



# École Burton Ettinger Elementary

## MAY 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***

Dear ÉBES Families,

As we step into May, we welcome the warmer weather and the renewed energy that spring brings to our school community. This is always a busy and exciting time of year, with many opportunities for learning, growth, and celebration.

#### **Student Learning & Progress**

May is an important month for maintaining strong learning habits. Students are continuing to build on their skills across all subject areas, and we encourage families to support consistent routines at home, including reading, completing assignments, and getting a good night's rest.

#### **Provincial Assessments & Classroom Activities**

Some students will be participating in provincial assessments this month. These assessments help us better understand student progress and guide instruction. Teachers will communicate specific details with families as needed. In addition, classrooms will be engaging in hands-on projects, outdoor learning opportunities, and collaborative activities that take advantage of the spring season.

#### **Attendance Matters**

With the nicer weather, it can be tempting to take extra time away, but regular attendance remains essential. Every school day counts, and we appreciate your support in ensuring students arrive on time ready to learn.

#### **Mental Health & Well-Being**

May is also a time to focus on well-being. We encourage students to stay active, spend time outdoors, and reach out for support when needed. Our staff continue to prioritize safe, inclusive, and caring learning environments for all students.

#### **Upcoming Dates & Events**

- Spring Concert: May 13<sup>th</sup> at 1:15 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.
- Victoria Day Holiday: May 18 (**No school**)

#### **Looking Ahead**

As we move closer to the end of the school year, we will begin planning for year-end activities and celebrations. More information will be shared in the coming weeks.

Thank you for your continued support of our school. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Warm regards,

*Ms. J. Graham*

**Ms. Graham**

Principal/Directrice

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

- May is Asian Heritage Month
- May is Canadian Jewish Heritage Month
- May is Polish Heritage Month
- May is Speech and Hearing Month
- **May 5<sup>th</sup>** is Red Dress Day
- **May 10<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>** is Education Week
- **May 15<sup>th</sup>** is Black Excellence Day
- **May 17<sup>th</sup>** is International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia
- **May 18<sup>th</sup>** is Victoria Day (No classes - all schools)
- **May 31<sup>st</sup> to June 6<sup>th</sup>** is Access Awareness Week

**SCHOOL RUNNING CLUB:**

Burton Ettinger Spring Running Club continues to bring the ENERGY, FUN, and LOTS of MOVEMENT! As the weather gets warmer, it is the perfect opportunity to be outside staying active and building healthy habits.

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

Run Club is held on Tuesdays and Fridays each week until June 12<sup>th</sup>.

**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/>

**3 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 MADNESS** **MOTHER'S FIRST CROSS-COUNTRY HILL RUN** **ROYAL LEPAGE ATLANTIC GLOW RUN THE** **TRAIL MAYHEM** **SCARY BEAZLEY**

f 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.

**SPRING CONCERT:**

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

**SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Our upcoming School Advisory Council meeting will be Wednesday, **May 27<sup>th</sup>** at **6:30 p.m.** in Madame Canning's Portable (the one closest to Central Avenue near the Basketball Court). There will be an update from the Principal, along with deciding on our next steps for next year – which members will be returning, and our Letter of Agreement for membership.

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).

**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, May 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.** This will be a virtual meeting.

We welcome all members. Please attend if you are able, we would love to have your input!



## May 15 is Black Excellence Day

Black Excellence Day 2026 in Nova Scotia is an opportunity for schools to reflect on the learning and exploration of Black people and culture over the past year. It recognizes, celebrates, and supports learning from the achievements, contributions, and leadership of Black individuals and communities. More than a single-day celebration, Black Excellence is the recognition of meaningful steps toward strengthening inclusive learning environments where all students see themselves reflected in curriculum materials, through the stories we tell and the histories we honour.

The purpose of celebrating Black Excellence in our schools and classrooms is to affirm student's identities, build confidence, and inspire futures by highlighting role Black people have made in education, science, arts, leadership, and community advocacy. It reflects and celebrates thoughtful conversations in schools about equity, representation, and the ongoing work to remove systemic barriers.

This moment of reflection also invites educators and school communities to consider how Black Excellence is represented within their own classrooms and learning spaces. For some, this may affirm intentional work already underway; for others, it may serve as an opportunity to begin or deepen this practice. Black Excellence Day reminds us that this work is ongoing, and that there is always time to plan, reflect, and be deliberate in ensuring all students see themselves meaningfully reflected in our schools.

**We welcome everyone to wear a black shirt, if you're able, on May 15 to show your support for Black Excellence Day!**

Free Live Event

**UNPLUGGED CANADA**

A National Conversation  
with Unplugged Canada Ambassadors

**Tania Johnson, M.C.**  
Co-founder of the Institute of Child Psychology  
Board-Member Author

**Dr. Michele Locke, Ph.D.**  
Clinical Psychologist  
Youth Clinician  
Co-founder

**Kirsten Sweet, M.Ed.**  
National Program Director  
Author  
Co-founder

- Explore the research: Smartphones and Social Media
- Review the Unplugged Pledge and Resources
- Join our National School Champion Program
- Check out our new resource: Operation Landline
- Invite all parents and caregivers in your school community

**Wednesday, May 6th**  
5pm PT | 8pm ET

## Unplugged Webinar on Smartphones, Social Media and More

Unplugged Canada is hosting a LIVE webinar on May 6 every parent and caregiver needs to hear. We're talking smartphones, social media, the research — and most importantly, what we can do about it.

Hosted by Kirsten Sweet, educator and National Program Director with Unplugged Canada with Tania Johnson, Co-founder of the Institute of Child Psychology and Dr. Michele Locke, Clinical Psychologist, learn about the impact of smartphones and social media on youth and how the Unplugged Canada Pledge and our resources can spark meaningful conversations in your home, school, and community.

We'll also introduce two new initiatives: the National School Champion Program and Operation Landline — a summer campaign helping families delay smartphones and reconnect in simpler, more intentional ways. Come ready to learn, connect, and be part of the movement. Register [here](#).

## Screen Free Summer: Digital Diet Guidance

As summer approaches, many families are thinking about screen time. This article introduces the idea of a “digital diet,” encouraging a focus on the quality and purpose of screen use rather than just limiting it. It offers practical ways to help children build healthier, more balanced habits with technology. Read more [here](#).



## Nova Scotia Quality of Life Survey

Engage Nova Scotia is seeking more youth voices in their Nova Scotia Quality of Life Survey to ensure this critical demographic is properly represented in reporting. To ensure youth voices are heard, Engage Nova Scotia is asking parents to encourage youth and young adults in their household, **who are age 16 and older**, to complete the survey.

### Take the survey now!

Please email Engage Nova Scotia at [survey@engagenovascotia.ca](mailto:survey@engagenovascotia.ca) to take the Nova Scotia Quality of Life Survey. By sharing your story – your day-to-day experiences from affordability and sense of belonging in community to close personal connections and your level of trust in institutions – you can help reveal the full story of your community’s well-being.

You can also learn more at [engagenovascotia.ca](http://engagenovascotia.ca).

Engage Nova Scotia is a non-profit, independent organization that works with partners to advance the quality of life of all Nova Scotia residents. They believe everyone should be included to share their story, seed their future, and influence change to improve their own well-being and the well-being of their communities. Engage works closely with local municipalities and organizations across the province.

## Access Awareness Week - May 31 to June 6

Access Awareness Week in Nova Scotia, taking place May 31–June 6, 2026, is an opportunity to recognize the importance of accessibility, inclusion, and the leadership of people with disabilities. This year’s theme, “Disability Justice: Stronger Together, First Voice Leading Change for Collective Action,” emphasizes the importance of centering lived experience and working collaboratively to create meaningful, lasting change. In schools, this week is a powerful reminder that inclusion is everyone’s responsibility. Classrooms are where understanding begins — through learning, conversation, and action. By listening to diverse voices, removing barriers, and fostering accessible learning environments, educators and students help build school communities where all learners feel valued and supported.

Yours in Education,

*J. Graham*

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