

Chedabucto Education Centre/ Guysborough Academy



Newsletter

January 2024

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| <u>Principal</u> | Barbara Avery |
| <u>Vice Principal</u> | Tera Dorrington |
| <u>Guidance</u> | Cindy Worth |
| <u>Secretarial Support</u> | Faye Shea |
| <u>Building Operator</u> | Barbara England |

school, be sure to call the school to update this information so that any school communications go to the correct email addresses and phone numbers.

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind parents/guardians to ensure that their children are dressed appropriately for the weather. Hats, mitts, and winter jackets/boots are strongly encouraged, as temperatures and weather conditions in January can quickly change.

I want to take this time to share an important point pertaining to playground use as per our School Insurance Plan (SIP) guidelines that all schools in the province are covered under. SIP states that all playgrounds are to be closed during when the ground is frozen. The reasoning behind this directive is that the shock absorbing material (Pea Stone) is rendered ineffective once the ground is frozen. Therefore, if a child was to fall from any heights by using the equipment it could result in serious injuries or worst. SIP representatives ask us to be diligent toward the safety of our students and to ensure we adhere to these directives. As a result, students will not be permitted to use the playground equipment so alternate outdoor location and activities will be put in place during these upcoming winter months.

For Grade 9-12 students, January brings the conclusion of the First Semester, and along with it, final summative assessments. Summative assessments in the form of examinations are set to begin on January 25th,

Happy New Year everyone! I hope that everyone had a joyful and restful holiday season! As we move into the true winter months it is important for parents to be prepared for any unexpected situations that may arise due to inclement weather. With student safety as our primary concern, we ask that all parents/guardians have alternate procedures in place for their child(ren) in the event that inclement weather results in early dismissal. Please discuss with your child the family plan should school be dismissed early with no one at home. Children should know alternate locations to go to and/or where the spare key is hidden, contact phone numbers, etc. Ensuring that your son/daughter is well prepared for unexpected situations will help to ensure their safety in the event of an early dismissal. If you would like to be notified by text or email of all bus route announcements and/or class cancellation information in the Strait Regional Centre for Education, please click on the "SRCE Stay Informed" icon on the SRCE web page and follow the directions to sign up for this useful and informative service provided by the SRCE. Further to this, administration at CEC/GA have the ability to send out a school alert message by text, email, and/or phone. If any of your contact information has changed since the first week of

2024, with the exception of Distance Education exams, these will take place on Jan 23rd. Course summative assessment exams will be written as outlined in the schedule given to gr. 9-12 students and posted to our school's webpage and here in the newsletter. We encourage parents to be aware of the exam schedule and policies. Wednesday, January 31st will be an administration/evaluation day for gr 9-12 (no school for gr 9-12 students) but a regular school day for P-8, with the first day for Second Semester Thursday, Feb 1st. Report Cards for grades 9-12 will go home on Thursday, Feb 8th.

In the month of January, we celebrate Family Literacy Day and SRCE Literacy Month. Attached to the newsletter are some ideas to foster a love for reading and writing both in and out of the classroom. This month we will be celebrating the wonderful ways we incorporate literacy skills across the curriculum from grades PP-12 and sharing some of these through our social media twitter account. Family Literacy Day is January 27th so stay tuned later in the month for more details on how CECGA will be celebrating this special day!

Families wishing to register children for the Pre-primary Program and Grade Primary in both English and French Immersion for September 2024 may do so during the week of January 22 to 26, 2024. You can access forms digitally at https://srce.ss21.sharpschool.com/news/news_stories__releases/school_registration_for_the_2024-2025_school_year or pick one up at the school. Please call 902-533-2288 if you have any questions.

Once again this winter, our students will be utilizing the ice surfaces at the Chedabucto Lifestyle Complex (CLC) across the road as part of our Physical Education program. We will send out notices/alerts with any skating

times so students can come prepared. Please feel free to contact the school at any time if you have any concerns with this.

Our School Advisory Council will have its next meeting on January 22nd at 6:00pm. If you have any questions or concerns, please email cecga.sac@gnsps.ca to have them brought forward to our SAC.

As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to the school to see how we can support our families or if you have any questions or concerns. Stay safe and healthy!

Barbara Avery
Principal

Notice to Families when hosting public events – e.g., sporting events/competitions, Holiday concerts, etc.

Please note from time to time our school will host public events like sporting events, competitions and concerts. As a public event, it is reasonable to expect photographs and audio/video/digital recordings may be taken by those in attendance. Therefore, privacy cannot be expected. When events are public, it is reasonable to expect photographs and/or taping will be taken by spectators, media and schools.

We understand you may wish to record your child at this event. Please be respectful of other students' and family's privacy when recording your child during the event.

Thank you for your cooperation.

All-Gender Care Products in Schools

The Strait Regional Centre for Education provides free all-gender care products in all schools with Grades 5 to 12 students. These products are located in all female and all-gender washrooms.

BUS PASSES

Just a reminder that there will be **NO BUS PASSES** issued this year. Each student will be allowed to have one alternate route for the year, which has to be registered with the SRCE transportation office by calling 902-747-3644

WATER BOTTLES

Reminder to all students that if they wish to have a drink of water, they **MUST** bring their own water bottles. The fountains are now water fill stations not drinking fountains.

BREAKFAST PROGRAM VOLUNTEERS

Over the last couple of months staff at Chedabucto Education Centre/Guysborough Academy have been working hard; committed to making some enhancements to our Breakfast Program. Currently, we have a Breakfast Program running five days a week with grab and go breakfast carts set up throughout the school. We would like to expand our menu to offer hot items on a more regular basis such as toast, bagels, grilled cheese, oatmeal, boiled eggs, etc. as we did before COVID. To do this we need volunteers.

Volunteers can choose their own schedule (even if only volunteering 1 day per month). Breakfast Program Volunteers require a current Criminal Records Check and Child Abuse Registry Check that is good for 3 years. We have letters at the school which we can provide to have this done free of charge. Volunteers for Breakfast Program also require our in-house Volunteer Application Form & Guidelines for Volunteers done annually (forms are available at the main Office and can be filled out upon your arrival).

Volunteers do not need to arrive until 8 am for set up and leave at 8:40 am after clean up.

Those who are interested can contact the office (902-533-2288) and let us know what day(s) you are available. Please pass this note along to any community members you think would like to help out as well.

Thank you to all who can help us with our breakfast program delivery! Breakfast programs have been found to decrease student absenteeism, in-class disruptions, and to increase student performance. Please consider lending a hand in nourishing our students!

Notice to Subscribers of the SRCE Stay Informed Notification System (Bus Route and Class Announcements by Email and/or Text)

Annual Subscription to the Service Required Effective Immediately

Please be advised that effective immediately subscribers to the SRCE Stay Informed Notification System (Bus Route and Class Announcements) must now re-subscribe annually to continue to receive notifications by email and/or text.

Over the summer, changes were required to the operation of the system to enhance the efficiency and timely delivery of the notifications. Annual subscription to this service will also ensure that the system contains the most up-to-date subscriber contact information (i.e., email address, cell phone number(s) and service provider).

Subscribers to the SRCE Stay Informed Notification System are asked to please re-subscribe, if interested, to continue to receive bus route and/or class announcement notices by email and/or text.

At the end of each school year, subscriber contact information will be deleted. You may re-subscribe after August 1 of each year.

To renew your subscription or to subscribe for the first time, please look for the SRCE Stay Informed graphic image (included above) on the SRCE website, www.srce.ca, and follow the steps outlined to subscribe or re-subscribe to this service; or click here to access the [SRCE Stay Informed By Email and/or Text](#) page directly.

Intimate Images and Cyber-Protection Act

The rapid growth of smart phones, social media and the anonymity of the online world has created increasing opportunity for cyberbullying and the unwanted sharing of intimate images. The impacts of these behaviours can be devastating for victims.

Supports are available. For more information please visit novascotia.ca/cyberscan.

Consent Form for the Publication of Student Personal Information and Student Work

The Strait Regional Centre for Education believes strongly in the need to protect the privacy of all students and recognizes the issues around the publishing of student images and personal student identifying information, especially on the public Internet and social media sites. However, the Regional Centre also believes that the showcasing of students, their work, activities and achievements, is an important part of school life and can be a very positive experience for students. Therefore, it is the practice of the Strait Regional Centre for Education and all schools to have written informed consent from parents/guardians before any student identifying information, including name, grade, school, video/voice/audio recording, images (photos) of students and/or student work, is used in print, online and in social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.), and prior to any student media interviews.

There are other times when one of our media partners may contact the school to profile a specific student, program or event that may involve a student(s) being interviewed, photographed, video recorded and/or audio recorded.

Notice to Parents/Guardians Information Sharing Agreement with Department of Health and Wellness

Annually, students across Nova Scotia are offered services delivered by Public Health including the Grade 7 School Immunization Program, Pre-school Screening, Enhanced Vision Screening Program and the Fluoride Mouthrinse Program. Public Health works with the education system to distribute information about these programs and to obtain consent for student participation.

Occasionally, Public Health practitioners may need to contact parents/guardians of students where consent information is incomplete or unclear, or when a consent form has not been returned. Public Health will not contact you if you have signed a consent form indicating you do not wish to have

your child participate in one of these programs. The Strait Regional Centre for Education takes its responsibility for the protection of personal student and family information seriously and will share limited information such as names of parents/guardians and students, with Public Health for the purposes of operating these public health services for students.

All Regional Centres for Education in Nova Scotia share certain personal information about students and parents/guardians with the Department of Health and Wellness, for the purposes of operating these programs. This information sharing is required by the Public Health Protection Act and is permitted by the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIPOP) Act and an Information Sharing Agreement signed by the Regional Centre. Please contact your local public health office if you have any questions about these public health programs. If you have any questions about how your information is shared, please feel free to contact your respective school or our Regional Centre's Information Access and Privacy Manager at 902-625-2191.

Notice to Families Regarding School-Based Communications

As we begin another school year, I would like to share a reminder with our students and families regarding school communications.

As part of efforts to establish and maintain open communication with our students and families, our school uses several communication platforms, including print, online and social media, to regularly share information with our families and school community. These platforms include: school newsletter/calendar, school website, Twitter account, and direct email and text alerts to parents and guardians using SchoolMessenger.

In addition, our practice is to share information on situations that require emergency response from EHS and/or the RCMP, as needed. Currently, there are plans involving individual students who may require a medical

response. These specific incidents involving individual students will be addressed directly with the family of the student and no school-wide notification notice will be issued.

When necessary, serious incidents that impact multiple students and the school community broadly, including those that escalate through broad sharing on social media, will continue to be communicated directly to students and families through a notification issued by the school.

If you have any follow-up questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. As always, thank you for your ongoing support and cooperation.

Communication to Parents/Guardians and Students from Teachers

In accordance with Recommendation #31 of the Report of the Council to Improve Classroom Conditions (April 28, 2017), in an effort to minimize disruptions to student learning and the teaching day, teachers have up to two business days to respond to emails.

CHEDABUCTO LIFESTYLE COMPLEX

To use the CLC facilities, **CHILDREN UNDER GRADE 6** will need to be accompanied by an adult unless it is a Municipal program such as PACY, However in order to go to the CLC after school written permission is required in the office.

PARENTS/GUARDIANS TAKE NOTICE

We are asking parents and students to take extra caution when packing lunches for your son/daughters. Due to the many allergies that some students have we would like to remind people that Nutella is also considered a nut based product.

NUT AND SHELL FISH AWARE SCHOOL



There are currently students attending **Chedabucto Education Centre/Guysborough Academy** with severe allergies that can cause an *anaphylactic reaction*. An anaphylactic reaction can be triggered by **ingestion, inhaling or touching** any of the identified allergens (**peanuts, tree nuts, nut Products, and shellfish**). If an individual is exposed to an allergen, their body triggers an immediate immune response and sends out extra antibodies to fight the allergen. They can experience very strong reactions including hives, swelling of the eyes, ears, lips, and tongue. This requires immediate emergency care!

PERMISSION NOTES



Written permission must be given to a student when he/she plans to stay after school hours, leave the school, **If there is no contact from a parent/guardian, the student will be sent home on his/her regular bus.** Permission notes are also necessary to be exempt from participating in Phys. Ed. classes or other school activities.

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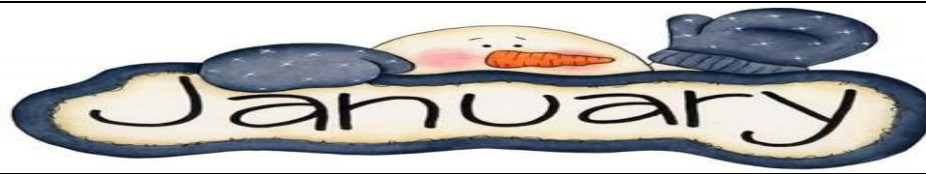
SCHOOLS PLUS



SchoolsPlus seeks to improve the collaboration and coordination of services and programs for children, youth and families. Our main goal is to bridge the gap between school, home and outside agencies. We meet students and families where they are and provide support in accessing services to meet needs. We do lots of programming with classrooms, individual students and parents as well as collaborating with outside agencies to deliver programs in schools and communities. Referrals can be made through the School Program

Planning Teams, Administration, and outside agencies. Students and families can access SchoolsPlus support by contacting SchoolsPlus

Facilitator, Liz MacIntosh at 631-2414 or Community Outreach Worker, Amanda Millar at 631-4699.



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|--|--|---|--|---|-------------------------------|
| | 1 | 2 Day G | 3 Day H | 4 Day A Gr. 11/12 Presentation 1:30 | 5 Day B | 6 |
| 7 | 8 Day C | 9 Day D | 10 Day E | 11 Day F | 12 Day G | 13 |
| 14 | 15 Day H | 16 Day A | 17 Day B | 18 Day C | 19 Day D | 20 |
| 21 | 22 Day E <i>Primary & Pre-primary Registration</i> | 23 Day F <i>Primary & Pre-primary Registration</i> <i>Summative Assessments</i> | 24 Day G <i>Primary & Pre-primary Registration</i> | 25 Day H <i>Primary & Pre-primary Registration</i> EXAMS | 26 Day A <i>Primary & Pre-primary Registration</i> <i>Snuggle Up & Read PP-6</i> EXAMS | 27 Family Literacy Day |
| 28 | 29 Day B EXAMS | 30 Day C EXAMS | 31 Day D Admin. Day Gr. 9-12 (Regular classes for PP-8) | | | |

