



October, 2025  
Volume 6



## Principal's Message

Hello and welcome to the 2025-2026 school year. We have been busy getting started and have lots of great things to report. First, I would like to welcome back our vice principals and our amazing team of teachers and support staff, cafeteria staff, care takers as well as new and returning students. I also want to welcome all our new staff.

This year Auburn is hosting 26 international students from all over the world. We are so proud of our school and community and look forward to sharing our culture and overall high school experience with them.

Many of our sports teams and groups are underway and I encourage students to get involved in any way they can. There are many groups and clubs to join that will suit all interests. Part of a positive high school experience comes from participating in school activities, getting to know your peers and making great memories!

Since the beginning of September, there have been many things happening at Auburn Drive High School; welcome week, curriculum night, spirit week, fire/lock down drills, home openers, games, the Terry Fox run, Anti-bullying day, fundraisers, school trips and school photos to name a few. We have had guest speakers and post-secondary visitors with more to come.

(Cont. on the next page)



### October

- 7– Treaty Day, School Open
- 13– Thanksgiving Day, No Classes
- 24– PD day, No Classes
- 28– Picture Retakes

### November

- 11- Remembrance Day, No Classes
- 17–20 — Report Cards Go Home

### December

- 4– Progress Conferences Day, No Classes
- 19– Last day before holiday break

### January

- 5– First day back
- 28-29– Exams
- 30– Assessment Day, No Classes

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Principal's Message.....	1
New Staff .....	3
Truth & Reconciliation .	4
Fine Arts/Drama .....	6
Library .....	7
Youth Health Centre .....	8

## Principal's Message (cont.)

Make sure to check the board inside the student services office, google classroom, the Instagram page *@auburnstudentservices* regularly for up-to-date information on open houses, post secondary visits, scholarships and bursaries, job opportunities, summer programs and more.

October is Mi'kmaw History month. As a school, we continue to recognize Truth & Reconciliation and we honour the rich culture and heritage of the Mi'kmaq people.

Once again we will be following the cell phone policy as laid out by the province of Nova Scotia and the HRCE, I recommend reading it if you are not familiar with it already and having a conversation with your student about how important it is to abide by these guidelines. I strongly encourage you to continue to review PowerSchool for your child's progress and attendance. I also encourage you to stay involved in the educational development of your child so we can work together to help every student achieve success!

In the days ahead there are some important dates to remember. Picture retakes will be on October 28. All students who missed getting their school picture taken in September, as well as those who would like to try for a different picture are welcome to come. In November, will have our annual Remembrance Day Assembly and Progress Conferences will take place on Thursday, December 4. A messenger will be sent out via email with a link to book your time. Appointments will be available in both the afternoon and the evening.

Please remember Auburn Drive High remains a Scent Free School. We also are a strawberry and kiwi free school. Please be mindful when sending food with students.

I wish you a healthy and successful school year and look forward to the days ahead.

Karen Hudson

Principal



## WELCOME NEW STAFF!

TEACHER TEYA BEZANSON	TEACHER KYLE HAMMER
TEACHER JON DAUPHINEE	TEACHER SARA MCINTOSH
TEACHER KELLY DAVISON	TEACHER SHAE MORSE
TEACHER PATRICK DUFOUR	TEACHER KELSEY MUNRO
TEACHER JACK GILLIS	EPA JACQUELINE ADAMS

## MEET OUR SUPPORT STAFF!

VP A-L ANDREW MCDUGALL	INDIGENOUS NS STUDENT SUPPORT RACHEL MERRICK
VP M-Z CHRIS MACLELLAN	SOCIAL WORKER MARSHA HUDSON-ASH
GUIDANCE A-L LINDSAY MUNROE	YHC JANE YEO
GUIDANCE M-Z LISA RITCEY	SCHOOLS PLUS ERIN COTIE, THERESA DRISCOLL, LEILANI REUM
LANGUAGE SPECIALIST JACK WARD	
AFRICAN NS STUDENT SUPPORT IRA FRASER	

### ATTENDANCE REPORTING

\*\*\*\*\*

A reminder to families that the preferred method for reporting attendance at Auburn is in writing. Please send your absence report by email to [abnsa@hrce.ca](mailto:abnsa@hrce.ca) or your student can bring in a note when they return from their absence. Please include student first name, last name and grade.

\*\*\*\*\*

# allergy alert

Due to severe and life threatening allergies, we ask staff and students to please avoid bringing the following allergens to school:

**Peanuts**  
**Strawberries**  
**Kiwi**

***We are a Scent Aware and Nut Aware Facility!***



Each year, **September 30** marks the **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation**. This year HRCE observed **Orange Shirt Day on Friday, September 26**.

The day **honours the children** who never returned home and Survivors of residential schools, as well as their families and communities. Public commemoration of the tragic and painful history and ongoing impacts of residential schools is a vital component of the reconciliation process.

This federal statutory holiday was created through legislative amendments made by Parliament.

***Wear orange in solidarity.***

Both the **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation** and **Orange Shirt Day** take place on **September 30**.

Orange Shirt Day is a commemorative day led by Indigenous communities to raise awareness about the intergenerational impacts of residential schools on children, families, and communities. It honours Indigenous children who were lost in the residential school system.

The **orange shirt** symbolizes the loss of culture, freedom, and self-esteem that many Indigenous children experienced. This day reminds us that **“Every Child Matters”**.

On **September 30**, we encourage all Canadians to wear **orange** to honour the thousands of Survivors of residential schools.

For more information visit [www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/campaigns/national-day-truth-reconciliation.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/campaigns/national-day-truth-reconciliation.html)

## Truth and Reconciliation

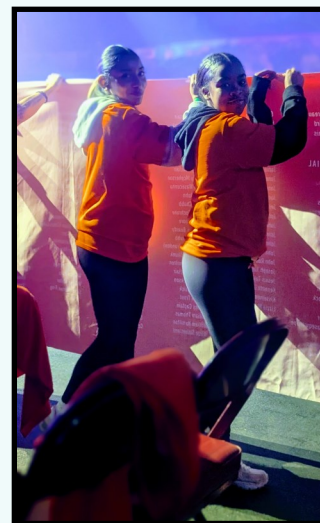


A group of Auburn Indigenous students took part in the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation (NCTR) Youth Empowerment Gathering at Scotiabank Centre on Sept.18, a significant event focused on leadership, reconciliation, and cultural revitalization. The gathering provided students with powerful workshops and discussions on resilience, the importance of preserving Indigenous traditions, and the ongoing journey toward reconciliation.

A few of our students had the profound honor of carrying the Memorial Cloth, a symbol of remembrance and respect for those impacted by the legacy of residential schools. Their participation in this important ceremony was a powerful expression of commitment to healing and justice for Indigenous communities across Canada.

We are incredibly proud of our students' involvement in the event and the leadership they continue to demonstrate within our own Auburn community. Their experiences at the gathering have further fueled their passion for advocating for change and supporting Indigenous rights

From left to right: Ethan James, Maddox Rhind, Ava Merrick, Sophie Emberley (Astral Junior High), Michshiya Hill and Makaiya Gough



### Provincial Directive on Cell Phone Use in NS Schools

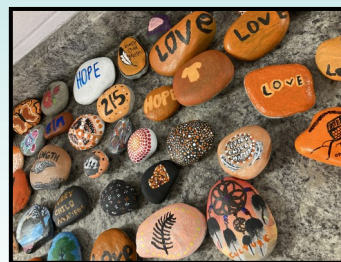
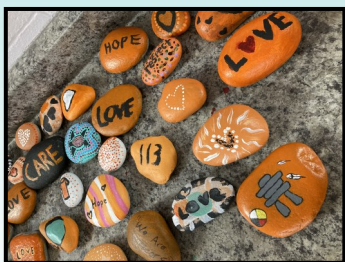
All public schools in Nova Scotia will ensure that access to personal cell phones during the school day adheres to the following expectations:

- Every student will have their personal cell phones turned off and stored during instructional time.
- Cell phones are not permitted in washrooms and/or change rooms at any time.
- Restricted access to social media sites on wifi networks will continue.
- In accordance with section 39(2)(e) of the Education Act, principals can direct a student to surrender their phone if not complying with expectations and will follow the Provincial School Code of Conduct Policy when addressing non-compliance.



## News from Mrs. McIntosh's Visual Arts class,

To honour the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, we invited Rachel Merrick, Auburn Drive's Mi'kmaw/Indigenous Student Support Worker, to lead us in a rock painting lesson. Throughout the week, students read accounts of residential school survivors and learned how story sharing and art making can be healing when faced with hardship. The rocks that the students painted will surround a living memorial outside the school to honour survivors and their families.



### ***Auburn Drive Fine Arts***

This year the Drama department hits the ground running with a cabaret style musical that will showcase songs from several Broadway musicals. *Cabaret! Cabaret!* will run on November 26-28 here at Auburn Drive High School. It is a collaboration between the drama department and our school's musicians, with several of the songs being performed live, and a big emphasis on dance and singing. We have brought in a student choreographer, Sierra Williams, who dances for local Studio 26, for our two big dance numbers.

There are 32 students involved in the production, and we are looking for parents and staff who want to get involved. We would like to promote this show for a big turnout, as we would like to run a full musical next year with funds raised.

It promises to be an entertaining evening, with a number of familiar catchy and moving tunes from such shows as *Cabaret*, *Rent*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Chicago*, and *Wicked*. Tickets will be available shortly and we hope to see you there!

## Duke of Edinburgh Award

Our school has an active Duke of Edinburgh Award program. We have students in all grades working on their Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards. These students will earn a personal development credit which will appear on their transcript. For more information, please contact Ms Chambers.

## From the Library



Our school library is open every day during regular school hours. If anyone would like to borrow a Chrome book, wither for the year or for a shorter period, they can see Ms Chambers. Students can access our library catalogue anytime from our school website, under "For Students." From that site or from their GNSPES account, students can also access SORA, HRCE's online library. Here you can find many of the most popular ebooks and audiobooks and download them right to your smartphone or other device.

Young Performers Collective in Portland Hills has spaces open in their High School Musical Wednesday Cast!!!! If you are interested in joining us for a fun year of musical theatre, please email [ypcfrontdesk@gmail.com](mailto:ypcfrontdesk@gmail.com) for more information or register at

### ATTENTION WILDCATS!

**We still have room for 10 more stars in YPC's Wednesday High School Musical cast!**

**This is your chance to...**

**Get'cha Head in the Game  
Bop to the Top with new friends  
Prove we're All in This Together**

**Don't sit on the sidelines...sign up today and join the YPC Wildcats family before the curtain rises!**



**OPEN TO ALL  
STUDENTS  
FROM  
GRADES 7-12**

**REGISTER TODAY  
YOUNGPERFORMERSCOLLECTIVE.COM  
EMAIL YPCFRONTDESK@GMAIL.COM FOR  
MORE INFORMATION**



# YOUTH HEALTH CENTRE

## What is the Youth Health Centre?

Your Youth Health Centre (YHC) provides a safe, welcoming and supportive environment to help you make decisions about your health and well-being. The YHC Coordinator supports your health needs through confidential conversations, helps navigate you to health resources in the community if needed, and helps to create opportunities for health and well-being in the school.

The YHC is a partnership between the Halifax Regional Centre for Education and Nova Scotia Health, and is operated by Public Health.

You can come to the YHC to get private confidential information or support on topics like:

- Emotional support
- Feeling confused or stressed
- Learning how to cope
- Relationships issues
- Problems at home
- Birth control education
- Safer sex information
- Sexuality/gender questions
- Dating violence
- Help to change a relationship with a substance (alcohol, cannabis, nicotine, other drugs etc).
- Healthy eating/nutrition
- Condoms, pregnancy tests and other sexual health products are available through the YHC.

Students can drop in on their own at a time that works for them or schedule a time - you don't need a referral or anyone else to direct you. You also don't need to tell anyone why you are going - teachers and staff will support you.

The YHC is not a place to come if you are physically sick or injured. We do not treat, diagnose, or administer medication or provide first aid.

Why would I go to the YHC?

All services provided by the Youth Health Centre are confidential, with some exceptions. The YHC staff will not share any information following your visit without your permission. We are happy to explain how we protect your health privacy.

What can I expect when I go there?

## What else does the YHC do?

The YHC also offers youth-led health programs, groups and clubs. These help you get involved in school life, and creates leadership opportunities if you want to learn some new skills. The programs at the YHC are driven by you, and decisions are made through your input. This is a great opportunity to get involved!

Your Youth Health Centre Coordinator is a trained health professional dedicated to YOUR health and well-being. You can expect someone who:

- Offers confidential services
- Is non-judgmental
- Values your knowledge
- Welcomes your input
- Respects your opinion
- Addresses your health concerns and helps you connect with the right services
- Is an advocate

If your health needs can't be met through the YHC, your Youth Health Centre Coordinator can help connect you to services and programs in the community.



Public Health





## Gender & Sexuality Alliance

**Tuesdays at lunch, Room 304**

**Bring your lunch! All are welcome.**

### From Student Services

*Follow us on Instagram, @auburnstudentservices and check on the board in Student Services regularly for updates on available scholarships and bursaries*



Colby Village Elementary is looking for student volunteers to help with the upcoming Halloween Howl . It is a great way to add volunteer hours to a resume. Anyone who is interested in helping out can stop by room 221 and chat with Ms. Gillie.

### Attendance Policy

- As per policy if a student has missed 20% of the course (18.2 classes) throughout a semester they may be eligible to lose the credit for that course and will not be eligible for credit recovery.
- If a student has missed 20% of class time (15min) they are to be marked absent.
  - 15min late for class will be entered into PowerSchool as an absent.
  - If a student leaves 15min before the class has ended, they have missed 20% of the class time and should be marked absent.
  - Professional judgment may be needed to adjust for various school activities or specific situations.
  - If a student has been late for class five times an absence will be added to their total.

