



École Burton Ettinger School

MAY 2025 Newsletter

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Happy SPRING!

I hope everyone is beginning to enjoy some milder temperatures, sunnier skies, and the sounds of the birds chirping in the mornings! In terms of school., it is hard to believe that we only have 2 months of school remaining in this school year! I have to say my first year here at Burton Ettinger has been very enjoyable. I have enjoyed getting to know the students, staff, and school families. You have all made me feel welcome to this wonderful school community. I look forward to beginning my second year here in September.

During the last two months of the school year there will be many activities. Some of these will be class trips, primary orientation meeting for our new primaries for September, our Grade 5 Closing ceremony, our Spring Concert on May 15th, and our PTA Spring Frolic coming May 24th. We look forward to all these exciting events and certainly hope you can join us for the Spring Frolic.

Please check out the newest link on our school website, our school PTA Link. Here you can find the updated newsletters, meeting minutes, and upcoming school events for our PTA. You also can find out how to contact the PTA if you are interested in joining this group. We welcome all involvement as this is such an important team for our school and is a perfect way to be involved in your child's school activities.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE:

School attendance for our students has improved overall. Thank you to those of you who have been actively ensuring your child attend school each day. As we all know, attendance at school is linked to student progress and achievement. Your child being present in class supports their learning opportunities and allows us to provide additional supports to help them with their learning. If they are not present, or miss school frequently, this compromises the supports they can receive, as well as their learning opportunities.

Student Attendance is a Nova Scotia policy. We encourage all families to continue to support consistent school attendance. If there is anything we can do to support this, please contact me, jgraham@hrce.ca.

As always, if there are concerns with your child's attendance, their 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 ADVISORY COUNCIL

Our SAC Meetings are well underway here at school. However, we are always interested in having new membership so that we hear 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, May 28, 2025**.

Important Dates for MAY:

- May is Asian Heritage Month
- May is Canadian Jewish Heritage Month
- May is Polish Heritage Month
- May is Speech and Hearing Month
- May 5th is Red Dress Day
- May 11th – 17th is Education Week
- May 15th is Black Excellence Day
- May 17th is International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia
- May 25th – 31st is Nova Scotia Access Awareness Week



Important calendar dates in May & June

Here are a few key dates to note in HRCE's calendar for May and June:

- **May 19:** No classes for PP-12 for Victoria Day
- **June 26:** No classes for high school students only for assessment and evaluation
- **June 27:** No classes for PP-12 for assessment and evaluation
- **June 30:** Last day of school

Mark these important HRCE dates on your calendar!

UPCOMING EVENTS	MAY	19	NO CLASSES Victoria Day
	JUNE	26	NO CLASSES High school students only for assessment and evaluation
	JUNE	27	NO CLASSES PP-12 for assessment and evaluation
	JUNE	30	LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

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IMPORTANT SCHOOL DATES:

Month	Date	Event
MAY	Thursday, May 15, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black Excellence Day • 6:00 p.m. Spring Concert
	Monday, May 19, 2025	Victoria Day (No Classes)
	Saturday, May 24, 2025	Spring Frolic 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
	Wednesday, May 28, 2025	5:30 p.m. SAC; 6:30 p.m. PTA
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

UPCOMING PTA SPRING FROLIC FUNDRAISER:**JOIN US!****Burton Etting Elementary School***Spring Frolic***Saturday, May 24th, 2025****10 :00 a.m. – 1 :00 p.m.****CANTEEN FOR SNACKS****Activities:**

- **INFLATABLE OBSTACLE COURSE/BOUNCY CASTLE**
 - **HUMAN SLOT MACHINE**
 - **DUCK POND GAME**
 - **LAWN GAMES**
 - **CLASS BASKET RAFFLE**
 - **COTTON CANDY**
 - **SNOW CONES**
 - **FACE PAINTING**

INFORMATION ITEMS SHARED ON BEHALF OF HRCE:**MAY 15TH IS BLACK EXCELLENCE DAY:**

What is Black Excellence Day? In essence Black Excellence Day is about acknowledging, celebrating, and uplifting Black contributions while fostering a more inclusive and equitable environment. The following are ways you celebrate the fourth annual Black Excellence Day:

Celebrating achievements:

Black Excellence Day provides an opportunity to celebrate the achievements, contributions, and successes of Black individuals within the community. It highlights the talent and accomplishments within the Black community, ensuring that Black students have an opportunity to highlight all their positive contributions within the education system.

Promoting equity and inclusion:

Recognizing Black Excellence fosters a culture of equity and inclusion within schools. It sends a message that all students, regardless of their background, have the potential to excel and make valuable contributions to society. By celebrating diversity and promoting inclusivity, schools create a more welcoming and supportive environment for all students.

Education and awareness:

Black Excellence Day serves as an educational opportunity to raise awareness about the rich history, culture, and achievements of Black people. It provides a platform to share stories of resilience, innovation, and leadership, helping to combat stereotypes and promote understanding and appreciation of Black heritage.

Empowerment and inspiration:

By celebrating Black Excellence, students are inspired and empowered to pursue their own goals and dreams. Seeing examples of successful Black individuals from various fields, such as science, arts, politics and sports, can motivate students to strive for their own excellence.

Community engagement:

Black Excellence Day can serve as a platform for community engagement and collaboration. It provides an opportunity for schools to partner with local organizations, leaders, and activists within the Black community to organize events, workshops, and discussions that promote dialogue and understanding.

Overall, celebrating Black Excellence Day within HRCE schools is important for fostering a culture of inclusivity, empowerment, and appreciation for the diverse talents and contributions of Black individuals.



2025 - 2026 EXCEL REGISTRATION

The EXCEL Before and After Program is a recreation based, fee-for-service before and after school program run by Halifax Regional Centre for Education. At each school site where EXCEL is offered, the dedicated staffing teams plan games and activities that suit the needs and interests of all registered students. Since EXCEL began more than 25 years ago, staff have continually enhanced the program based on experiences and feedback. Today, with more than 4,000 participating students, EXCEL is one of the largest programs of its kind in the Maritimes, providing inclusive and engaging programming for participants.

For more information about registration, fees and programing, please [click here](#).

If you have additional questions, please contact the EXCEL Before and After Program Registrar's Office: Kimberly Lozon at 902-464-2000 ext. 2787 or excelregistrar@hrce.ca and Gail Hartling at 902-464-2000 ext. 2236 or excel@hrce.ca.

CELEBRATING EDUCATION WEEK 2025

Education Week 2025, May 11 to 17, is a special opportunity to acknowledge educators, school support staff and partners for their outstanding work. This year's theme, *Empowering Futures: Innovation in Education*, celebrates educators who have gone above and beyond in their efforts to infuse innovation into their classrooms and schools.

We applaud educators, school staff, and partners who embrace innovation in meeting the evolving needs of students in preparing them for a rapidly changing future.

Congratulations to HRCE's winners:

- **Alicia Hennessey** | Teacher | Lockview High
- **Rhonda McLean** | School Counsellor | St. Agnes Junior High
- **Diana Hatchette** | Teacher | John Martin Junior High
- **Rosaline "Rosie" Bona** | Principal | Rockingham Elementary
- **Peta-Gay Clarke** | Lead Early Childhood Educator | Central Spryfield Elementary
- **Kristin Welbourn** | Library Support Specialist | Bay View High
- **Phillip Jackson** | African Nova Scotian Student Support Worker | Duc d'Anville Elementary & Clayton Park Junior High
- **Matthew Hughson** | Mi'kmaw/Indigenous Student Support Worker | Sackville High & Leslie Thomas Junior High

Please take a moment, if you feel inspired, to send a note of appreciation to an educator in your child's life who is having a positive impact!



HOMEWORK HUB: FINISH OFF THE YEAR STRONG!

Did you know your student has access to Homework Hub? Finish the year off strong with the help of experienced tutors!

- **GNSPES Access:** Easy access to online resources and tutoring through your GNSPES account (gnspe.ca) by clicking on the Nova Scotia Homework Hub icon.
- **24/7 Access:** Anytime access to video tutorials, practice questions and vocabulary review.
- **Bilingual tutors available for students in:**
 - Grade 4-6 Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
 - Grade 7-12 on school nights 5:30 to 9:30 p.m.

[Watch this video](#) to learn more about Homework Hub!

**ACCESS AWARENESS WEEK**

Access Awareness Week takes place annually during the last week of May to raise awareness about disability, access and inclusion. This year, Access Awareness Week runs from May 25-31, and the provincial theme is "Our Voices, Our Votes: Disability Rights in Action."

The provincial Accessibility Directorate is providing all HRCE schools with posters to help bring attention to the importance of removing barriers for people with disabilities. The posters are being mailed directly to schools from the directorate and should arrive in the coming days.

For 38 years, Nova Scotians have organized community events, flag raising, forums, and concerts during Access Awareness Week to bring attention to the importance of removing barriers for people with disabilities. More information can be found [here](#).





GENERAL PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION:

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



HRCE TRANSPORTATION:

If you are new to our school, or 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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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 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.



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

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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
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27	28	29	30	31		

NOVEMBER 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30

DECEMBER 2024

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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

JANUARY 2025

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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

FEBRUARY 2025

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23	24	25	26	27	28	

MARCH 2025

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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

APRIL 2025

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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

MAY 2025

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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

JUNE 2025

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					

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 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's 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 buses arrive to drop off and pick up children. Having traffic on this road during these times causes concern for the safety of our students. Please note that bus drivers can call parking authorities when vehicles are passing buses 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 buses and are sometimes parked in between buses. **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, May 28th, 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 bus companies have expectations for behavior. Children are expected to remain seated, use a reasonable voice level and refrain from using 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 at home.





CELL PHONES:

In reference to the Provincial Policy on Cell Phones in schools, for our 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. Also, 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 it 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**