



GORSEBROOK JUNIOR HIGH COMMUNITY MEMO

October 19th - 23rd, 2026

*Please read below for the week’s events and other school-related information

This is: [Week 2](#)

MONDAY	- Grade 8 Band Practice @ 7:45 am - Room 201 - Grab & Go Breakfast available - Chess & Strategy Games Club @ 12:10 - Room 210 - Math Extra Help @ 12:10 - Room 210 - no experience or sign-up required! - Debate Club @ 11:45 - Room 212 - All Grades Soccer Only Intramurals @ 12:10 - Gym (max 30 students) - Female-identifying Soccer Semifinals @ Clayton Park JH Field - 4:50 pm - Male-identifying Volleyball Tryout/Callback #3 @ 3:00 pm - Gym - Male-identifying Soccer practice @ 3:00 pm - Gorsebrook field
TUESDAY	- Grade 9 Band Practice @ 7:45 am - Room 201 - Grab & Go Breakfast available - Female-identifying Volleyball Tryout #3 @ 11:40 - Gym - The Readers Rumble Club @ 12:10 - Room 215 - GSA @ 12:10pm - Room 109 - French Extra Help @ 12:10 - Room 211
WEDNESDAY	- Grab & Go Breakfast available - Library Open to all students @ 12:10pm - (space is limited) - Sting Ensemble (all strings players) @ 12:10 - Room 201 - Grade 8 & 9 Intramurals @ 12:10 - Gym (max 30 students) - Lego, robotics, and Lego robotics! @ 12:10 - Foods Lab (Room 108) - Math Extra Help @ 12:10 - Room 218 - Film club @ 12:00 pm - Room 217 - Please note this club starts 10 minutes earlier than others. - Musical Rehearsal @ 3pm-6pm - Please see bulletin board for called actors - Female-identifying Volleyball Practice @ 3pm - Gym
THURSDAY	- Grade 7 Band Practice @ 7:45 am - Room 201 - Grab & Go Breakfast available - Library Open to all students @ 12:10pm - (space is limited) - Musical Appreciation Club @ 12:10 - Room 211 Male-identifying Soccer Finals @ Mainland Commons - 4:50 pm - Male-identifying Volleyball Practice @ 3pm - Gym
FRIDAY	NSTU Conference Day - No School for Students

[Upcoming Dates](#)

Oct 29th - Spooky Haunted House Event for Students

Nov 11th - Remembrance Day - No School

Nov 20th - Assessment & Evaluation Day - No School

[From the Office:](#)

Temporary Admin Changes

We would like to inform families of some temporary changes to our administration team at Gorsebrook. From October 19 to December 21, 2026, Mr. MacPhee will be serving as Acting Principal at Islandview High School. During this time, Ms. Johnston will assume the role of Acting Principal at Gorsebrook.

We are currently working with HRCE to fill the temporary Acting Vice-Principal position. Our administration team will work to ensure a smooth transition and minimize any disruptions to students, staff, and families.

We look forward to welcoming Mr. MacPhee back to Gorsebrook following the holiday break!

Student Attendance Notifications

As part of Nova Scotia’s Provincial Student Attendance and Engagement Policy, teachers are required to notify families when a student has missed 10% or more of instructional time in an individual course.

Some families may receive these notifications in the coming weeks. We recognize that students miss school for many valid reasons, including illness, appointments, and family commitments. These notices are not disciplinary in nature or a cause for alarm. They are simply a way to keep families informed about attendance and ensure students are supported in their learning.

If you receive a notification, please know that no immediate action is required unless there are attendance concerns or barriers you would like to discuss with us.

Terry Fox Fundraiser Update

What an incredible effort from our entire school community! Together, we carried on Terry Fox’s Marathon of Hope and raised a grand total of **\$1,535.90** for cancer research. Thank you all for your generosity and Gorsebrook spirit.

Update to Intramurals Schedule

We have made some adjustments to our lunch-hour intramurals schedule to help manage participation and provide opportunities for students across all grade levels.

Updated Schedule (Starting at 12:10 PM):

- **Monday:** Soccer only – Open to all grades. Students must physically sign in upon arrival at the gym. Maximum 30 students.
- **Tuesday:** Grade 7 only – Priority will be given to students who did not participate on Monday. Maximum 30 students.
- **Wednesday:** Grades 8 and 9 only – Maximum 30 students.
- **Friday:** Open to all grades – Activity will be determined and shared with students. Maximum 30 students unless otherwise posted.

Please note: During school sports seasons (e.g., volleyball, basketball), intramural times may be impacted by team practices scheduled during lunch. Team practices will take priority, but we will do our best to accommodate both whenever possible.

Thank you for your flexibility as we work to provide as many opportunities as possible for students to get active and participate!

Donations

The Gorsebrook community is now accepting donations of empty, clean prescription pill bottles. These containers will be re-used to support medical programs and reduce waste. Bottles need to be washed, dried and recapped. Please also remove all labels. Donations can be left in the main office or brought to Madame Lutley in room 209.

Coming Soon - Spooky Night!

SPOOKY NIGHT!
Haunted House & Halloween Fun

Get ready for a night of spooky fun, games, music, treats, and more!

- Date:** Thursday, October 29, 2026
Time: 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
When: School Gym
Who: Gorsebrook Students or signed in guests who are in grades 7-9

Our gym will be transformed into a Halloween-themed Spooky Night, complete with a haunted house, games, music, treats, popcorn, and costume prizes!

Admission: \$7 per person

Your \$7 admission includes:

- A walk-through of our Haunted House
- 10 tickets to use at our various games and activity stations
- Popcorn and treats
- Music and Halloween fun
- A chance to win costume prizes

Tickets will be available soon through School Cash Online and sign in sheets for guests will be available in the office. Additionally tickets will also be available for purchase at the event. Students may bring money if they wish to play additional games past their 10 tickets.

Come dressed in your favourite Halloween costume and join us for an evening of spooky fun! We hope to see you there!

Students are not required to stay for the entire time and can leave once they have participated in games and the haunted house. Parents, please make arrangements with your child regarding what time they will leave.

From the Phys Ed Department

Thank you to our students who have been coming prepared for outdoor classes. For a few days we will be slotting in our Fall fitness unit, which is indoors but afterwards, if the weather is cooperative, we hope to get back outside for tennis & disc golf. If the weather doesn't cooperate we will postpone those sports until the spring.

From HRCE

October 19-23 is School Bus Safety Week

Every school day, thousands of HRCE students rely on the bus to get to and from school safely.

School Bus Safety Week is a chance to highlight the simple habits that help keep everyone safe — from waiting well back from the road, to following the driver’s instructions, to staying alert around stopped school buses.

With more than 33,000 HRCE students travelling on more than 400 buses each day, safety depends on all of us: students, families, drivers, schools and motorists.

This week is a good opportunity to review a few everyday reminders and help reinforce safe routines on the bus, at the stop and on the road.

Bus Stop Safety

- Be on time for the bus and please don’t run to/from the bus.
- Stand back off the road and don't push or shove when waiting at a stop.
- Always cross in front of the bus. Walk three metres (10 feet) in front of the bus to a point where you can see the driver and wait for the driver's signal to cross. Proceed to the centre of the road, STOP, LOOK & LISTEN and cross the road when it is safe.
- Never crawl under a school bus or cross the road behind the bus.
- Know the danger zones around the bus.

School Bus Safety

- Please respect and listen to the driver and avoid distracting them.
- Please keep noise levels to a minimum.
- Do not stand or move seats while the bus is in motion.
- Never put your hands, arms, feet or head out of the bus window.
- Ask the driver for permission before you open the bus windows.
- Do not throw anything inside the bus or out of the windows.
- Keep the aisle clear at all times when the bus is in motion.

Remember: In Nova Scotia, it's illegal to pass a school bus when its red lights are flashing and the stop arm is extended.

You can find out more information about riding the school bus in HRCE [here](#).

October is Mi'kmaq History Month

Each October, Mi'kmaq History Month provides an opportunity to deepen our understanding of Mi'kmaq culture, history, language and traditions, while recognizing the important contributions of Mi'kmaq people past and present.

Across our schools, students and staff may mark the month through learning, storytelling, art, community connections and cultural experiences that bring Mi'kmaq perspectives into the classroom and school community.

As we learn together, Mi'kmaq History Month reminds us of the importance of listening, building relationships and continuing our shared commitment to truth and reconciliation.

Learn more about Mi'kmaq History Month [here](#).

Safe Arrival Reminder

Attendance: Students are recorded as absent by their teachers if they aren't in their first class by 8:40am.

SAFE ARRIVAL: To report your child(ren) absent or late, you can use any of the following methods:

→ ***Toll-Free Number:*** Parents/guardians can call 1-833-582-6940 to report:

- Future absences using an automated system (max 5 consecutive days) at a time.
- Excuse your child(ren) for a full day (no half-day option). If they arrive late or after an appointment, their attendance will be updated in our system upon arrival and sign-in at the Main Office.

→ ***PowerSchool Parent/Student Portal:*** Parents/guardians can log in to <https://sishrs.ednet.ns.ca/public/> to access the School Messenger website to report all absences.

→ ***School Messenger App:*** Parents/guardians can download the School Messenger app for Android and iOS devices and use their username and password for the PowerSchool Portal.

*All three methods are available 24 hours a day, 7 days per week. Absences can be reported any time before 9:05 am on the day the student will be absent. Up to five consecutive absences can be recorded at once. If your child will be absent for the **afternoon only**, please contact the Main Office at 902-421-6758 ext. 5451000. Feel free to leave a message stating your child's full name and the duration of the absence.

Information can also be found on the hrce.ca website under For Families > General Information > Safe Arrival

*Please do not email teachers for attendance purposes.

Communication

Other updates and important school information can be found on our webpage. <https://gbf.hrce.ca/>
Gorsebrook Jr. High has a Parent-led Facebook Group – you can find it by searching for 'GJHS Community'.