



# École Burton Ettinger Elementary

## MARCH 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 move into March, families across our region begin to notice the subtle signs of spring just around the corner. With longer days and brighter light, this is always a month that brings renewed energy into our school.

March is an important time in the learning year. Classrooms are buzzing with rich conversations, collaborative problem-solving, and opportunities for students to reflect on their growth. Our teachers continue to focus on strong instructional practices, meaningful feedback, and creating identity-affirming learning environments where every student feels a sense of belonging and pride in who they are.

We are also looking ahead to the final stretch of the school year. This is a wonderful time to reconnect with learning goals and encourage students to persevere, ask questions, and take risks in their thinking. Growth often happens when learning feels challenging, and we are proud of the resilience our students demonstrate every day.

As always, student well-being remains at the heart of our work. We continue to prioritize safe, inclusive spaces where students feel known, valued, and supported. Thank you for the many ways you partner with us - through conversations at home, attendance at school events, and ongoing communication with staff. Your involvement makes a meaningful difference.

If you have any questions, ideas, or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out. Together, we will continue to ensure a strong and successful spring for all our students.

Wishing you and your family a wonderful month of March.

Warm regards,

**Ms. Graham**

Principal/Directrice

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

- **March 8th:** International Women's Day
- **March 13th:** Elementary/Junior High/Middle School Assessment & Evaluation Day  
(no classes - Elementary/JH/middle schools only)
- **March 16th-20th:** March Break
- **March 21st:** World Down Syndrome Day
- **March 21st:** International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
- **March 31st:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Term Report Cards Emailed Home to Families  
International Transgender Day of Visibility

**SCHOOL SKATING:**

Burton Ettinger After School Skate at Centennial Arena:

Wednesdays (**February 4<sup>th</sup>, February 11<sup>th</sup>, February 18<sup>th</sup>, February 25<sup>th</sup>, March 4<sup>th</sup>, and March 11<sup>th</sup>**)

**March 11<sup>th</sup> 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!

**SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Our School Advisory Council had our February meeting on Wednesday, February 25th. 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](mailto:jgraham@hrce.ca). Our next meeting will be **Wednesday, February April 15th**, 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](mailto:jgraham@hrce.ca), if you would like to participate. Our next meeting is **Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.** We welcome all members. Please attend if you are able, we would love to have your input!

### March 21 is International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination



Today we recognize International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination to build awareness, empathy, and respect among students of all backgrounds. The United Nations established this day in 1966 to call for a global commitment to ending racial discrimination in all its forms.

By learning about the impacts of discrimination and celebrating diversity, children gain social skills and knowledge to be inclusive both within school and home community. Families are our students first educators and through your continuous conversation valuing equity and the elimination of racism, we will continue our shared goal of a society where racism no longer exist.

### March 21 is World Down Syndrome Day



World Down Syndrome Day, celebrated each year on March 21, gives us the chance to recognize those with Down syndrome and the awesome contributions they make to our school communities. It's an opportunity for families, students, and staff to strengthen inclusion, acceptance, and belonging. By celebrating differences and promoting understanding, our schools help create welcoming environments where every child feels valued and supported.

On this day, many schools encourage students and staff to wear mismatched socks as a colourful symbol of diversity and solidarity. Activities such as assemblies, classroom discussions, and creative projects highlight the abilities of individuals with Down syndrome, fostering empathy and friendship throughout the school. These efforts ensure that everyone has a voice and a place in our communities, reinforcing the importance of respect and kindness.

## March is Nutrition Month: Make the Most of the Nova Scotia School Lunch Program



March is celebrated across Canada as Nutrition Month, a perfect opportunity for families to focus on building healthy eating habits together. Nutrition Month allows us to explore sustainable eating patterns, food literacy, and learning about the benefits of balance and variety in everyday meals. By highlighting the connection between nutrition and long-term health, Nutrition Month empowers everyone to build habits that benefit both individuals and the planet.

Use Nutrition Month as a reminder to take advantage of the [Nova Scotia School Lunch Program](#)! With nutritious, balanced meals prepared daily, the program ensures students have the energy and focus they need to succeed in the classroom and beyond. The School Lunch Program is designed to provide accessible, affordable, and appealing meals that feature a variety of foods from all food groups, following Canada's Food Guide. By participating, families can help their children develop lifelong healthy habits while making mornings a little less hectic.

Together, we can make small changes that lead to healthier futures for our families and communities.

### Responding to Technology-Facilitated Harms Among Young People

Unplugged Canada is hosting a free community event at the Canada Games Centre on Thursday March 5 at 7 p.m., available both in person and virtually. Join to learn from Dr. Alexa Dodge, Assistant Professor of Criminology at Saint Mary's University and a leading Canadian researcher on technology-facilitated sexual violence.

This session will explore cyberbullying, the sharing of intimate images, and other online harms youth face, along with research on the support and responses young people need when problems arise online. This presentation will be valuable for any caregiver or adult supporting young people as they navigate the challenges of their digital social lives.

**Thursday, March 5, 2026, at 7 p.m.**

**Canada Games Centre Boardroom - 26 Thomas Raddall Drive, Halifax**

**Please register for in-person or virtual [here](#).**

### Safer Internet Day 2026: Navigating the Internet Safely

As our kids and teens spend more time exploring, creating, and learning online, it's natural to wonder how we can best support them — especially with emerging technologies like artificial intelligence becoming part of their digital world. On Safer Internet Day 2026, Google shared helpful updates and tools designed to make it easier for families to guide, protect, and empower young people as they navigate the Internet safely. Learn more [here](#).

## Open your Home to an International Student!

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 (\$875)
- 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](mailto: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

## 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](#)
- [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](https://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](#).

Yours in Education,

*J. Graham*

**Ms. J. Graham,  
Principal/Directrice**