



# École Burton Ettinger School

## Newsletter

### **PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE**

Happy New Year, Families of ÉBES! On behalf of the staff of our school, we hope you had a wonderful winter break. We look forward to spending the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the school year learning and growing with your children.

As a reminder to our parents/guardians, please do not park on Alex Street in the morning or afternoon for drop off and pick up of students. Our busses stop on this road to drop off children, so other traffic is not permitted – the red lights flashing on the busses indicate that cars are not to pass. We need this area to be safe for children.

### **STUDENT ATTENDANCE:**

The Nova Scotia policy on Student Attendance encourages regular school attendance for all students. Going forward for the remainder of the school year, teachers will contact families of students who have missed 5 – 10% of school time. If attendance concerns remain, School Administration (Principal or VP), will reach out to you to discuss this further.

School attendance is the first step in ensuring the best possible opportunities for your child's success.

### **PROVINCIAL LUNCH PROGRAM:**

The Nova Scotia School Lunch Program continues to operate in schools, offering lunches for school children. Parents/guardians can sign up and place orders for children. You can pay full price, whatever you can pay, or no cost at all. Please take advantage of this program and place your orders during the ordering timeline. A copy of the ordering calendar is included in the newsletter.

### **COLDER TEMPERATURES:**

Just a reminder about colder temperatures – please remember to have your children dress appropriately for the colder temperatures. Children will be going outside when the weather permits, to enjoy outdoor activities. Dressing appropriately during winter allows them to enjoy all that the season has to offer!



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

We continue to work on our school goals in Literacy, Mathematics and Student Well Being. This work frames our Student Success Plan for the year. We meet as a staff to determine steps we will be taking in training and work that we will do to develop our instruction and assessment practices to meet the needs of all learners. In addition, there are 3 Cycles for this plan, which correspond to our reporting periods. During each of these cycles, staff meet to review and reflect on our strategies, determine what has been working, as well as areas for next steps. Our focus for Cycle two will continue to be in Literacy (writing as a particular focus), Mathematics (number sense skills) and Student Well-Being (providing choice and voice for our students).

### **SCHOOL WEBSITE:**

Our school website link is:

**[bet.hrce.ca](http://bet.hrce.ca)**

Updates to school activities, events, School Newsletters, Calendars, SAC minutes, PTA Information, and updated information from HRCE are provided on this site. I encourage all of you to look at the website often.

**NOVA SCOTIA SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM – ORDERING CALENDAR:**

# NOVA SCOTIA SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM 2024 – 2025 Ordering Schedule

*Ordering opens on Fridays at midnight and closes on Wednesdays at noon*

## SEPTEMBER 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

## OCTOBER 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

## NOVEMBER 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

## DECEMBER 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

## JANUARY 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

## FEBRUARY 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

## MARCH 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

## APRIL 2025

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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

## MAY 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

## JUNE 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

### LEGEND

- Week 1 & 2 Menu Served
  - Week 3 & 4 Menu Served
  - Ordering Window for Week 1 & 2 Menu
  - Ordering Window for Week 3 & 4 Menu
  - No School
- Some schools may have additional closure dates. Please check your RCE/CSAP calendar for school-specific closure dates*



**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 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, January 15, 2025**.

**Important Dates for January:**

- **January 27:** International Holocaust Remembrance Day
- **January 27:** Family Literacy Day
- **January 29:** Lunar New Year



**IMPORTANT SCHOOL DATES:**

Month	Date	Event
<b>JANUARY</b>	Wednesday, January 15, 2025	5:30 p.m. SAC; 6:30 p.m. PTA
<b>FEBRUARY</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> – 28 <sup>th</sup>	Early Registration Month
	Monday, February 17, 2025	Heritage Day ( <b>No Classes</b> )
	Wednesday, February 19, 2025	5:30 p.m. SAC; 6:30 p.m. PTA
<b>MARCH</b>	Thursday, March 6, 2025	Games Night
	Friday, March 7, 2025	Assessment & Evaluation Day ( <b>No Classes</b> )
	Monday, March 10 – Friday, March 14	<b>MARCH BREAK NO SCHOOL</b>
<b>APRIL</b>	Thursday, April 3, 2025	Parent-Teacher Conferences ( <b>No Classes</b> )
	Wednesday, April 16, 2025	5:30 p.m. SAC; 6:30 p.m. PTA
	Friday, April 18, 2025	Good Friday ( <b>No School</b> )
	Monday, April 21, 2025	Easter Monday ( <b>No School</b> )
	Wednesday, April 30, 2025	Professional Learning Day ( <b>No Classes</b> )
<b>MAY</b>	Thursday, May 15, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Black Excellence Day</li> <li>• 6:00 p.m. Spring Concert</li> </ul>
	Monday, May 19, 2025	Victoria Day ( <b>No Classes</b> )
	Saturday, May 24, 2025	Spring Frolic
<b>JUNE</b>	Wednesday, June 18, 2025	5:30 p.m. SAC; 6:30 p.m. PTA
	Saturday, June 21, 2025	National Indigenous Peoples' Day
	Friday, June 27, 2025	Assessment & Evaluation Day ( <b>No Classes</b> )
	Monday, June 30, 2025	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:**

**International Holocaust Remembrance Day**

International Holocaust Remembrance Day, observed on January 27, serves as a crucial reminder of the Holocaust.

Through survivor stories, students learn empathy, compassion, and the importance of standing against antisemitism and prejudice. By observing this day, we ensure future generations uphold human rights and dignity, fostering a culture of respect and inclusion.



**January 27 is Family Literacy Day**

Did you know? January 27 is Family Literacy Day! This special day is meant to raise awareness about the importance of reading and engaging in other literacy-related activities as a family.

This year’s theme is “Learn to be Green, Together!” Make a pledge as a family to learn ways to be greener. Use less electricity, commute together, and reuse items. Being green together is a fun way to learn as a family while being kind to the environment.

**Lunar New Year**

Lunar New Year, also known as Chinese New Year or Spring Festival, will be celebrated on January 29.

It marks the beginning of the Year of the Snake, an animal sign that symbolizes wisdom, intuition, and renewal. It's a time for families to come together, honour their ancestors, and welcome the new year with hopes of prosperity and happiness.



**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. Please note that bus drivers can call parking authorities when vehicles are passing busses on Alex Street. These fines can be upwards of \$400. We do not want these situations to arise, so we ask that you do not use Alex Street for dropping off or picking up students. We do not want unsafe situations to arise, so we require your cooperation in keeping our school safe.

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.

**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, January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025, 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.



MEDICINE

### **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 that we have received a report.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> occurrence, your child will be suspended from travelling to/from school on 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
- Stuffies
- 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 stuffies, 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**