



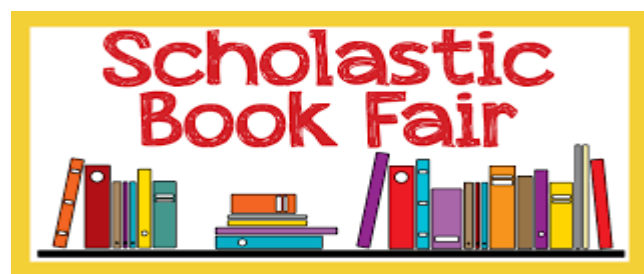
# École Burton Ettinger School

## APRIL Newsletter

### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

#### Happy SPRING!

Despite a few instances of snow, I think we can safely say that Spring is finally here! With that, comes the final few months of school, which I find unbelievable to be saying to families. This year has gone by very quickly and here we now find ourselves just finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> term report cards and parent-teacher conferences. We are looking forward to all that the last few months of school has to bring and hope that you can join us for any of our upcoming school activities. Please look in the Newsletter at upcoming dates and remember to check back on our school website and your emails for updated school information.



#### BOOK FAIR SUCCESS!!

I am so proud of our school community! Our School Book Fair brought in just under \$10,000 from sales. This is amazing and is due to the support of our school community! GREAT JOB, EVERYONE! This means our library and classrooms will be receiving new books for our school!

Many thanks to our school community and our wonderful group of volunteers who organized and ran an extremely successful Book Fair! We look forward to our next Book Fair.



### STUDENT ATTENDANCE:

Thank you to those of you who are now calling the school when your children will be absent. This is an important safety procedure.

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 and to determine if there are any additional supports we can provide to help support improved student attendance. School attendance is the first step in ensuring the best possible opportunities for your child's success.

### SCHOOL PARKING CONCERNS:

We recognize that parents/guardians/caregivers are dropping off/picking up children around the same times every day. The resulting traffic congestion at these times, is a safety concern. Children are entering or leaving school and are not necessarily mindful of traffic around our school. We call upon you to ensure our school entry/dismissal doors are free from congested traffic. Nicer weather should help as it is a perfect time to park up the street, away from the school, when coming to drop off/pick up your children. You can walk them to the school doors, helping to eliminate congestion around the doors where busses are dropping off/picking up children.



## 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, April 23, 2025**.

### Important Dates for APRIL:

- Wednesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025
- Thursday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025
- Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025
- Monday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025
- Wednesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025
- Wednesday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Parent-Teacher Conferences 6 – 8 p.m.

Parent-Teacher Conferences 9 – 11:30 a.m.

Good Friday (**NO SCHOOL**)

Easter Monday (**NO SCHOOL**)

5:30 p.m. SAC Meeting; 6:30 p.m. PTA Meeting

Professional Learning Day

(**NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS**)



Mark these important HRCE dates on your calendar!

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

APRIL <b>3</b>	<b>NO CLASSES</b> Progress Conferences & Professional Practice PP-12
APRIL <b>18</b>	<b>NO CLASSES</b> Good Friday
APRIL <b>21</b>	<b>NO CLASSES</b> Easter Monday
APRIL <b>30</b>	<b>NO CLASSES</b> Progress Conferences & Professional Practice PP-12

Halifax Regional Centre for Education

### IMPORTANT SCHOOL DATES:

Month	Date	Event
<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	<b>5:30 p.m. SAC; 6:30 p.m. PTA</b>
	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

**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
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				

**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
						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					

**APRIL 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			

**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*

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

- April 2 is World Autism Awareness Day
- April 20 is Easter
- April 22 is Earth Day
- April 23 is Administrative Professionals Day
- April 27 to May 3 is National Volunteer Week

**WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY**

Recognizing and celebrating World Autism Awareness Day in our schools fosters inclusion, understanding, and support for those with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). On April 2 and every day, we strive to raise autism awareness among peers and educators, celebrate accomplishments and promote acceptance for those with ASD. Join us in creating a positive community where all students can thrive and learn about each other's diverse experiences.

**MEASLES PREVENTION IN NOVA SCOTIA:**

*We are sharing the following on behalf of Nova Scotia Public Health:*

Measles cases are rising in Canada. Measles is a virus that spreads easily and can cause serious complications. **The best way to prevent measles is vaccination.**

Nova Scotia offers free vaccines to eligible people. These can be given by primary care providers, pharmacists and Public Health.

Parents are encouraged to check their family's vaccine records and get the measles vaccine if missing doses. Check your vaccine records at [vaxrecordns.nshealth.ca](http://vaxrecordns.nshealth.ca).

**Who should get vaccinated?**

- Anyone born in or after 1970 should get **two doses** of vaccine, typically given at 12 and 18 months. If missed, children and adults can catch up for free.
- Adults born before 1970 are generally considered immune but can get a single dose if travelling.
- Infants 6-12 months old can get a single dose if travelling but still require two doses after their first birthday to complete the series.

**Find out more about measles vaccination: [www.nshealth.ca/measles](http://www.nshealth.ca/measles).**



**PROVINCIAL LUNCH PROGRAM IN ACTION:**

Last month was Nutrition Month, and what better way to celebrate healthy eating than to shine a spotlight on the Nova Scotia School Lunch Program!

[Click here](#) to see how students at one HRCE school are using the program to dish out some serious leadership skills. It's a feast of learning and fun!

**SUPPORTING LITERACY AT HOME:**

Did you know? Teachers use the [Six Pillars of Effective Reading Instruction \(Français\)](#) to support students' learning.

Reading is best learned when children get clear and structured support in key skills: listening, recognizing sounds in words, learning letter sounds, building vocabulary, reading smoothly and understanding what they read. These skills work together and when you strengthen one, it helps improve the others.

Good reading instruction includes learning how letters and words work and practicing reading in books. The goal is for children to understand what they read, enjoy reading and learn new things from books.

The links below may help you support your children with reading at home:

- [Ideas for parents to help children to practice their reading and writing skills](#)
- [10 Ideas to Raise A Reader](#)

**Purple Tag Program reminder**

Just a friendly reminder that children in Pre-Primary to Grade 2 who use school transportation must have a purple tag on the left side of their backpack. This is to ensure they are not left alone at a bus stop. If your child doesn't have a purple tag or needs a new one, please reach out to the main office, 902-457-8922. Children who use special needs transportation do not require a purple tag.

To learn more about the Purple Tag Program, watch [this short video](#) or visit HRCE's website [here](#) and click on **Purple Tag Program**.

**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
.	

**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](#).

**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](mailto:jgraham@hrce.ca), if you would like to participate. Our next meeting is **Wednesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 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/NUT AWARENESS/ Other Allergies:**

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; also, please be aware that we have students with chickpea and bean allergies. 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.

- 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
- 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**