



# École Burton Ettinger School

## Newsletter

### **PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE**

ÉBES Families, the first 2 months of school have gone relatively smoothly. Students have been busy settling into routines and getting to know their teachers and classmates.

Thank you to all in our school community for such a warm welcome! It is **AMAZING** that two months of the school year has already passed, but I wanted to let you all know that for those of you whom I have already met and had conversations with, whether in person, via email or phone, I appreciate the support you have provided for the school and the advocacy you have for your children. The staff here at ÉBES feel this same advocacy for your children and are doing everything they possibly can every day to meet the needs of all in our school. This is an **INCREDIBLE** team here at our school and I feel very fortunate to be a part of this school community. I look forward to continuing to work with all of you throughout the year.

### **STUDENT SUCCESS PLANNING (SSP):**

School staff are involved in setting goals in the areas of Literacy and Mathematics, along with student well-being, as part of our Student Success Plan. We focus on these throughout the year. At the end of each term, we collect summative data on student reading scores, writing samples and mathematics success. The end of each term provides us with an opportunity to reflect on the work we have been doing so far and to focus on areas for further improvement. This is known as **Short Cycle Planning**. At the end of Term 1, we will look at the strategies we

have implemented to date and make decisions on strategies we will focus on for 2<sup>nd</sup> term. Student data is collected and stored in a school-based system. We reflect on the data during staff meetings and professional learning sessions to determine how students are doing and areas for continued growth and improvement.

### **COLDER WEATHER:**

As we enter the winter months, please remember to have your children dress appropriately for the colder temperatures. We will have children go outside, when weather permits, to enjoy outdoor activities, so having them dressed properly for colder temperatures is especially important.

### **NEW SCHOOL WEBSITE:**

The HRCE has launched a new platform for school websites. The link is: **bet.hrce.ca**.

I encourage all of you to look at the website often as I will be updating it frequently with school related information throughout the year. The page looks different, but there are still links for SAC information, staff directory and parent information. In the interest of sharing information with our families, I will upload our school newsletters and calendars to this site as well.

### **PROVINCIAL LUNCH PROGRAM:**

We have just completed the first week of the School Lunch Program. There are still some challenges with delivery times of the meals, but we have a great system here at school where our lunch monitors come in early to delivery the warming boxes to classrooms. If you would like to offer your feedback, please go to the Lunch Program website: **nslunch.ca** where you can input your comments.

**SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Our SAC Meetings are well underway here at school. However, we are always interested in having new membership so that we hear from as many voices as possible. The SAC minutes from our past 2 meetings are on the school website: [bet.hrce.ca](http://bet.hrce.ca).

If you are interested in learning more about this team, please email me at [jgraham@hrce.ca](mailto:jgraham@hrce.ca). Our next meeting is **5:30 p.m. Wednesday, November 20, 2024.**



**IMPORTANT SCHOOL DATES:**

**NOVEMBER**

Monday, November 11 <sup>th</sup>	Remembrance Day (No Classes)
Thursday, November 14 <sup>th</sup>	Craft Fair Night
Wednesday, November 20 <sup>th</sup>	<b>5:30 p.m. SAC</b> <b>6:30 p.m. PTA</b>
Friday, November 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Assessment & Evaluation Day (No Classes)

**JANUARY**

Friday, January 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Classes Resume
Wednesday, January 15 <sup>th</sup>	5:30 p.m. SAC & PTA

**MARCH**

Thursday, March 6 <sup>th</sup>	6 – 8 p.m. Games Night
Friday, March 7 <sup>th</sup>	Assessment & Evaluation Day (No Classes)
March 10 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup>	March Break (No Classes)

**MAY**

Thursday, May 15 <sup>th</sup>	Black Excellence Day 6 – 8 p.m. Spring Concert
Monday, May 19 <sup>h</sup>	Victoria Day (No Classes)
Saturday, May 24 <sup>th</sup>	Spring Frolic

**DECEMBER**

Wed., December 4 <sup>th</sup>	<b>6:00 – 8:00 p.m.</b> Parent-Teacher Meetings
Monday, December 5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>A.M. Parent-Teacher Meetings</b> P.M. Teacher Professional Practice (No Classes for Students)
Wed., December 11 <sup>th</sup>	<b>6:30 p.m.</b> Winter Concert
Tuesday, December 12 <sup>th</sup>	Winter Concert (Snow Date)
Friday, December 20 <sup>th</sup>	Last Day of Classes for 2024

**FEBRUARY**

3 <sup>rd</sup> – 28 <sup>th</sup>	February is <b>REGISTRATION MONTH</b>
Monday, February 17 <sup>th</sup>	Heritage Day (No Classes)
Wednesday, February 19 <sup>th</sup>	5:30 p.m. SAC & PTA

**APRIL**

Thursday, April 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Parent-Teacher Conferences (No Classes)
Friday, April 18 <sup>th</sup>	Good Friday (No Classes)
Wednesday, April 16 <sup>th</sup>	5:30 p.m. SAC & PTA
Monday, April 21 <sup>st</sup>	Easter Monday (No Classes)
Wednesday, April 30 <sup>th</sup>	Professional Development Day (No Classes)

**JUNE**

Wednesday, June 18 <sup>th</sup>	5:30 p.m. SAC & PTA
Saturday, June 21 <sup>st</sup>	National Indigenous Peoples' Day
Friday, June 27 <sup>th</sup>	Assessment & Evaluation Day (No Classes)
Monday, June 30 <sup>th</sup>	Last Day of School



**SCHOOL BELLS:**

<b>8:35 - 8:45 A.M.</b>	Students enter building (Go directly to class)
<b>8:50 A.M.</b>	Classes Begin
<b>10:20 A.M. - 10:35 A.M.</b>	Recess #1
<b>10:35 A.M. - 10:50 A.M.</b>	Recess #2
<b>11:50 A.M. - 12:50 P.M.</b>	Lunch
<b>2:50 P.M.</b>	Dismissal All Classes and Grade Levels



**INCLEMENT WEATHER:**

**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](http://hrce.ca/weather).

**INFORMATION ITEMS SHARED ON BEHALF OF HRCE:**

**Indigenous Veterans Day**



Indigenous Veterans Day, observed on November 8, acknowledges the unique contributions and sacrifices made by Indigenous soldiers. This day highlights the bravery and commitment of Indigenous veterans, who have served with distinction despite facing historical and ongoing challenges.



**Remembrance Day**

Every year on November 11, we observe Remembrance Day to commemorate the sacrifices of the armed forces during World War I, World War II, and other conflicts. This solemn day is marked by ceremonies, moments of silence, and the wearing of poppies in honour of those who have served and fallen. Together, these days remind us of the courage and resilience of all who have served.



**Transgender Awareness Week**

Transgender Awareness Week, observed in the second week of November, focuses on raising awareness about the issues facing transgender and gender non-conforming individuals. The week highlights the challenges transgender people face, such as discrimination and lack of healthcare access, and promotes acceptance and inclusivity by encouraging supportive policies and practices.

The week helps to foster solidarity within the transgender community and with allies, providing emotional support and strengthening the transgender movement. It culminates in the Transgender Day of Remembrance on November 20, a day to honour those lost to anti-transgender violence, emphasizing the need for continued protection and support.

**Be an ally**

An ally is someone who actively and consistently supports, stands with and advocates for the 2SLGBTQIA+ communities. The best way to be an ally is to listen with an open mind. It is our responsibility to treat all people with dignity and kindness.

**FOR EXCEL PARENTS/GUARDIANS' INFORMATION:**

As of **November 4<sup>th</sup>**, and going forward, all **EXCEL** kids will be picked up from the **EXCEL PICK UP ZONE** at each floor near to their classrooms, by **EXCEL** group leaders. The areas for pick up are clearly labelled. Parents/guardians should have been informed of this change by **EXCEL** Leaders.

**SCHOOL ARRIVAL/DROP OFF:**

Please note, when dropping your child(ren) off at school in the morning, it is important they arrive on time (by **8:35 a.m.**). Students who are late for class disrupt the flow of the learning environment and miss valuable instructional time and important routines to begin their day. If possible, please schedule appointments for your child(ren) after their 2:50 p.m. dismissal time.

**Note: Students are not to be dropped off to the school before 8:35 a.m.**

**SCHOOL PARKING:**

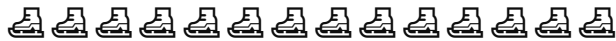
As I am sure all our parents/guardians and visitors to our school can understand, we do not have designated parking areas at our school. This causes concern for the safety of all in our school community, most especially during morning arrival and end of day dismissal. These are our busiest times here at school for students to be arriving and departing from their school day. These time periods are generally from **8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.** and **2:50 p.m. – 3:10 p.m.** We ask for your cooperation in not parking around the school perimeters, which are Central Avenue, Sunnybrae and Alex Streets).

Alex Street is of particular concern as there should not be any traffic on this road from **8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.** and **2:50 – 3:10 p.m.** This is the street where busses arrive to drop off and pick up children. Having traffic on this road during these times, causes concerns for the safety of our students.

In addition, there should not be any children dropped off on this road in the morning or picked up at the end of the day. We have noticed that there are cars who arrive at the same time as our busses and are sometimes parked in between busses. **Cars should not be coming on this road or stopping/parking to let off your children during school hours.** Your cooperation and attention to this safety concern is much appreciated.



**AFTER SCHOOL SKATING:**



**Burton Ettinger After School Skate will begin Wednesday NOVEMBER 13th,2024**

Centennial Arena

Time: 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Cost: **\$5.00 family**

**\$2.00 per person**

**\*\* *Students and Novice skaters are required to wear a helmet & be accompanied by an adult.***

There are no equipment rentals available, but we can try to facilitate equipment needs if we know well in advance.

**\*\* Last skate before Christmas break will be: December 18th.**

Any questions you can email: Jacalyn Leeco at [jleeco@hrce.ca](mailto:jleeco@hrce.ca)

**See you on Wednesday November 13th 📣📣**





### SCHOOL PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION:

We are looking for members for our PTA (Parent-Teacher Association) Team. Members plan fun events, fundraising opportunities, and social events for our school community throughout the year. Please email our Principal, Janice Graham at [jgraham@hrce.ca](mailto:jgraham@hrce.ca), if you would like to participate. Our next meeting is Wednesday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. If you are interested, please attend. We welcome new and returning members.

### STANDING ITEMS IN NEWSLETTER:

#### PEANUT AND NUT AWARENESS:

Due to food allergies and sensitivities at school, please do not send food to school that contains peanuts and/or tree nuts, including Nutella, which is made with hazelnuts. Students who bring sandwiches with WOW butter or other type of non-nut spread please indicate, with a note in your child's lunch bag, what the spread is and that it does not contain nuts. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

#### SCHOOL WEBSITE:

You can find lots of information on the school website: [bet.hrce.ca](http://bet.hrce.ca). Staff contact information is on the Staff Directory page. More information is located on the "Our School" page. Copies of our monthly school newsletter, as well as school events calendars, will be posted on the website.

#### SCHOOL LIBRARY BOOKS:

If you have found classroom or library books over the summer, please send them in with your child to give to their teacher. Thank you!



#### SCHOOL PARKING:

As you are aware, we do not have a school parking lot here at ÉBES. This means that traffic is very congested in the mornings and at end of day pick up. For the safety and security of all in our school, we are asking parents to park on blocks away from the school and walk over to drop off or pick up your child. Traffic congestion on Sunnybrae, Central or Alex Streets, which surround our school is very dangerous for all in our school community, so we would like to limit traffic on these streets for the periods of drop off (approximately 8:30 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.) and pick up (approximately 2:45 p.m. - 3:10 p.m.). Our school busses pick up children on the Central Side and Alex Street sides of the building. Please avoid driving on Alex Street during drop off and pick up times, while busses are present.

#### ANIMALS ON SCHOOL PROPERTY:

Please do not bring pets on school property. Children and adults can be nervous around animals. We want to keep everyone safe, including your pet. Thank you for complying.

#### LUNCH MONITORS:

We are looking for substitute lunch monitors. If you are interested in working one hour per day, one to five days per week, please call the office for details. New employees need to have their Criminal Record & Vulnerable Sector Check as well as a Child Abuse Register check and complete an application for lunch monitor. Please call Mrs. Bodnarchuk at 902-457-8922 for more information.



### **ADMINISTERING MEDICATION AT SCHOOL:**

To have medication administered to students while in school, parents/guardians need to drop off the medication and fill out the required forms. Medication needs to be in the original bottle with the prescription label. School staff can only administer prescribed medications. Please advise the school in advance of administering medication so that the appropriate forms can be sent home.



### **BREAKFAST PROGRAM:**

Students are welcome to have a grab and go breakfast item in the morning. Granola bars, cereal bars, etc. will be available in their classroom. We are hoping to expand our Breakfast Program to include more variety and some hot breakfast/cereal options for children. If you are interested in volunteering for this program, please contact the school.

### **SAFE ARRIVAL:**

You can report future absences using the School Messenger app, website, or toll-free phone number. If your child is absent and the absence has not been reported in advance, you will receive notifications via email, text, and phone calls from School Messenger. To report your student absent, you can use any of the following methods: PowerSchool Parent/Student Portal Parents/guardians can log in to <https://sishrsb.ednet.ns.ca/public/> to access the School Messenger website to report future 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. Toll-Free Number Parents/guardians can call 1-833-582-6940 to report future absences using an automated system. Please see the link: <https://www.hrce.ca/SafeArrival> for more information.

### **BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS FOR LUNCH PROGRAM:**

All students are eligible to remain at school over the lunch hour. They need to bring or order their lunch each day. Please do not send items that need to be microwaved. We do not do this at school as items may be overheated, or risk burning someone. Our lunch program is run by lunch “monitors,” who are responsible for keeping your children safe over the lunch hour. Please remind your children to be respectful of the lunch monitors. Children need to build independence as well. Please ensure containers are not too difficult to open. We will encourage children to pick up their garbage and place in appropriate recyclable containers or garbage. If behaviors become too challenging over the lunch hour, school administration will call you to discuss.



### **BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS FOR BUS STUDENTS:**

The bus drivers and company have expectations for behavior. Children are expected to remain seated, use a reasonable voice level and refrain from use of inappropriate language. The drivers and school staff remind students daily of these expectations. If your child’s behavior is unacceptable, I will receive a misconduct report.

- 1<sup>st</sup> occurrence, I will speak directly with your child and remind them of the expectations.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> occurrence, I will either call you or email you to inform you.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> occurrence, your child will be suspended from travelling the bus for a day,

Please speak with your child at home about their bus behavior. It is important for everyone’s safety.



### **ITEMS TO LEAVE AT HOME:**

Items brought in from home can be a source of distraction in school. We request these items **REMAIN** home as they can lead to distraction or loss of items in school.

These items include, but are not limited to:

- Pokemon Cards
- Handheld game devices
- Fidget/spinner toys
- Stuffedies
- Other special items from home

The above noted items are NOT to be brought to school. Please know there may be special occasions at school where children are able to bring in stuffedies, etc. from home, but these will be communicated by the teacher.

The school does not assume responsibility for any items brought from home that go lost, missing/stolen, or broken. The list noted above is not exhaustive. There may be other special items/collectable items that children want to bring to school, however these distract from learning and have caused problems between children. If these items are found at school, they will be taken and held for the day. Their child's teacher will then contact you to let you know there was a problem and request that these items remain home.



### **CELL PHONES:**

In reference to the Provincial Policy on Cell Phones in schools, for or elementary aged children, cell phones are not to be out or on at any time during the school instructional day (from school arrival to end of day dismissal, including recess and lunch). This means that a child's phone should not be turned on and accessible during their school day.

Children do not need to have cell phones during school hours. We have all your contact numbers and will certainly reach out to you should we need to reach you. As well, you can always call the school and leave a message if there is a need to communicate information related to your child. Please remember, should your contact information change, please advise Mrs. Bodnarchuk, our Administrative Assistant, so she can update your information.

If you have a cell phone for your child that you want them to carry with them to and from school for safety purposes, we will ask them to keep this in their backpack and do not take out at any point in the day, as it is not permitted out in classrooms.

The school will not assume responsibility or liability for your child's cell phone should it get damaged or lost.

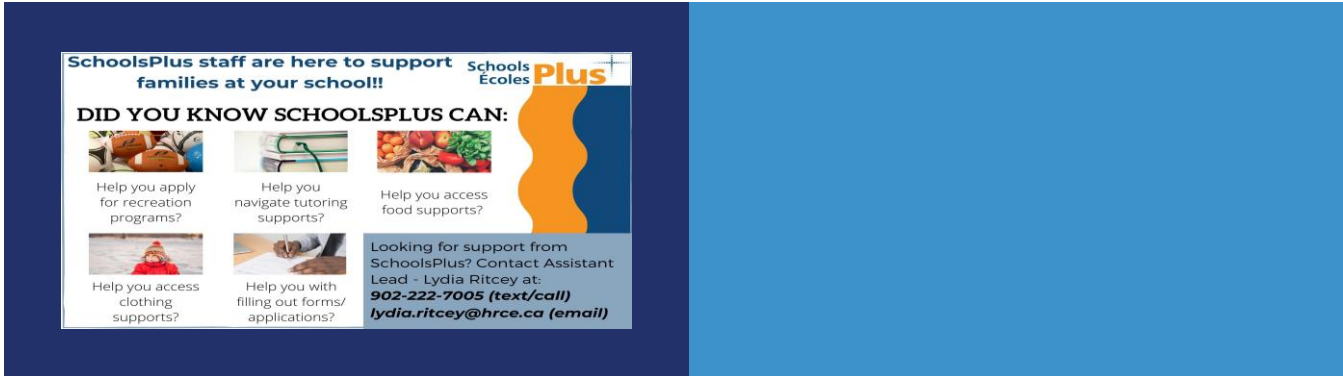
As always, thank you for your cooperation and attention to these requests.

Yours in Education,

*J. Graham*

**Ms. J. Graham,  
Principal**

## SchoolsPlus Support:



Hello from **SCHOOLSPLUS!**

### What is SchoolsPlus?

SchoolsPlus is a free, confidential service that is available in every school in Nova Scotia. You may have heard of us but did not really know what we do. We have a few different roles right in HRCE schools, with positions like Assistant Leaders, Community Outreach Workers, IWK Mental Health Clinicians, and Child and Youth Care Practitioners. As the Assistant Leader, I work at several schools in the area, including École Burton Ettinger Elementary School.

### What do we do?

Some of the things that the Assistant Leader and Community Outreach Worker do includes:

1. Help build & support good relationships with families, schools, and the community.
2. Connect parents, students and families with programs, resources, and support. Some examples are: help finding resources like tutoring supports and recreation programs for kids/youth (and the funding, if needed); help connecting to supports to help pay for things like eye exams, glasses, or other bills/expenses; and help navigating the healthcare system and connecting with health resources and food supports.
3. Programming for parents and for students. Some examples are Options to Anger, Handle with Care, The Incredible Years, Rainbows, Social Skills Groups, and more.

I can help support your student/family with connections to what they may need to succeed – from home, to school, and back again.

### How do I get connected with you?

You can get connected with me by email – my contact info is listed below.

There are a lot of ways SchoolsPlus can offer support, so if you are wondering if we can help, please feel free to just ask!

Wishing you all an awesome year to come!

### **Amanda Logan**

Assistant Leader, SchoolsPlus - Halifax Regional Centre for Education

**Email:** [Amanda.Logan@hrce.ca](mailto:Amanda.Logan@hrce.ca)