



École Burton Ettinger Elementary

APRIL 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,

I hope this message finds you well and that you had an opportunity to enjoy some rest and time together over the recent long weekend. As we move forward in April, we are entering a meaningful and productive stretch of the school year. Classrooms are buzzing with learning, and students continue to strive toward demonstrating growth, curiosity, and resilience each day.

In the coming weeks, students in Grade 3 will be participating in the **Nova Scotia Provincial Assessments in Literacy and Mathematics**. These assessments provide valuable information that helps guide our teaching and support student learning. We approach this time with care, ensuring that students feel supported and confident as they demonstrate what they know during these assessments. We encourage families to support their children by maintaining regular routines and a positive mindset around these learning opportunities. More information will be sent home to Grade 3 families prior to the assessments taking place.

April is a time to recognize and celebrate the diversity and richness of our community. We acknowledge **Sikh Heritage Month** and **Arab Heritage Month**, as well as **African Heritage Month learning that continues throughout the year** in Nova Scotia classrooms. These opportunities allow us to deepen students' understanding of culture, identity, and inclusion. We also recognize **Earth Day (April 22)** as a chance to reflect on environmental stewardship and engage in activities that promote care for our planet.

Our school continues to align with provincial priorities through initiatives connected to the **Nova Scotia Student Success Plan**, with a focus on literacy, mathematics, and well-being. You may have noticed during parent-teacher conferences, student led conferences were used in some classrooms as an opportunity for children to demonstrate student voice to discuss their learning. This, along with small-group instruction, and ongoing assessment practices, are part of our emphasis as we work to ensure each learner is supported and challenged appropriately.

Thank you for your continued partnership and for all you do to support your children and our school community. We are grateful to work alongside such a caring and supportive group of families. Wishing you a wonderful month ahead.

Warm regards,

Ms. J. Graham

Ms. Graham

Principal/Directrice

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

- April 2 is World Autism Awareness Day
- **April 2** is Elem/Middle/Jr Progress Conferences/Teacher Professional Practice Day & High School Professional Development (**No classes - all schools**)
- **April 3** is Good Friday (**No classes - all schools**)
- April 5 is Easter
- **April 6** is Easter Monday (**No classes - all schools**)
- April 22 is Earth Day
- April 22 is Administrative Professionals Day
- April 19-25 is National Volunteer Week
- **April 29** is Elem/Middle/Jr Professional Development & High School Progress Conferences/Teacher Professional Practice Day (**No classes - all schools**)

SCHOOL RUNNING CLUB:

Burton Ettinger Spring Running Club is about to bring the ENERGY, FUN, and a WHOLE LOT of MOVEMENT! As the weather warms up, it is the perfect opportunity to get outside, stay active, and build healthy habits that last.

Run club is all about participation, fun, and feeling great while moving.

Run Club will begin on Tuesday, April 14th and will run weekly until Friday June 12th.

- TUESDAYS EACH WEEK: **Open to students in Grades 2–5**
- FRIDAYS EACH WEEK (**BUDDY RUNNING**): Open to students in **grade Primary to Grade 5**
- ***All sessions start at **8:00 AM**. Parents may drop students off at the **BASKETBALL COURT**.
- ***On Buddy Running days (FRIDAYS) - younger students will be paired with older students who will help guide them, build confidence, and run with them.
- *** The program will begin indoors and will move outdoors when field conditions allow. Students will enter through the gym doors and proceed directly to their classrooms once the session is finished.

Anyone interested in registering for The Youth Running Series, you can now register for the full series online. The Youth Running Series races range in distances from 500m to 2.2km and encourage participation by those of all abilities. They also have fun school challenges, and we would love to see big turnouts from Burton Ettinger! Registration happens online, in advance, and is 5.00 a student.

<https://www.youthrunningseries.ca/>



YOUTH RUNNING SERIES
CELEBRATING A 30-YEAR RUN STREAK!

12345
Youth Running Series

full-series bib pick-up

No lines. Save time! Register for the full-series BEFORE Saturday, April 18, and you can pick up all 6 race bibs at a Cyclesmith location:

April 23 – 30
2553 Agricola Street, Halifax

May 1 – 7
201 Brownlow Ave, Unit 1, Dartmouth

SUPER SHUBIE MET TRAIL MAYHEM SCARY BOBZLEY

Youth Running Series | youthrunningseriesns | youthrunningseries.ca

MUSIC PROGRAM NEWS:

MUSICAL THEATRE REHEARSALS:

- Every Wednesday
Lunch time and from **3 – 4 p.m.** – Musical Theatre Rehearsal in the music room.

ORFF GROUP REHEARSALS:

- **April 14th & 21st (4:30 – 6:00 p.m.)** – Rehearsals for the Orff Group at Burton Ettinger in Music Room
- **April 24th** - Orff Performance at Halifax Marriott Hotel

SPRING CONCERT:

- **May 13th**
1:15 p.m. and **6:30 p.m.** - Spring Concert!
- **May 14th**
9:00 a.m. - Performance for the whole school

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Our upcoming School Advisory Council meeting will be Wednesday, **April 15th at 6:30 p.m.** in Room 235 (Alex Street Building). We will have presentations from potential school photographers. Our contract is expiring this year, and we are required to hold a meeting with interested candidates before deciding on the new contract for our school.

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.



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, April 15th at 5:30 p.m.** We welcome all members. Please attend if you are able, we would love to have your input!



April 2 is Autism Awareness Day

Autism Awareness Day is an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the many strengths and experiences of autistic children and youth in our school communities. For families, it is a moment to reflect on the importance of feeling seen, heard, and supported — not just today, but every day.

In our schools, awareness is only the beginning. True inclusion comes from acceptance, understanding, and a commitment to meeting each student where they are. When educators, students, and families work together to build empathy and reduce barriers, we create environments where every child can thrive.

Recognized globally on April 2, World Autism Awareness Day, led by the United Nations, highlights the importance of improving quality of life and upholding the rights of autistic individuals. This year's theme, "Autism and Humanity – Every Life Has Value," reminds us that every person deserves dignity, respect, and the opportunity to thrive, both in school and beyond.

Try Carpool Conversations with your Kids

Looking for an easy way to talk with your child about their digital world? Carpool Conversations from Common Sense Media offers short, engaging prompts and mini podcasts designed to spark family discussions about technology, media use, and online behaviour. Many episodes are only a couple of minutes long, perfect for a car ride or while waiting for practice to start. Explore the conversation starters [here](#).

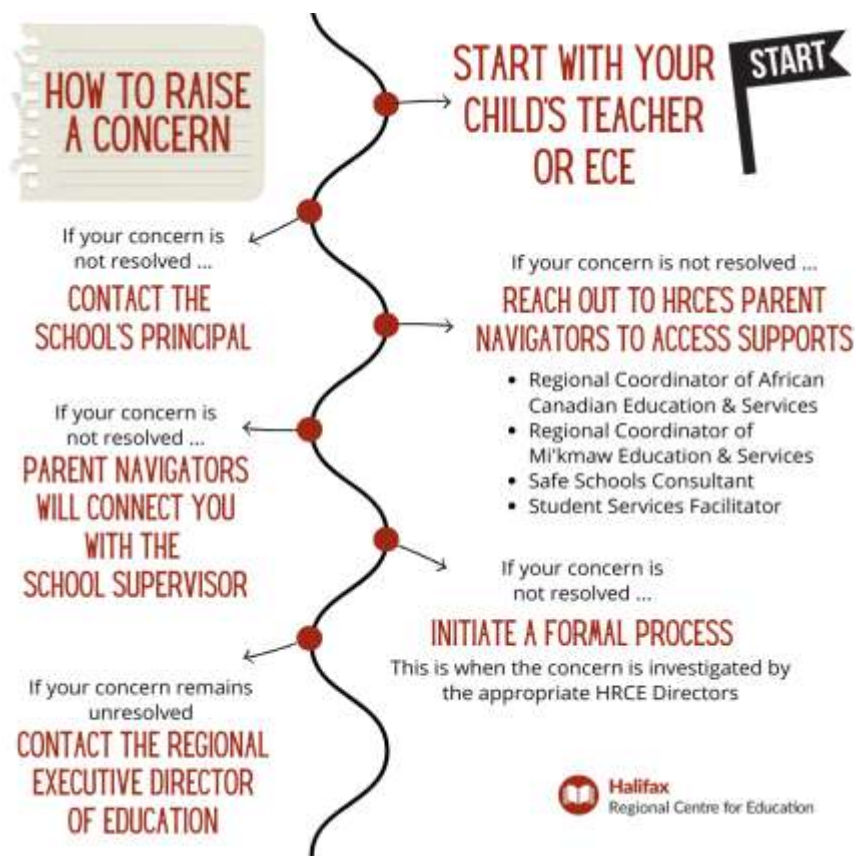
The "Amazing" Adventure Guide

[Unplugged Canada](#) encourages families to reclaim childhood by creating more opportunities for outdoor adventure, independence, and real-world responsibility. Research shows that children thrive when they spend more time exploring their neighbourhoods, solving problems with friends, and contributing meaningfully at home and in their communities. Simple steps like walking to a neighbour's house, biking to a local park, helping plan a family meal or running small errands help kids build confidence, resilience, and practical life skills.

Families can support this shift by intentionally creating space for free, unsupervised play and increasing responsibility over time. That might mean designating "no-adult" play zones, encouraging kids to gather in groups of three or more for creative play, or giving them meaningful household roles such as helping with groceries, cooking, or caring for pets.

It can feel challenging to step back, but children build independence by practicing it. Families can make it easier by teaming up with other parents in their neighbourhood to create shared boundaries for safe roaming and outdoor play. For more ideas and practical steps, see the full guide: [The "Amazing" Adventure Guide](#) from Unplugged Canada.

Do you know how to raise a concern?



We want families to feel comfortable reaching out when they have questions or concerns about their child's education or well-being. In most cases, concerns can be resolved quickly by connecting directly with school staff.

If you do have a concern, here are the steps to follow:

- **Start by speaking with your child's teacher or ECE.** They are often best positioned to address questions about your child's learning or classroom experience.
- **If the concern is not resolved, contact the school principal** to continue the conversation and work toward a solution.
- **If you need additional support, HRCE's Family Navigators are here to help.** They can provide guidance and connect families with helpful resources and supports. They can be reached at connect@hrce.ca.
- **If the concern still is not resolved,** a formal review process can be requested, and the matter will be looked into by the appropriate HRCE Director.
- **The final step** is for the concern to be reviewed by the Regional Executive Director.

You can learn more about the process [here](#) or by reviewing the [Parent/Guardian Concern Policy](#).

Yours in Education,

J. Graham

Ms. J. Graham,
Principal/Directrice