

Harrowsmith PS Family Update

Week of Sept 8, 2024



Dear Harrowsmith Families,

Thank you for a wonderful first week back! We appreciate your support in ensuring the transition back to school was as smooth as possible. We've seen lots of smiles, connections and reconnections this week. Students have jumped back into school and class routines and JK students are adjusting to school life.

Wishing everyone a great weekend and we will see you back on Monday for our first full week together!

Ms. Jurkowski and Ms. Neale on behalf of the HPS Team

School Attendance – Every School Day Counts

Regular school attendance is crucial for a student's academic success and overall development, as it is directly related to academic success, personal growth, and future opportunities. It helps build a strong foundation of knowledge and encourages a sense of responsibility. Additionally, consistent attendance allows teachers to better support each student's individual needs, leading to improved academic performance and a more cohesive classroom environment.

We encourage all families to make school attendance a priority for their students by:

- Talking with your student(s) about the importance of daily attendance in a positive way and how it supports learning.
- Only let your child stay home if they are sick.
- Make every effort to schedule doctors, dentist, and other appointments after school hours. If your child must be out of school for an appointment, bring the child back to school for at least part of the school day.

Together, let us make school attendance a priority, and make every school day count.

1 or 2 days a
week
doesn't
seem like
much but....

If a student misses	That equals	Which is	And over 13 years of schooling that is
1 day every 2 weeks	20 days per year	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1.5 years of school
1 day per week	40 days per year	8 weeks per year	Over 2.5 years of school
2 days per week	80 days per year	16 weeks per year	Over 5 years of school
3 days per week	120 days per year	24 weeks per year	Nearly 8 years of school

PPM 128 – Cell Phone Usage and Vaping on School Property

[Policy/Program 128: The Provincial Code of Conduct and School Boards Code of Conduct](#) regarding the restricting/limiting cellphones and vapes in schools is now in effect. The revised Code of Conduct outlines that members of the school community will:

- treat each other with kindness and respect,
- support learning and keep distractions out of class, and
- help others when they are in need.

It also outlines that members of the school community will not:

- bully, cyberbully, or encourage others to do so,
- harm others, including harm with the motivation of hate or discrimination,



- use a personal mobile device during class unless permitted by an educator, and
- use, share, or sell vape, nicotine, and/or tobacco products on school property.

The Provincial Code of Conduct requires boards to restrict access to all social media platforms and apps on school networks and school devices. In addition, personal devices, including cell phones, can only be used by students during class time for educational purposes, directed by an educator. Unless approved by the educator(s) in the classroom, cell phones are not to be visible or used beyond exceptional circumstances. It should be noted that expectations are slightly different for students in Kindergarten - Grade 6 vs. students in Grades 7-12.

[KFL&A Public Health and Limestone District School Board are working together to support the implementation of PPM 128](#) and the necessary educational supports for students, families, and staff.

[Additional information is on Limestone's website](#) and further details will be shared with students and families from schools this fall as it becomes available.



Family Engagement

We encourage families to stay engaged and involved in their student's education. Your partnership is invaluable, and together, we can create a nurturing community that supports the growth and development of students. Families and students can find lots of resources to support learning and family engagement on the

[Limestone website.](#)

[The Ministry has also provided a Family Guide](#) filled with information to help you support your student's success and make informed decisions about their education.

This Week

Monday, September 9 (Day 4)
 Tuesday, September 10 (Day 5)
 Wednesday, September 11 (Day 1)
 Thursday, September 12 (Day 2)
 Friday, September 13 (Day 3)

Upcoming Dates

Tuesday, September 24 - School Advisory Council Meeting 6pm in school library, all are welcome
 Thursday, September 26 - Open House 5-6pm
 Monday, September 30 - Orange Shirt Day
 Thursday, October 3 - Bus Safety Presentations
 Friday, October 25 - Picture Day

Cross-Country Information for Students in Grades 3-8

If your child is part of the Cross Country Team for students in grades 3 to 8, practices will be on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 8 a.m. If it is raining there is no practice.

LDSB Calendar

There will NOT be a paper copy of the calendar sent home this year.
Here is a link to the Day 1 to 5 Calendar.

<https://www.limestone.on.ca/documents/85addfcd-fe80-4628-af3f-786ffb9cf4d3>



Dates of Significance



09 2024
SEPTEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Labour Day	3	4	5 Onam International Day of Charity	6 Onam Ganesh Chaturthi	7 Onam Ukrainian Heritage Day
8 Onam Mennonite Heritage Week International Literacy Day	9 Onam Mennonite Heritage Week	10 Onam Mennonite Heritage Week World Suicide Prevention Day	11 Onam Mennonite Heritage Week Ethiopian New Year / Enkutatash	12 Onam Mennonite Heritage Week	13 Onam Mennonite Heritage Week	14 Onam Mennonite Heritage Week
15 Onam Mawlid al-Nabi / Eid-Mawlid-un-Nabi	16 Onam Mawlid al-Nabi / Eid-Mawlid-un-Nabi	17 Onam Mid-Autumn Festival (Moon Cake Festival)	18 International Equal Pay Day	19	20	21 International Day of Peace
22 Gender Equality Week Fall Equinox Rabon / Harvest Home / Fall Equinox	23 Gender Equality Week International Week of Deaf People International Day of Sign Languages Bis Visibility Day	24 Gender Equality Week International Week of Deaf People	25 Gender Equality Week International Week of Deaf People Franco-Ontarian Day	26 Gender Equality Week International Week of Deaf People Krishna Janmashtami	27 Gender Equality Week International Week of Deaf People	28 Gender Equality Week International Week of Deaf People
29 International Week of Deaf People	30 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation / Orange Shirt Day	1	2	3	4	5



Harrowsmith PS