation for the vote. The Student Vote final numbers looked like this. **Green-148, Liberal-99, Conservative-48, NDP-29, PPC-26.**

Our board IT-rep, Chris Cocek, visited the school October 21st and 24th. Every class spent an hour with Chris and his many technology resources - playing, exploring and learning about school and real-world application. The apps explored are free and many require only a device that can browse the internet. My Blueprint, Co-Spaces edu, Bloxels and Merge Cube were centres provided. Invite discussion with your child about these relevant, useful tools.

This final week of October, I am sharing a podcast during the lunch hour, in celebration of Mi'kmaq Heritage month. Trails, Tales and Spruce Tea is hosted by local authors and storytellers Shalan Joudry and Fred Muise. They share stories, language and the history of the Mi'kmaq culture in these relaxing and informative short audio visits.

<https://www.podbean.com/site/Search/index?v=trails%2C+tales+and+spruce+tea>

For Halloween, I will be introducing an app called Quiver during the lunch hour. Again, only a smart device is required to check-out this augmented reality 3D colouring app. I will have devices available at the school, for students to use. Check it out at home - fun for the whole family!

<http://www.quivervision.com/>

Then the first of four authors is scheduled to visit Friday, November 1st. Elizabeth Peirce is a Halifax-based author, editor, teacher and gardener. She also blogs on food and parenting issues. Her publications range from food & gardening non-fiction to NS historical fiction and childrens' picture books. I expect she will be a great inspiration for our budding creative writers!

Book Club will have their first meeting this Thursday to meet 'n' greet and choose a book. An international Program - Girls Who Code starts next Monday the 4th. This is an after-school Club that will meet Mondays from 3-4. **Parents will need to register their child**, but students are not required to make any commitments. Visit this link to register your child, using the Club **Program Code XCA17499**.

<https://hq.girlswhocode.com/gwc/collection/facilitator-toolkit-intl/activity/enroll-students-on-hq-training-international>

Needlecrafts Club (hand sewing, crochet, knit) will be every Friday at lunch in the library, starting November 8th. All supplies are provided, but donations (needles, thread, yarn) are always welcome!

To finish off our busy November, GPV students will be hosting a Book Fair in the library again, to coincide with parent-teacher interviews November 28th. Please plan to stop in and support this valuable fundraiser. The money will be used to purchase new fiction and Graphic novels!

Finally, as always, students and parents are invited to join my Google Classroom to learn about all that is going on, and keep in the know on library communication. My class info...

GPV Library Classroom 2019

Class code: y3f41za

Remember, I love to hear how the library is supporting you and your child. Reach out anytime.

Yours in the Library,  
Mrs Dey

## Walk-a-thon

We held a successful walk-a-thon, raising \$8075.55. These funds will be used towards enhancements to the production lab, foods lab and technology to support student learning. We will keep you posted!



SchoolsPlus is a collaborative interagency approach supporting the whole child and their family with the school as the center of service delivery.

Greetings, Georges P. Vanier Junior High Students and Families!

We would like to take this opportunity to introduce SchoolsPlus and to provide some information on the services we offer that would be of benefit students, families, schools and communities.

The vision of SchoolsPlus is that schools become the hub of the community, and a convenient place for services to be delivered to students and families. What this means is **direct access** to a Community Outreach Worker and Assistant Leader within the school. The **confidential** services we offer varies from in-home support for parents/guardians in need of assistance with accessing food, housing, recreation, summer camps and other necessities; advocacy with Health, Educational, Justice and Community Services agencies; in-school programming for students as well as additional programming for parents/guardians of students – and everything in between. Parents and students can make self-referrals to SchoolsPlus directly through email; phone; dropping in and speaking to school administrative staff.

The idea of SchoolsPlus is to meet students and families where they are at, and support them in achieving their individual needs and goals year-round. **SchoolsPlus staff work with families on a voluntary basis, at no cost, and are strongly connected to their community partners** – if you have a need, a want or an ask, your SchoolsPlus team is a great place to start!

Please do not hesitate to reach out to us directly or ask a school administrator to contact us. We are happy to answer any questions you might have about SchoolsPlus and what we can do to offer support.

Our Contact Information is as follows:

SchoolsPlus Assistant Leader: Kylie Hicklenton [khicklenton@hrce.ca](mailto:khicklenton@hrce.ca)

Phone Number: 902-399-8321

SchoolsPlus Community Outreach Worker: TBD

We look forward to meeting many of you in the upcoming year!

Sincerely,

Your SchoolsPlus Team.

### Clubs and Extracurricular Activities

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Art Club – lunch	Games Club - lunch	Art Club - lunch	Book Club - lunch	Best Buddies - lunch
Girls Intramural - lunch			Jazz Band – after school (2:50-3:50pm)	Needlecraft - lunch
Girls Who Code – after school (3-4pm)				
Running Club – after school (2:50-3:50pm)				

We are in the planning stages of organizing the ski club. More information will follow within the next few weeks. Tentatively we are looking at Wednesday January 29<sup>th</sup>, February 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, February 6<sup>th</sup> and February 20.

We will also be hosting a drama club which will be beginning after school next week – we are waiting on confirmation about day. This will be a three session club run through HRCE Fine Arts Funding.

**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.





## NOVEMBER CAFETERIA MENU

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
28	29	30	31	Nov 1 Chicken strips and wedges
4 Chicken bacon ranch pasta with salad	5 Tacos	6 Shepherd's pie	7 Perogies	8 Chicken burgers & wedges
11 NO SCHOOL	12 Tacos in a bag	13 Spaghetti & meatballs with veggies	14 Lasagna & salad	15 Poutine
18 Mac n' cheese with veggies	19 Chicken Tacos	20 Chicken spaghetti with salad	21 Chicken strips with wedges	22 NO SCHOOL
25 Fettucine alfredo with salad	26 Tacos	27 Nachos supreme	28 NO SCHOOL	29 Poutine

All daily specials are \$5.00. Wraps, sandwiches, pizza (Cheese, Pepperoni, Garlic, specialty), salads, fruit, yogurt and fresh baked goods (low fat brownies, cinnamon buns, cookies and loaves) are available on a daily basis.

Pizza Wraps & Sandwiches.....\$3.50	Salads.....\$2.50 - \$3.75
Baked Goods.....\$0.66 - \$1.50	Juice.....\$1.75

**School Hours:** Students will be admitted to the school at 8:35 am. 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.

**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.

**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





**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.



### 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](http://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 Halifax Regional Centre for Education 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, principles 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](http://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](http://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; however, the cafeteria **will not** be open
- Afternoon class schedules will not change.
- Dismissal time will not change.

## Important Dates

November 8	Remembrance Day Ceremony
November 11	Remembrance Day observed (no school)
November 21	School dance 7-9pm; SAC meeting 6-7pm
November 22	Assessment & Evaluation Day Elem & Jr. High (no school)
November 27	Report Cards go home
November 28	P.D. am (no school); Parent Teacher meetings 1-3pm & 6-8pm
December 11	Holiday Band Concert 7-8pm
December 12	Snow date for the Holiday Band Concert
December 20	Last day of school before Christmas break
January 6	School re-opens
January 30	African Heritage Presentation: Delmore "Buddy Daye"
February 6	Parent Information Session regarding Registration 7-8:30pm
February 17	Heritage Day – Africville Day (no school)
February 27	School Dance 7-9pm ; SAC Meeting 6-7pm
March 12	Showcase
March 13	Snow date for Showcase
March 16-20	March Break
March 25	Assessment & Evaluation Day (no school)
April 1	Report Cards go home; Parent Teacher Meetings 6-8pm
April 2	P.D morning (no school); Parent Teacher meetings 1-3pm
April 10	Good Friday (no school)
April 13	Easter Monday (no school)
April 22	Grade 7 Immunizations
April 23	SAC meeting 6-7:30pm; School Dance 7-9pm
May 15	P.D. day (no school)
May 18	Victoria Day (no school)
May 28	SAC meeting 6-7pm
June 4	Spring Band concert 7-8:30pm
June 25	School Dance 7-9:30pm
June 29	Assessment & Evaluation Day (no school)
June 30	Last day of school – Report Cards go home