



École Burton Ettinger Elementary

JANUARY 2026 School Newsletter

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.

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

ÉBES Families,

Happy New Year and Welcome Back!

Happy New Year to all our families! We hope the holiday season was filled with rest, joy, and special moments with loved ones. As we begin this new year together, we are excited to welcome our students back to school and look forward to all that lies ahead.

It has been wonderful to see our hallways filled once again with smiling faces, energy, and enthusiasm for learning. Our staff are eager to continue supporting your children's growth, well-being, and success, and we are grateful for the strong partnership we share with our families.

Thank you for your continued support and involvement in our school community. We wish you a happy, healthy, and successful New Year, and we look forward to working together to make the months ahead a positive and rewarding experience for all.

Warm regards,
Ms. Graham
Principal/Directrice

Welcome
BACK

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER FOR JANUARY 2026:

Important Dates for Burton Ettinger:

- Monday, January 5th, 2026
- Monday, January 12th, 2026
- Wednesday, January 21st, 2026

First Day of Classes Following Winter Break
 Breakfast Club Reopens
8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. Monday – Friday
5:30 p.m. SAC Meeting
6:30 p.m. PTA Meeting

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Our School Advisory Council met again in November. The meeting minutes from all our meetings are available for review on our school webpage.

If you are interested in attending our SAC meetings, we welcome everyone and are looking for representation from all families in our school community. 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. Our next meeting will be **Wednesday, January 21st, 2026**, beginning at **5:30 p.m.**



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, January 21st, 2026**, at **6:30 p.m.** We welcome all members. Please attend if you are able, we would love to have your input!

As we start back to school for 2026, I wanted to include the School Code of Conduct that we follow here at school. Please take some time to review this with your children.

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 review these expectations with students daily.

Our School Mission Statement is at the top of each month's Newsletter.

- Our School Matrix of Expected Behaviors is included below.
- Please feel free to copy this and put in a prominent place in your home.
- Your home support in reinforcing these expected behaviors for your children at school is so important.
- We ask you to review the Matrix with your children from time to time as well.
- This will help build consistency of expectations for our students.
- Each day on our announcements, we review a certain behavior to remind students of the expectations.
- The Matrix is posted in all classrooms and reviewed periodically with students.

Thank you in advance for your support and partnership.

ÉBES SCHOOL MATRIX OF EXPECTED BEHAVIORS:



École Burton Ettinger Elementary

School-Wide Matrix of Expectations

	Respectful	Responsible	Safe
	We honor and respect others, ourselves, and the spaces we share. We listen to adults and follow expectations to create a positive environment for everyone.	We do what's right, even when no one is watching. We build trust in our school by being honest and taking ownership of our words and actions.	We stay safe by following expectations, so everyone feels comfortable and cared for at school. We do our best to contribute positively to our school community.
Learning Environments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiet voices, listening ears • Use polite language and manners • Stay in your learning space • Allow others to learn 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do your best learning and remember to keep trying! • Take care of learning materials • Participate in your learning • Clean up after yourself 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Move carefully, watch for others in the room • Put learning items away • Use materials appropriately • Use an appropriate voice level
Transitions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use a quiet voice and walk calmly to avoid disturbing others • Keep to the right and walk in a single line • Respect personal space—no pushing, shoving, or crowding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be aware of your surroundings • Keep hook space in the hallway clean • Ask before going into the hallway and go directly to your destination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Always walk facing forward—no skipping steps • Use friendly feet—no running or jumping • Always keep your hands to yourself • Keep the hallways clear so everyone can move safely
Shared Spaces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep clean • Wait your turn • Give others personal space • Respect the privacy of others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use for its intended purpose and return to class • Use only the supplies you need • Report problems to an adult • Tidy up the area - leave it cleaner than you found it 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give others privacy • Tell an adult if something is broken or unsafe • Wash your hands with soap and water
Lunch & Snack 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask an adult to leave the room • Clean up your eating space when finished eating • Use kind words and table manners • Listen to lunchtime helpers and adults • Keep your hands, feet, and food to yourself 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean up after yourself • Stay seated while eating • Only eat the food that was made for you • Use appropriate bins for organics, garbage, recyclables 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen to lunch monitors instructions • Use respectful voice volume • Keep food and drinks in your space • Let an adult know if there's a spill or problem
Playground/Outside 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Put equipment back where it belongs • Play stops at the bell; quickly line up when the bell rings • Listen when someone says "no" • Use kind words and actions • Follow game rules and play fairly: take turns • Listen to adults and peers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use equipment properly • Clean up and return equipment after use • Solve small problems with words or ask for help • Stay in your assigned area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If someone is hurt find an adult • Keep hands, feet, and body to yourself • Be aware of your surroundings • Use equipment the way it was meant to be used



SCHOOL POLICIES (WILL REMAIN IN NEWSLETTER FOR YOUR REFERENCE):

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.

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 hazel nuts. 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 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 the blocks surrounding 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.

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.



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:

We have a wonderful breakfast program here at Burton Ettinger run by an equally wonderful group of volunteers! We appreciate their efforts every day and welcome your children to come to the breakfast program during each school day between 8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. Breakfast items include cereal, bagels, fruit, juice, etc. This is a great opportunity for your child/children to socialize with friends and staff while enjoying a nutritious breakfast and a great start to their school morning! If you are interested in volunteering for this program, please contact the school. Breakfast Program returns on **MONDAY, JANUARY 12th**, beginning at **8:00 a.m.**

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 OCCURRENCE:**

Administration will speak directly with your child to remind them of appropriate expectations.

- **2nd OCCURRENCE:**

Administration will either call you or email you to inform you about the occurrence.

- **3rd OCCURRENCE:**

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.

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 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, 902-457-8922, for more information.

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
- Stuffies
- 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 stuffies, 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/Directrice

SCHOOLSPLUS IS HERE TO SUPPORT YOU:

SchoolsPlus is a confidential, free service available in every school in Nova Scotia. Our goal is to build positive relationships between families, schools, and communities. We can help families navigate complicated situations when they are involved with many different services.

Phone: 902-464-2041

Email: schoolsplus@hrce.ca

SchoolsPlus is a confidential, free service available in every school in Nova Scotia. Our goal is to build positive relationships between families, schools, and communities.

Parents, guardians and students (12+) can self-refer to SchoolsPlus 12 months a year! Just contact the SchoolsPlus Facilitator at your school.

Call 902-464-2000, ext. 2331 or email schoolsplus@hrce.ca. Learn more about SchoolsPlus [here](#).

HRCE Important dates to remember in January

January 1: New Year's Day

January 5: First day of school for 2026

January 28-29: High School Summative Assessments

January 27: International Holocaust Remembrance Day

January 27: Family Literacy Day

January 30: High School Assessment and Evaluation Day (no classes - high school only)

PLANNING FOR INCLEMENT WEATHER:

Did you know? HRCE takes great care when making the decision to alter the regular operations of schools and school buses in the event of severe or inclement weather.

It is HRCE's goal to communicate any changes to the regular operations of schools and/or buses as close to 6:00 a.m. as possible. **A 6:00 a.m. announcement could be:**

- All schools are delayed in opening by two hours, and bus pickups are delayed by two hours; or
- All schools are open, but some or all busses are not operating for the day; or
- Some schools (either individually or by family) are closed for the day; or
- All schools are closed for the day.

If weather deteriorates, or is forecasted to worsen throughout the morning, **an 11:00 a.m. announcement could be:**

- Bussed students will be picked up two hours earlier than their regular dismissal time; and
- Walking students will be dismissed at their regularly scheduled lunch hour.

How will I find out?

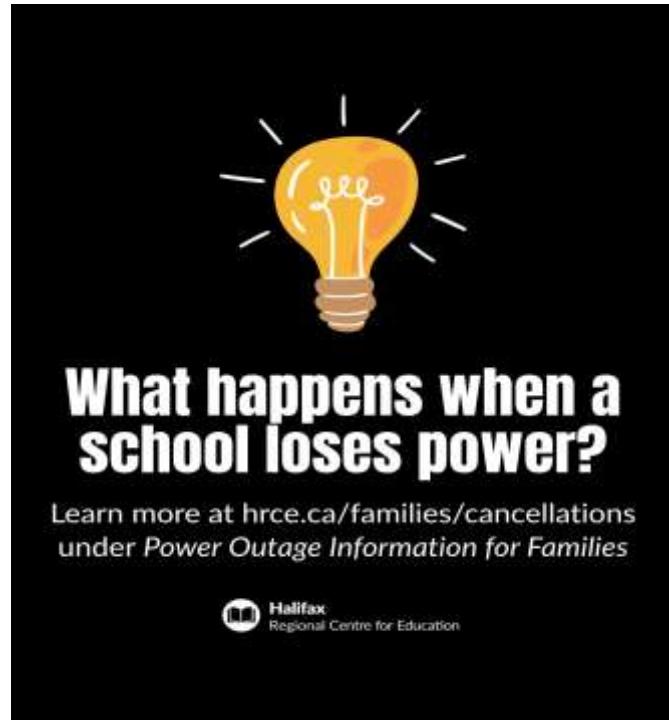
- By email to the addresses in PowerSchool
- By text message, **if you have opted in.** If you are not sure if you have opted-in, text Y to the following number: **978338**
- [On the HRCE website](#)
- [On Instagram](#)

It is important to always have a plan in place for childcare in the event of any cancellation. Please remember: As a parent or guardian you always have the choice of whether or not to send your child to school.

For more information on how HRCE manages during inclement weather, visit [hrce.ca/families/cancellations](#).

WE'RE ALWAYS HIRING!

Did you know that HRCE has more than 10,000 employees serving more than 60,000 students? Our job postings are updated every Wednesday at noon and feature a wide variety of career opportunities! As HRCE grows, so does our staff. Check out new opportunities weekly at [www.myhrce.ca/jobs](#).



Power Outage Information for Families

As we move into the winter months, we want to share how decisions are made when a school experiences a power outage.

Our priority is always to keep schools open safely when possible. A power outage does **not** automatically mean classes are cancelled – even if it happens during the school day. The decision depends on when power is expected to be restored.

Here's what happens:

- When a school loses power, HRCE's Operations Team contacts Nova Scotia Power to gather available details on the cause and an estimated restoration time.
- Once we have this information, we consider:
- **Before school starts:** Have buses begun their routes? If so, we wait until students arrive before making a decision. If classes are cancelled, elementary families will be contacted before dismissal.
- **During the school day:** How close is dismissal? What is the temperature in the building? Does the school rely on power for water or septic systems? These factors, among others, help us decide whether to stay open or close. Often, power returns faster than we could safely send students home.

If classes are cancelled:

- HRCE will notify families by email and text.
- Families of elementary students will also receive a phone call before dismissal.

Deciding to close schools during a power outage is never simple, but safety is always our top priority. We understand that cancellations can be inconvenient, and our goal is to keep students learning in class whenever possible.

More information about school cancellations for any reason can be found [here](#).

Learn About the Influenza Vaccine

Learn about the Influenza vaccine

FAST FACTS ABOUT THE FLU VACCINE

- Influenza (the flu) is virus that peaks in transmission in the fall and winter months
- Most people are mildly ill when they contract the flu but sometimes the flu can be serious and require admission to the hospital
- Children under 6 years are at the highest risk of serious complications from the flu
- The flu and RSV can occur at the same time making children more at risk of needing hospitalization
- The flu vaccine is recommended yearly for children 6 months and older to protect against serious complications of the flu

Scan to book



FLU VACCINE SAFETY

- The flu vaccine cannot cause the flu
- Serious side effects are rare, affecting less than 1 in 1000 people
- Common side effects include pain and swelling at the insertion site



HOW TO BOOK YOUR VACCINE

- In Nova Scotia, flu vaccines can be booked online and are free of cost
- You can also call to book at 1-833-797-7772. If you or your child does not have a health card, please call rather than booking online



Please share the following with families on behalf of the Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness.

Fast Facts about the Flu Vaccine

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For more information, [click here](#).

Online Platform Risks From Unplugged Canada

Sharing on behalf of Unplugged Canada

Many digital platforms today, including social media, online gaming and AI chat tools, are designed to keep kids scrolling and engaged, often exposing them to addictive features, adult content, and interactions they may not be developmentally ready to handle.

Below is a resource that outlines some of the most common social media, gaming, and AI chat platforms, helping families better understand the risks, start meaningful conversations at home, and consider delaying smartphones and access to these apps until kids are more developmentally ready.

You can access the full resource [here](#).

Unplugged Canada is a parent-led, national movement advocating for healthier childhoods by delaying smartphones and social media until kids are more developmentally ready. Join thousands of Canadian families choosing to delay by taking the Unplugged Canada Pledge at unpluggedcanada.com/sign-pledge.