



École Burton Ettinger Elementary

OCTOBER 2026 School Newsletter

EBES 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.

Déclaration de mission de l'EBES

À l'École élémentaire Burton Ettinger, nous donnons à chaque élève les moyens de réussir dans un environnement sécuritaire, équitable, inclusif et bienveillant. Guidés par l'empathie et le respect, nous cultivons l'amour de l'apprentissage et soutenons-le développement de citoyens du monde compatissants, créatifs et responsables.

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Students, Families, and School Community,

As we welcome October, there is something special about autumn in Nova Scotia. The changing leaves, crisp mornings, and beautiful colours around us remind us that change can be something to embrace. After a busy and exciting start to the school year, October gives us an opportunity to settle into our routines, strengthen relationships, and focus on the learning and growth that make our school community so special.

I am incredibly proud of the way our students have begun the school year. Each day, I see examples of kindness, curiosity, perseverance, and a willingness to try new things. These qualities are at the heart of a successful school, and they are made possible through the dedication of our students, staff, and families.

October is also **Mi'kmaw History Month** in Nova Scotia. It is an important opportunity for all of us to learn more about Mi'kmaw history, culture, traditions, and contributions. This year's theme, *Nepisulti'k – We Are Healing*, invites us to reflect, learn, celebrate, and listen to Mi'kmaw voices.

As we move through the month, I encourage our students to continue being curious, to ask questions, to include others, and to look for opportunities to make a positive difference in the lives of those around them. October also brings Thanksgiving, a wonderful time to pause and reflect on the people and experiences for which we are grateful. I am especially thankful for our wonderful school staff who provide such wonderful learning environments for our students, and to our wonderful school community for the many ways our families support our students and our school.

Thank you for your continued partnership. When families and schools work together, our students benefit in countless ways. Please continue to stay connected with us, celebrate your child's successes, encourage their efforts, and reach out whenever you have questions or concerns.

Wishing everyone a wonderful October filled with learning, laughter/kindness, and opportunities to grow.

Warmly,

Ms. Janice A.M. Graham

Principal/Directrice



THANK YOU TO OUR PTA – CURRICULUM NIGHT 🍷

A heartfelt thank you, on behalf of our entire school staff, to our wonderful PTA for helping make our Curriculum Night on Thursday, September 24th, such a special evening!

We are so grateful for their generous support in providing our **ice cream social** and for everything they do to bring our school community together. Their continued generosity, enthusiasm, and willingness to support school events make such a positive difference for our students, families, and staff.

It is through events like these that we have the opportunity to connect, celebrate, and build a strong sense of community within our school. We truly appreciate our PTA for always being there and for helping create these wonderful experiences for our school family.

Thank you for your ongoing support, generosity, and commitment to making our school community such a welcoming place to be! 💙



BREAKFAST PROGRAM:**Students are not to be dropped off to the school before 8:00 a.m.**

Our Breakfast Program runs every school day from 8:00 – 8:30 a.m. Please do not drop your children off before 8:00 a.m. as teachers are not there to supervise until that time.

In addition, please remember, our school bell has changed and our classes now begin at 8:40 a.m. Student entry time into the building (if they are not attending Breakfast Program) is 8:25 – 8:35 a.m. Please do not have your children arrive before 8:25 a.m. It is important that students arrive on time (by 8:25 a.m.). Students arriving late disrupt the flow of the learning environment and miss valuable instructional time and important routines to begin their day. Please schedule appointments for your child(ren) after 2:40 p.m. when possible.

Important Dates for October 2026:

Thursday, October 1 st	Treaty Day (Culturally Significant Date) Schools Open
Monday, October 5 th	School Picture Day for the following classes: P MacDonald P/1 Plank 1/2 Reardon 1/2 Williams-Fortier P Daniels P Hennigar P/1 Tattrie 1 Boudreau 1/2 Smith 2 Wilson-Gray
Tuesday, October 6 th	School Picture Day for the following classes: 2 Fortune 3 Dodds 3 Snow 3 Hache 3/4 Mangione 4 Evans 4/5 MacDonald 4 Spires 4/5 Canning 5 Poirier 5 MacDonald
Monday, October 12 th	Thanksgiving Day Holiday - No Classes
Wednesday, October 14 th	5:30 p.m. PTA Meeting – Room 235 6:30 p.m. SAC Meeting – Room 235
Thursday, October 22 nd	Fall Fun Fest Activities 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Friday, October 23 rd	NSTU Conference Day - No Classes

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 	• Quiet voices, listening ears • Use polite language and manners • Stay in your learning space • Allow others to learn	• Do your best learning and remember to keep trying! • Take care of learning materials • Participate in your learning • Clean up after yourself	• Move carefully, watch for others in the room • Put learning items away • Use materials appropriately • Use an appropriate voice level
Transitions 	• 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	• Be aware of your surroundings • Keep hook space in the hallway clean • Ask before going into the hallway and go directly to your destination	• 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 	• Keep clean • Wait your turn • Give others personal space • Respect the privacy of others	• 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	• Give others privacy • Tell an adult if something is broken or unsafe • Wash your hands with soap and water
Lunch & Snack 	• 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	• Clean up after yourself • Stay seated while eating • Only eat the food that was made for you • Use appropriate bins for organics, garbage, recyclables	• 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 	• 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	• Use equipment properly • Clean up and return equipment after use • Solve small problems with words or ask for help • Stay in your assigned area	• 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

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 on the previous page of this newsletter.
- 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 will review a certain behavior to remind students of the expectations.
- The Matrix is posted in all classrooms and reviewed periodically with students.

Thank you for your support and partnership.

IMPORTANT DATES/INFORMATION SHARED BY HRCE FOR OCTOBER 2026:

- **October is Mi'kmaq History Month**
- **October is Canadian Library Month**
- **Thurs., Oct. 1: Treaty Day**
- **Mon., Oct. 12: Thanksgiving - No classes PP-12**
- **Fri., Oct. 23: NSTU Conference Day - No classes PP-12**
- **October 19-23: School Bus Safety Week**

OCTOBER 1ST IS TREATY DAY:



Treaty Day is an opportunity to learn, reflect and deepen our understanding of the historic and ongoing relationships between Mi'kmaq and non-Mi'kmaq people in Nova Scotia.

Treaties are not simply part of our past. They are living agreements that continue to shape our shared responsibilities today. In schools, Treaty Day provides an important opportunity to help students understand Mi'kmaq history, culture, rights and perspectives, while exploring what it means to live together in a spirit of respect, partnership and reciprocity.

By continuing to learn about the Treaties and our responsibilities within them, we help build stronger relationships and contribute to the ongoing work of reconciliation.

OCTOBER IS MI'KMAQ HISTORY MONTH:

Each October, Mi'kmaq History Month provides an opportunity to deepen our understanding of Mi'kmaq culture, history, language and traditions, while recognizing the important contributions of Mi'kmaq people past and present.

Across our schools, students and staff may mark the month through learning, storytelling, art, community connections and cultural experiences that bring Mi'kmaq perspectives into the classroom and school community.

As we learn together, Mi'kmaq History Month reminds us of the importance of listening, building relationships and continuing our shared commitment to truth and reconciliation.

Learn more about Mi'kmaq History Month [here](#).

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK - OCTOBER 4TH – 10TH:

Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency is inviting families to take part in Fire Prevention Week, October 4–10. Visit halifax.ca/fpw to complete an online fire safety quiz. Want to win a Nintendo Switch, Apple products, or LEGO sets? Participants who score 100% will be entered into a draw for a prize in their age category.

This year's theme, "Safe Charging is a Superpower," focuses on the safe use and charging of rechargeable devices powered by lithium-ion batteries. These batteries power many everyday devices, including phones, tablets, laptops, e-bikes, and power tools. If damaged or charged improperly, they can overheat and cause fires.

Visit halifax.ca/fpw for contest details, videos, and fire safety resources, and take a few minutes to test your smoke alarms and review your home fire escape plan.

OCTOBER 19TH – 23RD IS SCHOOL BUS SAFETY WEEK:

Every school day, thousands of HRCE students rely on the bus to get to and from school safely.

School Bus Safety Week is a chance to highlight the simple habits that help keep everyone safe — from waiting well back from the road, to following the driver's instructions, to staying alert around stopped school buses.

With more than 33,000 HRCE students travelling on more than 400 buses each day, safety depends on all of us: students, families, drivers, schools and motorists.

This week is a good opportunity to review a few everyday reminders and help reinforce safe routines on the bus, at the stop and on the road.

BUS STOP SAFETY:

- Be on time for the bus and please don't run to/from the bus.
- Stand back off the road and don't push or shove when waiting at a stop.
- Always cross in front of the bus. Walk three metres (10 feet) in front of the bus to a point where you can see the driver and wait for the driver's signal to cross. Proceed to the centre of the road, STOP, LOOK & LISTEN and cross the road when it is safe.
- Never crawl under a school bus or cross the road behind the bus.
- Know the danger zones around the bus.

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY:

- Please respect and listen to the driver and avoid distracting them.
- Please keep noise levels to a minimum.
- Do not stand or move seats while the bus is in motion.
- Never put your hands, arms, feet or head out of the bus window.
- Ask the driver for permission before you open the bus windows.
- Do not throw anything inside the bus or out of the windows.
- Keep the aisle clear at all times when the bus is in motion.

Remember: In Nova Scotia, it's illegal to pass a school bus when its red lights are flashing and the stop arm is extended.

You can find out more information about riding the school bus in HRCE [here](#).

GROWING INDEPENDENCE DOESN'T HAVE TO START WITH SMARTPHONE:

As children get older, parents naturally want to give them more independence, such as walking to the park, playing at a friend's house, staying home for a short time, or getting to activities on their own. A smartphone can seem like the obvious way to make this possible, but it isn't the only option.

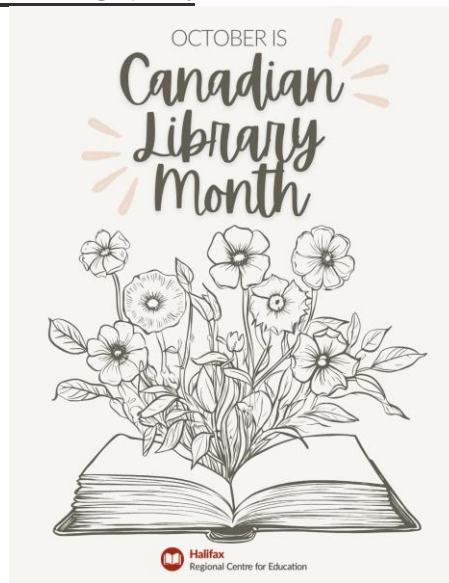
There are lots of ways families can give children more freedom while keeping communication simple and age-appropriate:

- **Long-range walkie-talkies:** A simple way for kids to check in while playing in the neighbourhood or exploring outdoors, without access to the internet or social media.
- **A home phone:** Allows children to call friends, make plans or contact a parent when they're home alone.
- **A kids' smartwatch:** Some watches offer limited calling or messaging, without the apps, social media and internet access of a smartphone.
- **A basic talk-and-text phone:** When children eventually need a way to coordinate rides or activities, a simple phone can provide communication without introducing the distractions and social pressures of a smartphone.

The goal is to match the technology to what children actually need. A child who needs to call home doesn't necessarily need a device that also gives them access to social media, games and the internet.

Starting with a more limited device can give children time to develop the responsibility, judgment and independence they'll eventually need to manage a smartphone.

Explore more resources from Unplugged Canada and join thousands of Canadian families taking the [Unplugged Canada Pledge](#) to delay smartphones and support connected childhoods.

OCTOBER IS CANADIAN LIBRARY MONTH:

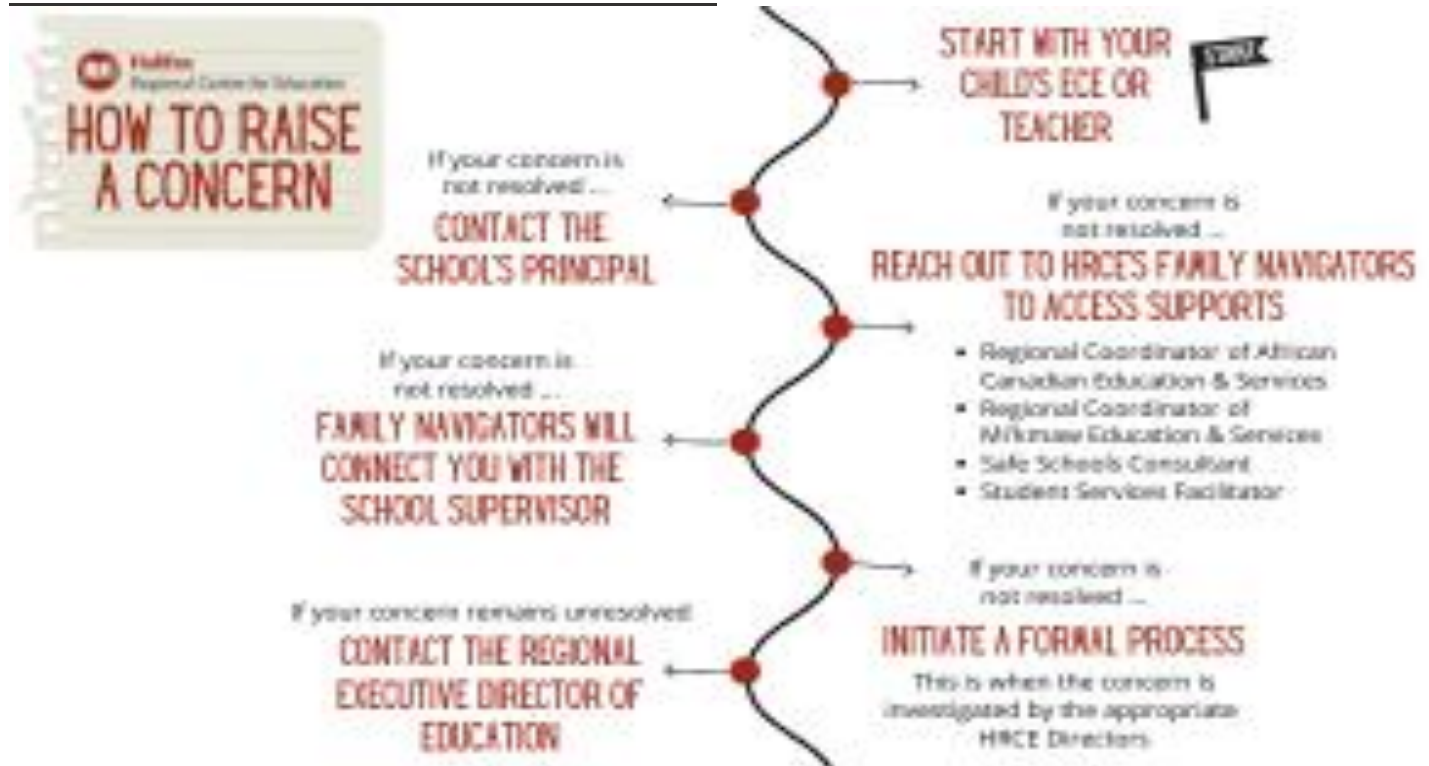
October is a chance to celebrate the important role libraries play in our schools — and the Library Support Specialists who bring those spaces to life.

Every day, our school libraries help students discover new interests, build literacy skills, find reliable information and, sometimes, simply find a welcoming place to spend some time. Our Library Support Specialists are an important part of making that happen.

Canadian Library Workers Day is recognized on the third Friday of October, followed by Canadian School Library Day on the fourth Monday. These are great opportunities to recognize the people who help make our libraries engaging, inclusive and supportive spaces for students.

Please join us in thanking our Library Support Specialists for all they do to support students, staff and school communities.

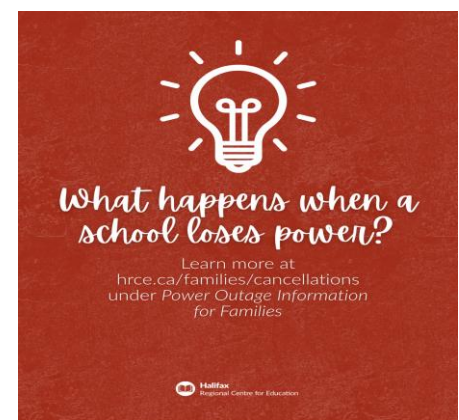
Consider adding a personal note about your LSS and the difference they make in your school.

DO YOU KNOW HOW TO RAISE A CONCERN?

Did you know that there's a protocol in place to help families contact schools or the HRCE office when you have concerns about your student's education or well-being?

- All concerns should first be shared with your child's teacher.
- If your concern is not resolved, you should then contact the principal.
- If your concern remains unresolved, you can reach out to HRCE's [Family Navigators](#) who can provide information about a wide range of supports and resources.
- If your matter continues to be unresolved, you can then initiate a formal review process in which the matter will be investigated by the appropriate HRCE Directors.
- The final step is for your concern to be passed on to the Regional Executive Director.

[Click here](#) to learn more.

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](#).

BREAKFAST PROGRAM:

Students are welcome to join us for the school breakfast program. You do not have to sign up for this program. Students can arrive to school between 8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. and join their peers for breakfast! We will have a variety of options (i.e., some hot breakfast items, cereal, fruit, etc.) If you are interested in volunteering for this program, please contact the school. We will notify our families when the Breakfast Program begins for this year.

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.

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 or enroll in the Nova Scotia School Lunch Program (more details will be sent home when there is word on the date this program will begin in schools; for now, please send your child with their lunch each day).
- We will not microwave student lunches 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.

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. Please make sure these items do not come to school.

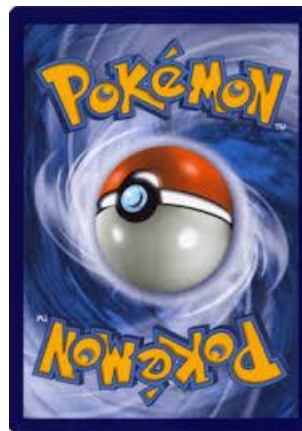
These items include, but are not limited to:

- 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**