

# Cunard's Captain's Log



Twitter: @cunardjunior  
Website: <https://cun.hrce.ca/>



December 2024-2025!

## *Important Dates!*

December 3: Report Cards emailed home and International Day of Persons with Disabilities

December 3,5: Scholastic Book Fair

December 4: Evening of Music Holiday Concert (6:15 pm)

December 5: AM: No Classes PM: Parent Teacher 1-3 pm (phone) 6-8 pm (in-person)

December 16: Cunard Community Food Drive

December 20: Last Day before Break

January 3: First Day back after Break



## *Administration Message*

Welcome to December!

It's hard to believe we are starting the month of December! With all of the activities, events, field trips, clubs and sporting events, it seems the three months have flown by! We continue to grow and are thrilled to have almost 300 students now enrolled here at Cunard. A big welcome to our two new lunch monitors Anne and Hyunjin! We are also excited to welcome two more monitors who are joining us in the near future as well!

A HUGE thank you to all of our parent volunteers who are coaching, helping with clubs, field trips, equipment pick-ups and day to day routines and events at Cunard. We are so thankful to have you! We are always looking for extra sets of hands so if you are available at any point during the day and would like to help out, please let us know. We'd also like to thank all of you who have reached out with a simple "thank-you", "well-done", or "note of appreciation". Your kindness does not go unnoticed and certainly lifts spirits throughout the building! A huge shout out to Family SOS for continuing to offer our two day hot lunch program for students and families! Students are enjoying the meals and we appreciate ALL the work they are putting into the menu, purchasing, cooking and delivering of meals for our students.

Our Student Leadership Team launched our first dance, our first grade 5-6 sock hop, our first hot chocolate sale, and November launched our first staff mystery spirit day where students could participate by guessing the theme for the day, and submitting it to the office for class points! Our new hallway signs will be up as well for parent-teacher. Students came up with some amazing names! We have also started our "Beacons of Light" wall where staff can shout out to students who have stood out in a positive way and students can shout out to staff for the same. It's a great way for everyone to be recognized for the positive influence they have on others!

December brings our annual Evening of Music holiday concert, some mischievous and surprise guests, Parent-Teacher conferences, a name the elf contest, and our annual community food drive. We are looking forward to the fun to come! We are also seeing some colder weather. Please ensure students are dressed for the weather as they are outside during recess and lunch. If you or any families you know could use some assistance in assuring students have warm clothing, please reach out to the school and we can help.

We wish all who celebrate a Happy Holidays, a Merry Christmas, a Happy Hanukkah and a joyful Kwanzaa! Let us all enjoy a peaceful and happy December!

## REMINDER: Hot Lunch Days and December Schedule

Grade 5-6: Free hot lunch available to all grade 5 and 6 students on Tuesday's (ending Dec 10)

Grade 7-8: Free hot lunch available to all grade 7 and 8 students on Wednesday's (ending Dec 11)

Pizza Lunch: Available to purchased on the website for delivery every Thursday

To order pizza for your child, please visit the pizza slice logo on the website. Pizza will be delivered each Thursday throughout the year. **Orders are due the Wednesday before 12:00 noon for students to receive pizza the following day (Thursday) Any orders entered after 12:00 noon will not be added to Thursday's order so please ensure they are in on time.**



## Scent Aware and Nut Aware!!

We'd like to remind students and families we are a scent aware and nut aware school. Students are expected to refrain from wearing perfumes/colognes and from bringing products containing nuts to school. We have a shared responsibility to create an optimal learning environment for everyone. Thank you for your understanding.

## School Cash

School Cash online is live and available for parents to use on our school website. School cash offers parents the opportunity to order school lunches, school swag, pay for field trips and any fundraisers we may have! Simply register an account to be able to pay in several different payment forms. [Click here](#) for more information.



## IMPORTANT: Provincial Cell Phone Policy Directive

The new Provincial directive is available online: <https://www.ednet.ns.ca/cellphones>

### Cunard Junior High's Cell Phone/Personal Mobile Device Expectations

- Cell phones and Personal mobile devices (air pods, headphones and smart devices) are to be turned off, located in backpacks/cinch bags BEFORE entering the building.
- Cell phones and Personal mobile devices (air pods, headphones and smart devices) are to be completely away, turned off, and stored in lockers or cinch bags throughout the day (Grade 7,8). Students are NOT PERMITTED to store personal devices in their pockets, sweaters or clothing.
- Students in grades 5 and 6 will turn off and store phones in lockers/locked cabinet for the entire school day including non-instructional time.

- Cell phones and Personal mobile devices (air pods, headphones and smart devices) are not permitted in lobby's, stairwells, hallways, classrooms, gymnasiums, indoor spaces, or bathrooms. The grade 7-8 indoor lunch room during lunch is the only indoor exception.
- Pictures and videos are not permitted to be taken at school.
- Cell phones and Personal Mobile Devices are only permitted over lunch hour for grade 7 and 8 while in the lunch room and outdoors ONLY. Personal devices are not permitted in hallways, gymnasium, library or bathrooms during the lunch period.
- The Code of Conduct will apply to students who do not follow cell phone expectations

The purpose of these expectations is to minimize distractions and disruptions during learning time. When a student is not following the expectations, the following steps will be taken:

Incident Number	Administrative Action
• 1	Student will be expected to turn phone or personal device into administration to be secured for the remainder of the day and parents/guardians will be notified.
• 2	Student will be expected to turn phone or personal device into administration to be secured, and parents/guardians will be notified. The parent/guardian will be responsible for retrieving the device from the school.
• 3	Student will be expected to turn phone or personal device into administration to be secured, and parents/guardians will be notified. Third violation will be subject to the application of the Provincial Code of Conduct. The parent/guardian will be responsible for retrieving the device from the school.

Students are responsible for respecting the privacy of others and must not make others' personal information or images public. Students are not permitted to take pictures/videos/recordings unless authorized by school staff. The Nova Scotia Provincial School Code of Conduct will be applied to all students who use cell phones or personal mobile devices inappropriately or unexpectedly during the school day. Students are not permitted to answer cell phones during class time, including text messages. Phones must be turned off in accordance with the provincial policy throughout the school day.

Students in Grade 7 and 8 are able to check messages in the lunch room or outdoors at lunch.

If students are feeling unwell. They are to come to the office immediately. Together we will develop and immediate plan for notifying guardians and students can be monitored to ensure their safety while waiting for a parent/guardian to arrive.

If there is an emergency, we ask you to please contact our main office at 902-479-4418 and press 0. We kindly ask for your support. Cell phones are required to be off during the school day, so

please call the main office in lieu of calling or texting your child's cell phones during the school day.

## New Website Launched!

HRCE has launched new websites for all schools! We are currently in the process of continually updating our website and would like to highlight a few important areas that can provide helpful information! Please watch the website for important information!

The image shows a screenshot of the Cunard Junior High website. The header includes the school logo, name, and navigation links: "For Students & Families", "Staff Directory", "Communication", and "Dashboard". A search bar is located in the top right. The main content area features a grid of tiles with various links and information. Yellow callout boxes with arrows point to specific features: "Parent Power School Login" points to a red tile; "Daily Events" points to a grey tile; "Watch for Updates" points to a large yellow arrow; "X Watch for Photos" points to a red tile; "Order Pizza" points to a red tile; and "News" points to a red tile. The "Latest News" section at the bottom features an article titled "Spryfield Holiday Support Program" with a "Read Full Article" link.

You can also expect a short weekly "Clipper News" email regarding any important information or upcoming events the following week. *The Captain's Log* (our newsletter) will also be emailed home. If ever you feel out of the loop, please don't hesitate to call our main office!

It is important to us that our families work with our staff and Admin team. Issues arise throughout the year and, as parents ourselves, we UNDERSTAND the emotions involved when children come home upset about something that happened at school. Together, we can work through concerns. Please bring issues to light respectfully so we can help your child be successful at school. We both want the same so it's important we work as a team!

## Communication Home and School!

It can be difficult to stay up to date so we encourage you to check out our school website and our *What's Happening Calendar* on the website! Here you will find important dates and times! We also email a weekly *Clipper News summary* each Friday as well as *The Captain's Log Newsletter* monthly. For a peek at fun activities, check out the X on the website to link to our Twitter page where you can view photos and news!

## Please Review: Bus Students and Families!

The school itself does not organize or coordinate bussing. If you have questions around transportation, please contact HRCE Transportation at [transportation@hrce.ca](mailto:transportation@hrce.ca) or call 902-431-4723.

## Attendance Tracking and Supports

HRCE has launched a new attendance tracking system. If your child has been absent for more than 10% of the school year, you will be contacted by either the classroom teacher or school Administration. Please know these calls are simply to offer support if needed! It also provides an opportunity to connect and discuss any obstacles that may be preventing your child from coming to school regularly so we can create a plan together (if needed) and access any of the supports the school has available to help!

## Inclement Weather

**Did you know?** HRCE takes great care when making the decision to alter the regular operations of schools and school buses in the event of severe or inclement weather.

It is HRCE's goal to communicate any changes to the regular operations of schools and/or buses as close to 6:00 a.m. as possible. A 6:00 a.m. announcement could be:

- All schools are delayed in opening by two hours and bus pickups are delayed by two hours; or
- All schools are open, but some or all busses are not operating for the day; or
- Some schools (either individually or by family) are closed for the day; or
- All schools are closed for the day.

**If weather deteriorates, or is forecasted to worsen throughout the morning, an 11:00 a.m. announcement could be:**

- Bussed students will be picked up two hours earlier than their regular dismissal time; and
- Walking students will be dismissed at their regularly scheduled lunch hour.

**How will I find out?**

- By email to the addresses in PowerSchool
- By text message, if you have opted-in. If you aren't sure if you have opted-in, text Y to the following number: 978338
- [On the HRCE website](#)
- [On X \(formerly Twitter\)](#)
- [On Instagram](#)

It's important to always have a plan in place for childcare in the event of any cancellation. For more information on how HRCE manages during inclement weather, visit [hrce.ca/weather](https://hrce.ca/weather).



## And In Other News...

**Student support:** Kids Help Phone understands how fear and uncertainty can fuel anxiety and other feelings. They are available to support the young people in our community through this challenging time – and beyond. Please know Kids Help Phone is available 24/7, will never judge and always be confidential.

Kids Help Phone is here 24/7 for young people and adults across the province who are experiencing the impacts of wildfires. For e-mental health support, text 686868 (young people), text 741741 (all ages), call 1-800-668-6868 or visit [kidshelpphone.ca](http://kidshelpphone.ca). There is no issue too big or feeling too small.

**Schools Plus and Pathways!** Both Schools Plus and Pathways (located at JL Ilsley) are a great way to support and connect families to resources if needed! Pathways is offering FREE English language support to students and their families and Schools Plus is an excellent resource to connect to multiple services.

Did you know? SchoolsPlus operates 12 months of the year! SchoolsPlus is a confidential, free service available to every school in Nova Scotia. Families and students (12+) can self-refer to SchoolsPlus by contacting the SchoolsPlus facilitator for your school, **Natasha Tacoma**. Learn more [here](#).

### **HRCE is always hiring!**

Did you know that HRCE has roughly 10,000 employees serving nearly 60,000 students?

Our job postings are updated every Wednesday at noon and feature a wide variety of career opportunities!

As HRCE grows, so does our staff. Check out new opportunities weekly at [www.myhrce.ca/jobs](http://www.myhrce.ca/jobs).

