

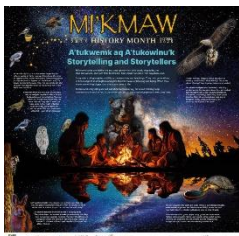


École LeMarchant-St. Thomas School

Les nouvelles d'octobre 2025

October 2025 News

Theme: Gratitude



October is [Mi'kmaq History](#) month, *Storytelling and Storytellers*.

This theme celebrates the power of stories in Mi'kma'kik—stories shaped by the land and waters, carried through generations, and alive with laughter, teaching, and truth. Storytelling remains a living record of Mi'kmaw science, history, and values, connecting people to each other and to the ancestors who came before.

October 1 is Treaty Day

Celebrating and recognizing Treaty Day is an important way we can strengthen understanding and respect for Indigenous cultures and histories. It highlights the significance of treaties as living agreements that shape relationships between Indigenous peoples and the government. By educating students about Treaty Day, we promote awareness of Indigenous rights and contributions and encourage reconciliation. This celebration helps build a more inclusive and respectful society, where students learn the importance of honouring commitments and working together for a better future.

Staffing news

Walaa Ibrahim, our librarian, has resigned. We would like to thank her for all her hard work and wish her good luck in future endeavors.

The position was advertised, and Leila Jabbari is the successful candidate. She has previously been the librarian at Millwood Elementary. Welcome/Bienvenue!!

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Snacks and Lunch

Many of our students are enjoying the hot lunch program. Some students are letting us know that they are still hungry. Parents/guardians can always order more than one lunch for their child. To do so you need to create a second profile for your child and place the order. Please ask your child about this and consider sending extra snacks.

Reminder About Re-Entering School After Dismissal

Dismissal is at 2:55 PM each day. Our school is a secure building. After dismissal, students are not allowed to re-enter the school for any reason.

Please remind your child to use the bathroom before leaving at the end of the day.

Dismissal and the Playground

This is a friendly reminder that school rules continue to apply after school hours.

Please take a moment to remind your child that riding bicycles and scooters on school grounds is not permitted, as it presents safety concerns for all students and staff.

Additionally, we are sharing our outdoor space with the EXCEL program, and it's important that we maintain a safe and respectful environment for everyone using the facilities.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in keeping our school community safe.

Parents/guardians are responsible for monitoring their child(ren) after school as there is no supervision by staff.

Nut-Free School

This is a friendly reminder that we are a nut-free school.

For the safety of all our students, please do not send any food items that contain peanuts or tree nuts (such as almonds, cashews, walnuts, etc.) in your child's lunch or snacks. We have students with severe allergies, and your cooperation helps keep everyone safe and healthy.

Early Pick-Up Cut-off

This is a reminder that all early pickups must be communicated to both your child's teacher and the school office ahead of time.

The cut-off time for early pickup is 2:40 PM. After this time, we are preparing for dismissal, and we will not be able to accommodate last-minute pickups.

If you arrive after 2:40 PM, please wait until regular dismissal at 2:55 PM to pick up your child.

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Thank you for your support in keeping our students safe and our dismissal process smooth.

Head Lice

There have been sporadic reports of cases of head lice. Please consult the link below to learn more about head lice and treatment.

<https://www.nshealth.ca/sites/default/files/documents/pamphlets/07135.pdf>

SchoolMessenger app

This is a friendly reminder that the Halifax Regional Centre for Education is using the SchoolMessenger Safe Arrival system to report student absences.

You can report your child's full-day absence in one of the following ways:

1. PowerSchool Parent/Student Portal

Log in to the PowerSchool Portal to report an absence ahead of time.

2. SchoolMessenger App

Download the SchoolMessenger app for Android or iOS. Use your PowerSchool username and password to sign in.

3. Toll-Free Number

Call 1-833-582-6940 anytime to report an absence using the automated phone system.

All three options are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Absences can be reported any time before the school day begins.

You can report:

- A Full Day Absence (choose the reason "Absent with Notification"), or
- A Multiple Day Absence (up to 5 days in a row, with the same reason).

➡ If your child is only late or gone for part of the day, please still report a Full Day Absence. The school will update the attendance record when your child arrives.

If your child's absence is not reported before school starts, you will receive notifications by email, text, and phone call from SchoolMessenger. If no one can be reached, school staff will follow up.

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School Advisory Council (SAC)

As mentioned in earlier communications- the SAC is looking for a French Immersion Parent/guardian representative. We have had two parents express interest therefore we are calling on our parent/guardian community to vote.

Candidate: Zeeshan Sheikh

My name is Zeeshan Sheikh, and I am a clinician-scientist, a periodontal surgeon, researcher, and faculty member at Dalhousie University (Dentistry/Medicine and Biomedical Engineering), along with being a scientific-affiliate at Nova Scotia Health. My professional and personal life has always been deeply connected to education, health, research, and community service, and I am a strong supporter and proponent of advancing learning opportunities for children and families. I have previously served for a year on the School Advisory Council (SAC) at Inglis Street Elementary. This year, my son started his Primary educational journey at LMST, and I see this as an opportunity to become meaningfully involved in supporting the school community as both a parent and an advocate for education and health awareness.

I hope to be a useful and active member of the SAC, contributing my experience, insights, and collaborative approach to help strengthen our school's academic and extracurricular environment. I believe my professional background in health and education also allows me to bring a unique perspective, particularly on matters related to student well-being and evidence-based educational practices.

Regardless of whether I am chosen to be part of the committee, I remain committed to supporting LMST and will always be glad to assist with any initiatives that benefit the school and our students/children, especially those related to health, education, and student development. Thank you for considering my candidacy, and I look forward to contributing to the success and growth of our school community in any way I can.

Candidate: Rochelle Egan

I have almost 20 years' service as a Naval Engineering Officer and was the first female Combat Systems Engineering Officer to serve on a Canadian submarine. I was born and raised in the Yukon and I've been a resident of Halifax since 2006. I'm a mom of three and a certified yoga teacher.

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As a parent of a Grade 1 French Immersion student with two younger children I hope will follow that path, I'm committed to being involved in our school community for the long term. I'd like to represent the voices of other parents with young children and support a positive, inclusive environment for all students. I'm committed to advocating for the unique needs of French Immersion students so our children can be successful in their pursuit of fluency in French. I also want to be a resource for other parents, someone that they can approach with questions and concerns. Joining the SAC is a meaningful way for me to contribute, stay informed, and help support the success of our school.

The vote will take place from October 3-10 via email/google link. Stay tuned!

Our next SAC meeting is October 21 at 4:30 pm. All parents/guardians are welcome to attend.

LMST HOME & SCHOOL

FUNDS USED IN SEPTEMBER

CURRICULUM NIGHT ICE CREAM & POPSICLE SOCIAL – Thank you to everyone who came and helped us successfully launch the 25/26 school year. Over 1,000 treats were consumed! It was so great to see our community connecting and having fun together!

TEACHER ALLOCATIONS – Last June, attendees at our H&S meeting unanimously voted to provide each of our 26 classroom teachers with \$275 in September. Funds are used at the discretion of teachers to support the purchase of items like classroom supplies, books, special events, etc.

FOLD OUT TABLES – Attendees at our June H&S meeting unanimously voted to approve the allocation of \$3,400 to help fund the purchase of 22 6-foot tables and a transportation cart. Tables will be used during various school events (e.g. Heritage Fair, Bingo).

PLAYGROUND STRUCTURE– Attendees at our June H&S meeting unanimously voted to allocate \$9,000 to our \$85,000 playground fund. Our playground structures are well loved by students and families and will need replacement in the next couple of years. In addition to our

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playground fund, we hope to raise additional funds through public grants and community support. We anticipate that a replacement structure will cost approximately \$250,000+.

UPCOMING EVENTS! STAY TUNED!

Stay tuned for more upcoming H&S FUNdraising and community events:

- LMST Clothing (Oct)
- October H&S Meeting (Oct 21, 6-7pm – ALL WELCOME!)
- Fall Garden Clean-up (Sun, Oct 19, 2-4pm)
- Woozles Shopping Night (Nov 5, 5:30-9pm)
- Fall Family Skate – FREE! (Nov 11, 2-4pm at SMU)
- Holiday Wreaths & Poinsettias (Nov/Dec)

Garden and Greenspace Update

Fall Clean Up at LMST: Come join us on Sunday October 19 from 2-4pm at the school to help get the garden ready for the winter. No experience is required - come for 30 minutes or stay the whole time. It is fun family time with the kids playing on the playground and helping in the garden.

Harvest Snack: We are excited to be able to do the Harvest Snack again this year, which will happen the week of October 20th. Each class will help prepare a healthy snack and share it together. Stay tuned for more details including teachers reaching out for volunteers.

We are always looking for new faces to help facilitate the activities with the garden. If you are interested, please reach out to Lizzie at lizzie@mooreco.ca or Tricia tjbarry9@gmail.com

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Le Mois International “Marchons vers l’école” et “Marchons à l’école”



LMST will once again participate in International Walk to/at School during the week of October 27-31. We will celebrate the benefits of walking/wheeling to school and at school.



October 20-24 is School Bus Safety Week

Student safety is a shared responsibility! During School Bus Safety Week, everyone can work together to ensure the safety of students on and around the school bus. Did you know that HRCE has more than 33,000 students who ride the school bus every day? School Bus Safety Week is a great time to remind students, families and schools, of a few daily safety tips that everyone can follow to ensure all students get to school safely.

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.

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- 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.

December Showcase

Please mark your calendars for our Primary-3 musical showcase on December 9 and 10. Our grades 4-6 will be participating in the musical Annie JR in April.

| Tuesday, December 9 | Wednesday, December 10 |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 3 Fennell | 3 LeDuc |
| 2/3 Drapeau | 2 Jordan |
| 3 Collinson | 1 Maddigan |
| Primary Zelios | 1 Katelyn Smith |
| Primary /1 Bethune | 1 Emily Smith |
| 2 Englehutt | 2 Manderville |
| Primary Lacroix | 1 Boyle |
| Primary DePalma | P/1 Rhynold |
| Grades 4-6 Choir | |

What is SchoolsPlus?

SchoolsPlus is a confidential, free service available in every school in Nova Scotia. Our goal is to build positive relationships between families, schools, and communities. We can help families navigate complicated situations when they are involved with many different services. This helps ensure everyone is communicating clearly and working on shared goals. SchoolsPlus can also help connect families to community resources. Contact the SchoolsPlus Facilitator for your school to make a referral. You can find additional information here. LMST's School's Plus facilitator is Bryan Bell. He can be reached at bryan.bell@hrce.ca

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Important Dates



October 1- Treaty Day

October 1- LMST grades 3-6 cross country meet at LMST after school.

October 3-10- Parent/guardian vote for School Advisory Parent /Guardian Representative

October 8 – Cross country meet (grades 3-6) Gorsebrook field after school

October 13- Thanksgiving Day – no school

October 21- SAC meeting at 4:30 pm

October 21- H & S meeting at 6:00 pm

October 21- Kick off for LMST dance/walk-a-thon fundraiser (more info to come)

October 24- Professional learning day- no school for students

October 31- Dance-a-thon/walk-a-thon. More info to come.

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