



École Burton Ettinger Elementary

FEBRUARY 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,

As we step into February, we are reminded of the importance of community, care, and connection. This month brings opportunities to celebrate kindness, friendship, and the growth our students are making every day.

We are proud of the many ways our students continue to demonstrate perseverance, creativity, and curiosity in their learning. From classroom assignments and engagement in extracurricular activities, it is inspiring to see them collaborate and support one another.

February also invites us to reflect on the importance of inclusion and respect. Together, we are building a school community where every student feels valued, supported, and empowered to reach their full potential.

We encourage families to continue engaging with us—through conversations about learning at home, attending school events, or supporting your child's interests. Your partnership makes a real difference in your child's experience at school.

Thank you for your continued support and for being such an integral part of our school community. We look forward to a month full of learning, connection, and positivity.

Warm regards,

Ms. Graham

Principal/Directrice



FEBRUARY IS REGISTRATION MONTH:

Do you have or know a child who will be starting Pre Primary or Primary this fall? It's time to register!

Registration for the 2026-27 school year begins on Monday, February 2. To ensure we have the right staff and supports in place for September, it's important that we gather enrolment numbers now.

Tip: Before you begin, make sure you have the following documents in electronic form (image, PDF or Word document):

- Proof of identity/age with one of the following: birth certificate, passport, immigration papers, or legal adoption papers if you are new to the HRCE
- Proof of home address with one of the following: a recently dated official government or utility document with your current address that includes your name and date, such as water bill, power bill, internet bill, home fuel bill, a tax receipt, property assessment, a mortgage contract or a residential lease agreement

Visit the [HRCE website](https://www.hrce.ca) for more information and to enrol your child today through PowerSchool Enrollment!

Don't have a child to register? Maybe you know someone who does! Please help us spread the word and pass this information on to friends, neighbours or relatives who will be looking to register for the fall.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER FOR FEBRUARY 2026:**Important Dates for Burton Ettinger:**

- **February is African Heritage Month**
- **February is Registration Month**
- **February 16:** Heritage Day (no classes - all schools)
- **February 17:** Lunar New Year

TATTLETALES CAMPAIGN:

Every year, schools have the opportunity to take part in a campaign sponsored by Tattletales, a company that sells books. We take part in this campaign as the money we raise is matched by Tattletales and we are then able to purchase books for our library.

We will once again this year be participating in this campaign. We ask families, if you are able, to donate to our school campaign by sending in any cash donations (change, bills, whatever you can donate is appreciated!). The money our school collects will then be given to Tattletales, and they will match these funds. We are then able to purchase books for our library. See more information from Tattletales about this campaign.



19th Annual Coin Campaign



It's time again to register your school for the 2026 campaign.

Yes, we have reached our original goal,

But...we have been asked to continue this lucrative campaign.

Please reply to frontdesk@tattletalesbooks.ca to register.

Most of you know the drill.

To make it simple...

- Register your school by emailing frontdesk@tattletalesbooks.ca
- Collect coins/money during February 2026. Be creative.
- Send us your cheque/money before the March Break deadline.
Deadline to submit your money is March 13, 2026
- Once all schools have submitted their collections, sit back and wait for our follow up email to announce how much your credit for books will be after we add the contributions from Tattletales, our publishers and friends.

It's a WIN WIN !!

If you would like more information or fundraising ideas,
please contact Anne at 902-463-5551



SCHOOL SKATING:

Burton Ettinger After School Skate at Centennial Arena:

Wednesdays (February 4th, February 11th, February 18th, February 25th, March 4th, and March 11th)

March 11th will be the last skate of the year

A few reminders:

- The cost is \$5.00 per family or \$2.00 per person. Cash Only.
- Helmets are required for students, novice skaters, and adult supervision is MANDATORY.
- As per public skate rules, there are no tag games permitted.
- We have lots of new skaters and want everyone to have a fun and safe skate.
- Unfortunately, equipment rentals are not available.

Thank you to Centennial Arena for supporting this wonderful physically active after school program!

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February is African Heritage Month



African Heritage Month in Nova Scotia is a time to recognize and celebrate the rich history, vibrant culture, and lasting contributions of people of African descent in our province. This year's theme, **"Strength in Unity – Moving Forward with Purpose, Prosperity, Power and Progress,"** reminds us of the importance of coming together as a community, learning from one another, and moving forward with shared purpose.

In our schools, African Heritage Month provides meaningful opportunities for students to explore African Nova Scotian histories and experiences, deepen their understanding of our shared past, and reflect on the values of respect, inclusion, and belonging. Through classroom learning, discussions, and activities connected to this year's theme, students are encouraged to appreciate diversity, build empathy, and recognize the strength that comes from unity. These experiences help foster welcoming school communities and inspire students to contribute positively to a more inclusive and equitable future for all.

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Our School Advisory Council had our January meeting on January 28th. 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, February 18th**, beginning at **6:30 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, February 18th at 5:30 p.m.** We welcome all members. Please attend if you are able, we would love to have your input!

NOVA SCOTIA PROVINCIAL CODE OF CONDUCT:

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



[HRCE Information](#)

Open your home to an international student!



BECOME A HOST FAMILY

OPEN YOUR HOME AND HEART TO AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT

\$875
/month

PER STUDENT
(Tax Free)

\$975
/month

If you can
accommodate
a vegetarian or
lactose free diet

\$1075
/month

If you can
accommodate
a vegan or
celiac diet

* Effective in September 2025.

RECEIVE \$100 FOR EVERY SUCCESSFUL REFERRAL OF NEW HOST FAMILY

Share the name and contact details of an interested host. Once they are approved and actively hosting, you'll receive \$100.



Halifax
Regional Centre for Education

Learn More:
nsisp.ca/host

Email hostastudent@hrce.ca
or call 902-464-2000 ext. 2548



Have you considered opening your home to an international student?

HRCE's International Services welcomes students from all over the world who would like to attend schools in our region. Hosting a student in your home can be an enriching and rewarding experience. We're looking for warm and caring families like yours to provide them with a home away from home.

Hosting an international student is a once-in-a-lifetime experience that gives your family the opportunity to bring the world home. For students, it's a way to learn about the Canadian way of life.

As a host, your family would be matched with a student who will attend your neighbourhood school and participate in your daily routines.

What you can expect:

- Host families receive a tax-free monthly stipend to help cover hosting expenses (\$825 current, \$875 effective September)
- Students stay for periods of three to 10 months
- Ongoing support is provided by an experienced Homestay Coordinator
- You will learn about and communicate with your student before their arrival

Learn more [here](#) or contact:

HRCE International Services

(902) 464-2000 ext. 2548

hostastudent@hrce.ca

Please share this message with anyone who may be interested.

Thank you! Gracias. Merci. Xie-Xie. Danke. Arigato. Grazie. Obrigado. Kamsa-Hamnida.

Kawp-Kun-Ka. Shukran. Teşekkür Ederim.

HRCE International Services

FEBRUARY 16TH IS HERITAGE DAY:

Nova Scotia Heritage Day is celebrated on Monday, February 16, and provides an opportunity for students and families to learn more about the people, stories, and events that have shaped our province. Each year, Heritage Day honours a notable Nova Scotian, and in 2026 we recognize Joseph William Comeau, an important Acadian poet, writer, and cultural leader.

Joseph William Comeau is remembered for his contributions to Acadian literature and for helping to preserve and promote Acadian language, identity, and culture in Nova Scotia. His work reflected the everyday lives, resilience, and traditions of Acadian communities, and his legacy continues to influence Acadian culture today. Heritage Day provides us with an opportunity to explore Nova Scotia's diverse history and to better understand how individuals from different backgrounds have contributed to our shared story. Learning about Joseph William Comeau helps students appreciate the richness of Acadian heritage and the importance of preserving culture, language, and community.

Thriving Offline: How Delaying Smartphones Can Help Kids Flourish

Thriving Offline: How Delaying Smartphones Can Help Kids Flourish, a free community event hosted by Unplugged Canada at St. Margaret's Bay Elementary, is available both in person and virtually. Designed for caregivers and educators, this session will explore how early smartphone and social media use impacts children's development and the latest research, practical strategies, safer alternatives, and age-appropriate boundaries to support healthy childhoods.

Join us! Thriving Offline: How Delaying Smartphones Can Help Kids Flourish

- Tuesday, February 24, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.
- St. Margaret's Bay Elementary - 24 Ridgewood Dr, Head of St Margaret's Bay, NS
- Please register for in-person or virtual [here](https://unpluggedNSThrivingOffline.eventbrite.ca).

Two Truths & AI

Two Truths & AI is a free, interactive activity from Common Sense Education that helps students learn how to tell the difference between real and AI-generated content. Through guided examples, students practice asking good questions and thinking critically about what they see online. This resource can also be a helpful way for parents and caregivers to build their own understanding of AI and media literacy alongside their children. Learn more [here](#).

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:**

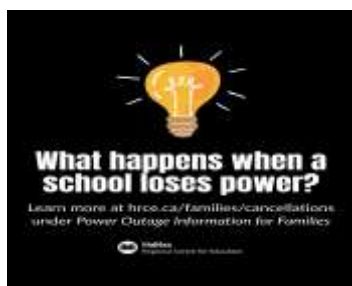
- Bussed students will be picked up two hours earlier than their regular dismissal time; and
- Walking students will be dismissed at their regularly scheduled lunch hour.

How will I find out?

- By email to the addresses in PowerSchool
- By text message, **if you have opted-in**. If you aren't sure if you have opted-in, text Y to the following number: **978338**
- [On the HRCE website](https://hrce.ca/families/cancellations)
- [On Instagram](#)

It's 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

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](#).

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 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:

MEDICINE

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 wonderful 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 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.

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
- 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/Directrice**