



École Burton Ettinger Elementary

SEPTEMBER 2025 School Newsletter

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Welcome to another school year, ÉBES Families! We hope you all enjoyed a wonderful summer and that your children and you are ready for another great year!

School staff are prepared and ready to establish school routines and expectations with your children. We look forward to working with you and your children throughout the year. If you have any questions, please contact your child's teacher.

“MEET THE TEACHER” NIGHT:

On Thursday, September 11th, we invite all parents/guardians to school to meet your child's teachers. We invite you to join the teachers in their classrooms from **6:00 – 6:30 p.m.** Following the visits, there will be a BBQ social outside the school from **6:30 – 7:00 p.m.**, which has been generously sponsored by our wonderful PTA (Parent-Teacher Association). We look forward to welcoming all of you!

NOVA SCOTIA PROVINCIAL SCHOOL CODE OF CONDUCT

Nova Scotia's Provincial School Code of Conduct was updated in 2025 to provide clear, consistent direction for schools and address issues like bullying, cyberbullying, violence, and racism. It outlines acceptable student and staff behavior, identifies unacceptable actions with clear consequences ranging from loss of privileges to suspension, and includes an incident matrix for consistent responses. The policy aims to ensure safer and more productive learning environments by establishing clear protocols and offering support to affected students and staff.

FOLLOWING THE PROVINCIAL SCHOOL CODE OF CONDUCT AT ÉBES:

This year, we will be following the Provincial School Code of Conduct document. There will be more information sent home to families and this document will be uploaded to our school website.

We ask you to review the expected school behaviors (in age-appropriate language) with your children so optimal learning experiences can happen in our classrooms. The overall focus is on respect for self, respect for others, respect for community and kindness.

Our school will have a school mission statement and follow a schoolwide matrix for expectations in all areas of our school. Along with these expectations, there will be consequences for students not following our expected behaviors. We ask for your support throughout the process as we want all our students to experience as much success as possible at school throughout the year. This is in keeping with initiatives surrounding Safe Schools planning. As more information is developed, we will inform our families. Please remember to refer to our school website for up-to-date information:

ÉBES School Website Link:
bet.hrce.ca

2025 – 2026 ÉBES STAFF:**Teaching Staff:****English Program:**

Lisa MacDonald – Primary
 Krista Plank – Primary/1
 Breanna Reardon – Grade 1
 Lesley Dodds – Grade 2
 Rae Chiasson – Grade 2
 Courtney Snow (Jollimore) – Grade 3
 Jessica Shaw – Grade 3/4
 Rachel MacDonald – Grade 4/5
 Blain MacDonald – Grade 5

French Immersion Program:

Reanne Waller – Primary
 Alicia Daniels – Primary
 Lauren Henniger - Primary
 Donna Boudreau – Grade 1
 Jessica DePalma/Danyelle Karris-Allen – Grade 1
 Sara Casey – Grade 1/2
 Danielle Wilson-Gray – Grade 2
 Kaitlyn Kelly – Grade 2/3
 Robert Haché/Danica Ottosen – Grade 3
 Amanda Mangione – Grade 3/4
 Petra Spires – Grade 4
 Becky Canning – Grade 4/5
 Renée Poirier – Grade 5

Learning Centre Teachers:

Melissa Myers-McCarthy
 Victoria White
 Rebecca White

Resource:

Sarah Heffernan (English Program)
 Christa Besner (French Immersion Program)

Literacy Support English Program:

Beth Graham
 Terri Read

Literacy Support French Immersion Program:

Kara Swaine

Specialist Teachers:

Stephanie MacDonald – Core French
 Caitlyn Bowers/Behrooz Mihankhah – Music
 Craig Whalley/Chris Smith – Phys. Ed.

Support Staff:

Robyn Williams-Fortier/Bill Banks – Marking & Prep
 Melissa Jordan – ANS Student Support
 Hannah Hunter – School Psychologist
 Rebecca MacDonald – School Speech Pathologist
 Dylan McKenney – Library Support
 Pamela Campbell/Alicia Barrett – Counsellor
 Rachel Derocher – School Social Worker
 Amanda Logan – Schools Plus
 Christina Mouchayleh - CYCP
 Alex Holmberg/Inderjit Kaur Saini– EAL Teachers
 Majduline Abu-Chkeir – Community Outreach Worker
 Rahab Mumo – YMCA Settlement Worker

EPA Staff:

Iman Ahmed
 Deepa Banerjee
 Shilpa Chittimalla
 Nagia El-Aref
 Archana Kannan
 Sunwoo Kim
 Jacalyn Leeco
 Ocean Longon
 Kim Mullen
 Victoria Ritchie
 Michelle Ryan
 Urmila Sahu
 Shawna Scriven
 Kayla Selig-Yue
 Abida Shekib
 Jennifer Simms
 Yoshie Spanik
 Trixie Sweet
 Ashley Taylor
 Nehad Yekhleftin

Office Staff:

Janice Graham – Principal
 Stephanie Kenny – Vice Principal
 Val Bodnarchuk – Administrative Assistant

Caretaker:

B. McDonald

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

There is an advisory council for schools that conducts 6 meetings a year to advise the principal on important school and curriculum matters. This team consists of staff, parents/guardians, and community members.

If you are interested in learning more about this team, please email me at jgraham@hrce.ca. Our first meeting is **5:30 p.m. Wednesday, September 17, 2025.**



IMPORTANT SCHOOL DATES:

SEPTEMBER

Thursday, September 4th First Day of School

Thursday, September 11th Stand UP Against Bullying
(Wear **PINK** to school)
6:00 p.m. Meet the Teacher Night
6:30 p.m. Social and BBQ

Wednesday, September 17th **5:30 p.m.** SAC Meeting
6:30 p.m. PTA Meeting

Monday, September 15th School Lunch Program Begins

Thursday, September 18th Terry Fox Walk/Assembly

Friday, September 26th Orange Shirt Day
Wear **ORANGE** to School

Monday, September 29th Professional Development Day
NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS

Tuesday, September 30th Truth & Reconciliation Day
NO SCHOOL

OCTOBER

Wednesday, October 1st Treaty Day (Observed)
Schools Open

Thursday, October 9th School Picture Day

Monday, October 13th Thanksgiving Day Holiday
SCHOOLS CLOSED

Thursday, October 9th School Picture Day

Friday, October 24th NSTU Conference Day
No School for Students

Friday, October 31st Happy Hallowe'en

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

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

Please note, if you are 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.

VOLUNTEERS IN SCHOOL:

If you are planning to volunteer at school (i.e. class trips, etc.), you will need to have a Criminal Record Check/Vulnerable Sector Check completed, which can be obtained through the HRPD/RCMP Detachment, and a Child Abuse Registry Check, which can be obtained by Child Protection Services.

Steps to complete the process:

- First, you will have to get a letter from the school indicating your intent of applying to the HRPD/RCMP for a CRC/Vulnerable Sector Check. We can provide you with the forms from the office.
- Once you get this letter, complete your Criminal Record Check/Vulnerable Sector Check form and bring this to the HRPD/RCMP for processing.
- You will have to wait for the results.
- The Child Abuse Registry form needs to be completed directly by you and then mailed in to the agency (address is on the form).
- If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Mrs. Bodnarchuk at the office, 902-457-8922.

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 types 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. 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 may be aware, we do not have a school parking lot here at ÉBES. This means 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 aim 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 buses 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 buses are present.

ANIMALS ON SCHOOL PROPERTY:

Please do not bring pets on school property. Children and adults can be nervous about 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.

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 first meeting of the year is Wednesday, September 17th, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. If you are interested, please attend. We welcome new and returning members.



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 pharmacy 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.



ORANGE SHIRT DAY:

Orange Shirt Day is a day when we honor the Indigenous children who were sent away to residential schools in Canada and to learn more about the history of those schools. Staff and students are encouraged to wear orange shirts on this day. Orange Shirt Day will be held on Friday, September 26th since there are no classes on September 30th. For more information follow this link:

<https://www.orangeshirtday.org/> .



NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION:

The purpose of this statutory holiday is to honor First Nations, Inuit and Métis Survivors and their families and communities, and to ensure that public commemoration of their history and the legacy of residential schools remains a vital component of the reconciliation process. There are no classes for students on Tuesday, September 30th, in recognition of this day.



TREATY DAY:

Treaty Day is held annually on October 1st. It marks the beginning of Mi'kmaq History Month in Nova Scotia, as proclaimed in 1993 by then Premier John Savage and Mi'kmaq Grand Chief Ben Sylliboy. The purpose of Treaty Day is to promote public awareness about the Mi'kmaq culture and heritage for all Nova Scotians.

OCTOBER IS MI'KMAQ HISTORY MONTH:

Culturally relevant pedagogy and inclusive education is central to teaching and learning at École Burton Ettinger Elementary School and for the Halifax Regional Centre for Education. Teachers regularly provide learning opportunities for students to share their culture and learn about other cultures. October is Mi'kmaq History Month. Students will be learning about Mi'kmaq history during the month of October and throughout the year. For more information follow this link:

<https://mikmaghistorymonth.ca/>



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. We will notify our families when the Breakfast Program begins for this year.

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 it 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 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, school administration will receive a misconduct report.

- **1st OCCURENCE:**
Administration will speak directly with your child to remind them of appropriate expectations.
- **2nd OCCURENCE:**
Administration will either call you or email you to inform you about the occurrence.
- **3rd OCCURENCE:**
Your child will be suspended from travelling 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 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.

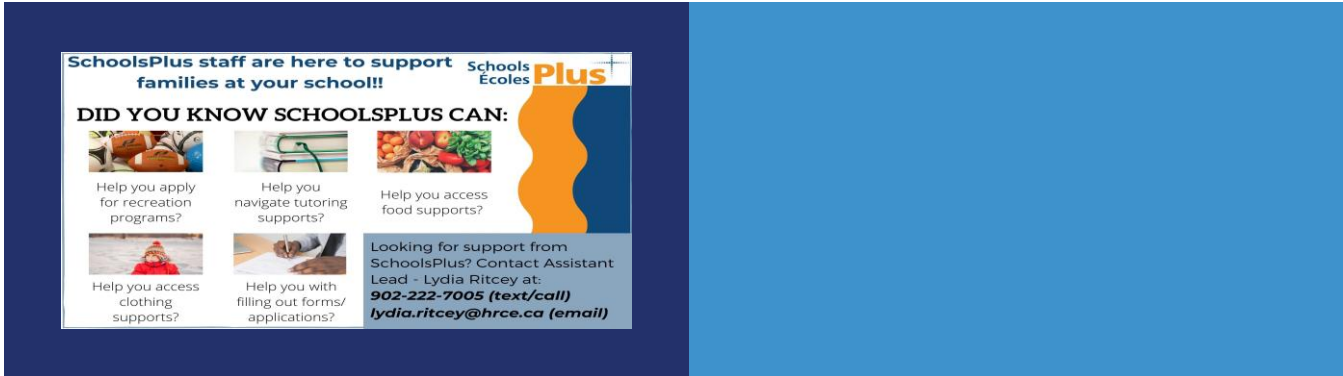
As always, thank you for your cooperation and attention to these requests.

Yours in Education,

J. Graham

**Ms. J. Graham,
Principal**

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 to 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 ask!

Wishing you all an awesome year to come!

Amanda Logan

Assistant Leader, SchoolsPlus - Halifax Regional Centre for Education

Email: Amanda.Logan@hrce.ca