



École Burton Ettinger School

Newsletter

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Happy Spring (hopefully)!

Spring is upon us and I am sure we are all looking forward to warmer temperatures. It is wonderful to hear the birds singing in the mornings now and to see the ice/snow beginning to melt. I know there were a few days where we had to keep the children indoor for recess and lunch play times as the school grounds were extremely icy and unsafe. I believe we are past all of that now that spring is not too far off. So, children will be outside during play times enjoying some fresh air and activity, except for on occasions of inclement weather.

We are looking forward to welcoming our families to school for some spring-time events and celebrations, so please be sure to check the website and your emails as I always like to send communication home. We look forward to seeing our families. Our first family night event is coming up this Thursday, March 6th, where we will have a Family Games Night at the school. We certainly hope you can join us. This is a PTA sponsored event and we thank them for their organization of this evening.



CONTINUED PARKING CHALLENGES:

We continue to have parking issues here at the school. So, as always, I once again ask for your assistance and cooperation in helping to keep our students and school community as safe as possible. The morning and after school times are busy for school, so we appreciate your cooperation. A reminder to everyone, 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. In the interest of sharing information, 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:

I would like to thank all parents/guardians and caregivers for reaching out to the school to let us know when your child/children will be absent from school. I have noticed improvements for some students, so thank you for your cooperation and attention to this important matter. The Nova Scotia policy on Student Attendance encourages regular school attendance for all students. If there are concerns with your child's attendance, the classroom teacher will reach out to you first, if your child has missed 5 – 10% of school time. If attendance concerns remain, School Administration (Principal), 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.

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
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29	30					

OCTOBER 2024

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NOVEMBER 2024

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DECEMBER 2024

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JANUARY 2025

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FEBRUARY 2025

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MARCH 2025

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APRIL 2025

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MAY 2025

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JUNE 2025

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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.

If you are interested in learning more about this team, please email me at jgraham@hrce.ca. Our next meeting is **5:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 16, 2025**.

Important Dates for March:

- **March 3rd: Ramadan Assembly**
 - **March 6th: Lunar New Year Celebration; 6:00 p.m. - Family Games Night**
- **March 7th: Assessment and Evaluation Day (No Classes)**
- **March 10th – 14th: March Break (No Classes)**
- **March 17th: St. Patrick’s Day Assembly**
- **March 31st: Scholastic Book Fair Begins**



IMPORTANT SCHOOL DATES:

Month	Date	Event
MARCH	Thursday, March 6, 2025	Games Night
	Friday, March 7, 2025	Assessment & Evaluation Day (No Classes)
	Monday, March 10 – Friday, March 14	MARCH BREAK NO SCHOOL
APRIL	Wednesday, April 2, 2025	Parent-Teacher Conferences 6 – 8 p.m.
	Thursday, April 3, 2025	Parent-Teacher Conferences 9:00 a.m. – Noon Staff Professional Practice in p.m. NO CLASSES FOR STUDENTS
	Wednesday, April 16, 2025	5:30 p.m. SAC; 6:30 p.m. PTA
	Friday, April 18, 2025	Good Friday (No School)
	Monday, April 21, 2025	Easter Monday (No School)
	Wednesday, April 30, 2025	Professional Learning Day (No Classes)
	MAY	Thursday, May 15, 2025
Monday, May 19, 2025		Victoria Day (No Classes)
Saturday, May 24, 2025		Spring Frolic
JUNE	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 (No Classes)
	Monday, June 30, 2025	Last Day of School

2nd TERM REPORT CARDS and PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES:

Second term report cards will be sent home to families electronically on Tuesday, April 1st, 2025. Please ensure the school has your most up to date email address so you can receive the report card.

Classroom teachers will be contacting you to set up appointment times for Parent-Teacher Conferences. The conferences will be held during the following time

Wednesday, April 2nd, 2025 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
 Thursday, April 3rd, 2025 9:00 a.m. – Noon

If you are unable to make these times and would still like to meet with your child’s teacher, please reach out to them by email (all staff emails can be found on our school website: **bet.hrce.ca**) to make alternate arrangements for a conference meeting date and time.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR:

We are excited and look forward to having a Scholastic Book Fair here at school. This is an opportunity for parent/guardians/caregivers to visit the school to shop for books for their children. The children also have school opportunities to purchase books. This is an exciting event and for the funds raised by our school, we will earn books for our school library. So, the more books purchased, the more books we will have to improve our library selections for our students.

The Book Fair will be held in our school library and in classroom 217 (room adjoining the library).

The schedule is:

- **Monday, March 31, 2025**
6 – 8 p.m. Families have an opportunity to visit and purchase from the Book Fair
- **Tuesday, April 1, 2025**
Book Fair Closed
- **Wednesday, April 2, 2025**
 - Classes visit the Book Fair during their library class and can make purchases
 - 6 – 8 p.m. Book Fair open during Parent-Teacher Conferences
- **Thursday, April 3, 2025**
 - 9:00 a.m. – Noon
 - Book Fair open and purchases can be made during Parent-Teacher Conference
- **Friday, April 4, 2025**
 - Last Chance for Purchases – students can visit during library times and throughout the day to make purchases

Please Note:

- **Parent/Guardian/Caregiver Purchases** can be made with **Debit/Visa or Cash**
- **Student Purchases** can be made by **CASH only**



SCHOOL BELLS:

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

INFORMATION ITEMS SHARED ON BEHALF OF HRCE:

SPECIAL RECOGNITION DAYS IN MARCH:

- **March 8:** International Women’s Day
- **March 21:** World Down Syndrome Day
- **March 21:** International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
- **March 31:** International Transgender Day of Visibility

Important dates

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark these important HRCE dates on your calendar!

MARCH 7	NO CLASSES Assessment & Evaluation Day Elementary and Junior High ONLY
MARCH 10-14	NO CLASSES March Break

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For elementary and junior high: Please note that **Friday, March 7 is an Assessment & Evaluation Day.** There are no classes on this date for elementary and junior high students.

MARCH BREAK

Please note that all HRCE schools will be closed for March Break – March 10 to 14.



March is Nutrition Month

Did you know? March is Nutrition Month! This year's theme, **Nourish to Flourish**, highlights the important role that food has on our physical, mental, and emotional health and well-being.

Whether it's planting an indoor or outdoor garden, cooking together with family, or enjoying a meal with friends, food provides opportunities for building social connections that can support improved feelings of belonging and overall well-being. This is a great time to explore and learn about food. An important part of this is food literacy, which includes having the knowledge and skills to grow, choose, prepare, and talk about food.



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School Bus Safety Reminder

More than 33,000 HRCE students take the school bus. Making sure they have a safe and happy trip to and from school is very important to us. Please talk with your child about school bus safety on a regular basis. Students should tell their bus driver and/or school principal if they have any problems. Here are some important safety tips:

Bus Stop Safety

- Be on time for the bus. Do not run to or from the bus.
- Stand back when the bus arrives and give everyone space. Get on or off the bus one at a time.
- Always cross the road in front of the bus. Walk to a spot where you can see the driver. When they signal it is safe, walk to the middle of the road. STOP, LOOK, and LISTEN, then cross when it is safe.
- Never crawl under the bus or cross the road from behind it.

School Bus Safety


- Respect and listen to the driver. Their job is to focus on the road, so avoid distracting them.
- Respect others and your space.
- Keep noise levels down.
- Stay seated while the bus is moving.
- Keep your arms, legs, and head inside the bus.
- Do not throw anything inside or outside the bus.
- Keep the aisle clear.

Did you know: It is illegal for drivers to pass a school bus when it has stopped with its red lights flashing. Bus drivers will activate their amber lights 150m before they stop as a warning to motorists.

HRCE TRANSPORTATION:

If you are new to our school, or the HRCE, or have questions/concerns about bussing, please reach out directly to HRCE Transportation. The link that will direct you to all contact information is included below.


More information about HRCE student transportation and school bus safety can be found [here](#).



School Bus Safety Tips

A few bus safety reminders for all riders:

- Please respect and listen to the driver and avoid distracting them.
- Please keep noise levels to a minimum.
- Do not stand or move seats while the bus is in motion.
- Never put your hands, arms, feet or head out of the bus window.
- Ask the driver for permission before you open the bus windows.
- Do not throw anything inside the bus or out of the windows.
- Keep the aisle clear at all times when the bus is in motion.


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GENERAL INFORMATION ITEMS FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS/CAREGIVERS:

SCHOOL ARRIVAL/DROP OFF:

We have students who are arriving too early to school. Student should arrive to school at 8:35 a.m., unless of course they are attending the Breakfast Club in the morning (from 8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.).

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:

Parents/guardians/caregivers and visitors to our school, please know that 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 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, if you would like to participate. Our next meeting is **Wednesday, April 16th, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.** If you are interested, please attend. We welcome new and returning members.



STANDING ITEMS IN NEWSLETTER (GENERAL SCHOOL ITEMS):

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**. 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!

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.

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 below for more information:

<https://www.hrce.ca/SafeArrival>

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.

- 1st occurrence, I will speak directly with your child and remind them of the expectations.
- 2nd occurrence, I will either call you or email you to inform you that we have received a report.
- 3rd 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
- 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**