

Ecole Chebucto Heights School

230 Cowie Hill Road, Halifax, B3P 2M3

902-479-4298

cbh@hrce.ca

Principal: **Craig Myra**

Administrative Assistant: **Christina Withers**

Vice Principal: **Cynthia Rigby**



Principal's Message

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone to ECHS for the 2023-24 school year! With the starting of a new school year, there is a lot of excitement from parents, students and teachers, as we all move along this journey of personal and academic growth together. As the Principal, I intend to work hard to ensure that each and every child in this school thrives in a safe and academically challenging environment.

ALLERGIES

We have a number of students at Chebucto Heights who are allergic to specific foods, especially nuts. Because all students will be eating together in designated lunch rooms,



Chebucto Heights continues to be a **Nut Aware School** – similar to many other elementary schools in the HRCE. Please send recess snacks and lunches that contain **only nut free products**.

Strongly scented products cause many children and adults to experience breathing problems, dizziness and/or headaches. Our school is a **Scent Aware School**. Please refrain from wearing strongly scented products when visiting the school.

2023-24 School Bell Schedule

8:50 AM:	Soft Start, Students Come into Building and go to Class
8:55 AM:	Morning Announcements and Attendance (9:00am first class begins)
10:30 - 10:45 AM:	Recess
12:00-1:00 PM:	Lunch (ALL CLASSES)
3:10 PM:	Dismissal for Students P-6

September 2023

Dates to

Remember:

September 5: Curriculum Night 5pm

September 7: First Day of School!

September 14: Stand up Against Bullying Day

September 15: School Spirit Day—Wear Chebucto Swag or Colours

September 20: Picture Day

September 25: Lock-down Drill

September 27:

Terry Fox Run (Afternoon Only)

September 27:

Home and School Meeting (6:00pm)

School Advisory Council Meeting (7:00pm)

September 30: Treaty Day—Wear Orange!

October 2—NO School

School Closures/Bus Cancellations :

Decisions on school closures are posted on the Halifax Regional Center of Education website at www.hrce.ca, on Twitter at hrce_ns, recorded on 464-INFO (4636) and communicated to all local radio stations. You can also receive notice of school and bus cancellations by e-mail or text message by following the link on the front page (left side) of the HRCE website.

In case of a school closure during the day, you can help us to ensure that your child is dismissed safely by making sure that we have up-to-date contact information.

Visiting the School and Volunteering

If you are dropping off forgotten lunches, sneakers, book bags, assignments, a band instrument etc., please ring the bell at the main doors and leave the item at the main office and we will ensure it is delivered.

If you are planning on volunteering this year, each volunteer is required to have forms completed for the Child Abuse Registry and a Criminal Records Check. The Child Abuse Registry form can be picked-up at the main office and the Criminal Records Check can be completed at the local police station or online (myBackCheck) at <http://www.halifax.ca/police/CriminalRecordCheck.html>

Combined Classes

Many people have questions about combined classes. Here is some information that you may find helpful. Today's elementary schools commonly include combined grade classes. We have twelve in Chebucto Heights this year. Combined grade classes consist of two groups of students who have birth dates within a two-year range. Each group is working towards the achievement of its own set of grade-level expectations. Even though there is a greater age range in a combined grade class, there is much diversity and a variety of ability levels in any classroom. It is important that all classes be considered a unified community of learners, where the individual needs and qualities of each student are honoured and nurtured.

Combined grade classes are formed to maintain a balance of class sizes across the school, when there is uneven enrollment at particular grade levels. We also have to take Provincial Cap sizes in mind. Within each classroom setting there are children at various stages of social, physical, and intellectual development. This is true regardless of age or grade level. Research has found that students in combined classes have a good sense of belonging, support, security and confidence. As well, combined grade classes have been found to foster:

Social growth and Independence

Respect for others and increased motivation to learn

The teacher may use many teaching strategies that:

- Provide a learning environment with a range of materials and resources to meet the needs of students;
- Use direct instruction with individuals, small groups or the whole class to develop necessary skills and concepts;
- Establish various groupings of students such as cooperative groups, pairs, interest groups or ability groups to promote learning among peers;
- Develop integrated curriculum approaches which allow separate curriculum areas to be integrated in a meaningful way; and
- Develop student choice and ownership through activities that are tailored to each grade.

Assessment and evaluation in a combined grade class focuses on the achievement of grade related expectations. Teachers tailor assessments, cluster expectations and create a continuum of learning of skills to meet the needs of both grades. Teachers may use assessment tools such as: rubrics, exemplars, checklists, and anecdotal comments.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me.

We are having a Lockdown Drill this Month!

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The safety and security of our students and staff is a top priority for Chebucto Heights and the Halifax Regional Center of Education. We have been implementing a number of measures as part of a comprehensive plan aimed at ensuring our school remains a safe place for our students to learn.

One of the procedures our school will be practicing is a lockdown drill. During a lockdown drill, classroom doors are secured and the students remain inside the room until instructed by the teacher to resume their activities. All exterior doors are locked and no one is permitted to enter or leave the building.

Students are kept inside the school and classrooms when circumstances make it safer to stay in the classroom rather than evacuate. Just as we prepare our students to properly respond to a fire drill, they also need to be aware of the proper response during a lockdown drill. These drills should be treated with the same level of importance as fire drills.

Please be assured that staff at our school will spend time discussing the importance of this procedure with students prior to running a drill. We will also take time after the drill to remind them that it was only a practice and there was no danger. When possible, our School Liaison Officer may assist us in conducting the lockdown drills just as the Fire Department assists with evacuation drills.

Please take the time to speak with your son/daughter about this procedure and reinforce its importance. We practice these drills to ensure our school remains a safe place for teaching and learning.

Please contact me if you have any questions about lockdown drills.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Regards,

Mr. Myra

Morning Affirmation

As part of our school improvement journey at ECHS we will continue affirming one another as part of our morning message on the announcements. Each morning we will affirm each other with the following statements (see below). These statements are meant to put all of us in the right mindset so we can be our best selves each day.

I am unique

I am an important member of this school community

I keep trying until I get it

I will never give up when things get difficult

I know challenges help me grow

I am improving every single day

I can learn anything

I have the power to make my life what I want it to be

I am a life long learner

I am loved just the way I am

Home & School Association:

The H & S Association is made up of a group of Parents, Guardians and School Representatives that organize various activities and fundraising events throughout the year, to build community and help purchase resources for the school. We are always looking for people to participate. Whether you have suggestions to help our school community, can lend a hand at special events, or just want to listen, we would love to see you. Our first meeting for this school year is September 27th at 6:00pm.

Stand Up Against Bulling Day

Thursday, September 14th

The second Thursday of the school year we will be celebrating Anti Bullying Day by Students and Staff wearing pink, if possible. Teachers will be talking to their students about bullying awareness and we will be doing presentations throughout the day with students. Let's all stand up against Bullying today and everyday!