

OPA NEWS! November 2026

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<https://opa.hrce.ca>



Dear Families:



On behalf of the OPA Family, we extend a heartfelt thanks to the many Canadians, and their families, who serve now, and in the past, and many of whom made the ultimate sacrifice, to ensure that all of us can continue to live in a democracy where we enjoy the rights and freedoms Canada offers.

Below is an excerpt from the song “Nothing More”, written by the Alternate Routes (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9tXzIVjU1xs>), reflective of some of themes class conversations take during this time of Remembrance:

We are love, we are one

We are how we treat each other when the day is done

We are peace, we are war

We are how we treat each other and nothing more ...

...And tell me what it is that you see

A world that's full of endless possibilities

And heroes don't look like they used to

They look like you do

Together in Teamwork- Robin Legge, Kelly Hale and Your OPA Family

Some School Reminders

- The weather is quite cool these days. Please send along **mitts, hats**, for younger students, a change of **socks**.
- Please be reminded to send in a **full water bottle daily**.
- **We have staff and with allergies and sensitivities.**

Please support our message to students to not bring scented products to apply at school, and encourage they wear 'scent-free' as much as possible, with our thanks.

Avoidance of all peanuts and tree nuts is also valued, with thanks!

From OPA

- **D.O. Gibson (Guest Presenter)**



Our school is excited to welcome Canadian hip-hop artist, author and motivational speaker Duane “D.O.” Gibson, C.M. for a **Stay Driven** presentation. D.O. is a Guinness World Record-setting rapper who has delivered more than 4,000 school presentations across Canada. In 2026, he competed on The Amazing Race Canada alongside Maestro Fresh Wes and was appointed a Member of the Order of Canada for his work using hip-hop to educate and inspire young people. Through music, storytelling, humour and student

participation, D.O. encourages students to **build confidence, show resilience, make positive choices and “Defy the Odds.”**

We look forward to welcoming D.O. to our school on November 5th!



• **THANK YOU!**

Thank you so much for supporting our pumpkin sale and Halloween Howl fundraisers! Thanks to your generous participation-and a huge shoutout to community member Pat DeWolfe for leading the way-we raised nearly **\$2200** during our pumpkin campaign.

With the spirited teamwork of staff and volunteers, a **WONDERFUL TIME** was had our Halloween Howl! Together, we raised nearly **\$3500** at this event! Katelyn Day was the \$222.00 winner of our 50-50 draw!

We would also like to take the opportunity to thank our Home and School volunteers for their generous support and efforts toward our highly anticipated ice cream social! ***We couldn't do it without you!***

From the HRCE



- **Planning for 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 Instagram](#)

It's important to always have a plan in place for childcare in the event of any cancellation. Please remember: As a parent or guardian you always have the choice of whether or not to send your child to school.

- For more information on how HRCE manages during inclement weather, visit hrce.ca/families/cancellations.

Upcoming Events for November

November 3- School Picture Retake Day

November 5- Guest Speaker, Duane Gibson

November 6- Remembrance Day Observance at OPA

November 11- REMEMBRANCE DAY (*no school*)

November 19- OPA Craft Sale (*Grade 9 Trip Fundraiser*)

November 20- **Assessment and Evaluation Day** (*no classes*)/
International Day of the Child

November 26- Adaptations sent home via EduPost/Band
Concert from 6:30-7:30

November 27- Immunization Clinic/Fri-Yay (*wear school swag*)

November 30- Report Cards sent home

