



# École Burton Ettinger Elementary

## OCTOBER 2025 School Newsletter

### **PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE**

Good day, ÉBES Families!  
As we finish the first month of school, we would like to thank you all for your support having your children arriving to school on time, so they are able to begin their day of learning with their class! This is such an important time of the day as it establishes class routines for the day.

Students are beginning to settle into classrooms and teachers are busy setting learning expectations and routines. We are happy to report that teachers in Primary - Grade 2 have conducted reading assessments with students to determine their reading levels. We are now working forward developing ways to support further reading development for students.

Please remember to reach out to your child's teacher should you have any questions. Updates from classroom teachers are sent home on a regular basis, so remember to look for these in your email.

### **NOVA SCOTIA PROVINCIAL SCHOOL CODE OF CONDUCT**

As indicated, a copy of the Nova Scotia's Provincial School Code of Conduct, which has been updated this year, is available on the department of education website. I will also include this link in the Code of Conduct section in this newsletter. I will also have a copy of our school mission statement & school matrix, which describes the language around our expected behaviours in school for students.

Our school documents, along with the Code of Conduct 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.

This requires a partnership between home and school. 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.

### **FOLLOWING THE PROVINCIAL SCHOOL CODE OF CONDUCT AT ÉBES:**

We have now implemented our school mission statement and classroom matrix for expected behaviours in classrooms. Teachers will be reviewing these expectations with students daily.

ÉBES School Website Link:  
**[bet.hrce.ca](http://bet.hrce.ca)**

**SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT AND MATRIX OF EXPECTATIONS:**

Nova Scotia School Code of Conduct Link:

<https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&opi=89978449&url=https://www.ednet.ns.ca/docs/provincialschoolcodeofconduct.pdf&ved=2ahUKewj318iW6o2QAxXODzQIHsuRHPEQFnoECBgQAQ&usg=AOvVaw1bjtXWu1WuQIHbeluxScwI>

As noted in the opening of the newsletter, please find below our school mission statement and our classroom matrix of expected behaviors in our school. Your support from home is vital in the success of these documents. These documents are posted on our school web page for your reference.

We ask you to please review these expectations with your child/children so that these are reinforced. We are all part of this process.



ÉBES School Mission Statement:

***ÉBES Mission Statement***

***At École Burton Ettinger Elementary, we empower every student in a safe, equitable, inclusive, and nurturing environment. Guided by empathy and respect, we foster a love of learning and support the growth of compassionate, creative, and responsible global citizens.***

ÉBES School Matrix of Expectations:

You can find the matrix of behaviors posted on our school web page under the **Our School Section** (page name: School Mission Statement and Matrix of Expected Behaviors).

**NOVA SCOTIA STUDENT ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

Link to Policy:

[https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&opi=89978449&url=https://www.ednet.ns.ca/docs/provincialstudentattendanceengagementpolicy.pdf&ved=2ahUKewjO\\_6jD4Y2QAxWpLDQIHVjtLb8QFnoECBgQAQ&usg=AOvVaw1tVV4MMLFFNNLY8Sxz5nII](https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&opi=89978449&url=https://www.ednet.ns.ca/docs/provincialstudentattendanceengagementpolicy.pdf&ved=2ahUKewjO_6jD4Y2QAxWpLDQIHVjtLb8QFnoECBgQAQ&usg=AOvVaw1tVV4MMLFFNNLY8Sxz5nII)

The Nova Scotia Department of Education's school attendance is governed by the **Provincial Student Attendance and Engagement Policy**, which was most recently updated in August 2023. The policy's goal is to improve student success by addressing chronic absenteeism and lateness through a system of early intervention and support, rather than punishment.

As per the Nova Scotia Attendance Policy, classroom teachers will be the first one to reach out to you should there be attendance concerns. This is meant to be a supportive message working towards improving student attendance. If attendance does not improve, I will reach out to you with an attendance letter outlining the time missed from school for your child. This is an important policy as attendance at school is imperative for student programming and success.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

## SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Our School Advisory Council met for our first meeting in September. We reviewed the school mission statement and matrix of expected behaviors. This consultation with our SAC members was necessary prior to sharing this information with our families.

If you are interested in attending our SAC meetings, we welcome everyone! This council meets 6 times per year, and members 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](mailto:jgraham@hrce.ca). Our next meeting will be **Wednesday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025**, beginning at **5:30 p.m.** The meeting will be held in the first portable (near the basketball court).



## IMPORTANT SCHOOL DATES:

### OCTOBER

Wednesday, October 1 <sup>st</sup>	Treaty Day (Observed)
Thursday, October 9 <sup>th</sup>	School Picture Day
Monday, October 13 <sup>th</sup>	Thanksgiving Day Holiday <b>SCHOOLS CLOSED</b>
Wednesday, October 22 <sup>nd</sup>	SAC Meeting – 5:30 p.m. PTA Meeting – 6:30 p.m.
Friday, October 24 <sup>th</sup>	NSTU Conference Day <b>No School for Students</b>
Friday, October 31 <sup>st</sup>	Happy Hallowe'en



### 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://mikmaqhistorymonth.ca/>



### **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

### **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](mailto:jgraham@hrce.ca), if you would like to participate. Our next meeting is Wednesday, October 22nd, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. in the portable by the basketball court. We welcome all members. Please attend if you are able, we would love to have your input!



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 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.

**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.

- **1<sup>st</sup> OCCURENCE:**  
Administration will speak directly with your child to remind them of appropriate expectations.
- **2<sup>nd</sup> OCCURENCE:**  
Administration will either call you or email you to inform you about the occurrence.
- **3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

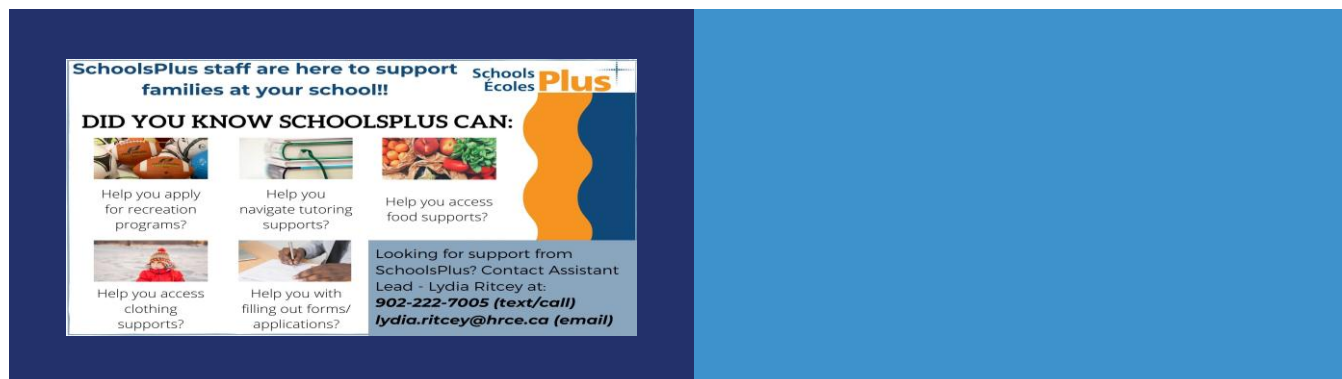
As always, thank you for your cooperation and attention to these requests.

Yours in Education,

*J. Graham*

Ms. J. Graham,  
School Principal/Directrice

## 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](mailto:Amanda.Logan@hrce.ca)