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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.



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: Currilculum 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



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News from the School Advisory Council (SAC)

Hello ECHS Parents and Guardians,

The School Advisory Council for ECHS is getting ready to commence its formal meetings for the 2023-2024 school year. The ECHS School Advisory Council (SAC) is a legally recognized body composed of the Principal and representatives of teachers and support staff, parents, and community members who work together in an advisory capacity to increase the quality of education being provided at our school. The purpose of the SAC is to ensure that all students receive the best possible learning opportunities by engaging all partners in an ongoing process of problem solving and shared decision making.

All SAC meetings are open to the public and we encourage any interested teachers or support staff, parents, or community member to attend our meetings. Each month, the SAC meeting date will be sent home in the school calendar. The meeting for the month of September will be September 27th at 7:00pm.

We hope to see you there and we are looking forward to another great year in 2023-2024 at ECHS!

Lunch Program

All students have the opportunity to stay for lunch at no charge. Students must bring their lunch to school. There is no microwave to heat food for students.

A form will be going home the first week of school for parents to complete if their child is staying for lunch. Please return this form immediately to ensure we have an accurate count of which students will be staying and what students will be leaving the

building.

Curriculum Night	
Our Curriculum Night will take place on Tuesday, September 5th . It is a great oppor-	
tunity to meet school staff, hear about what your child will be learning and see their classroom. It is also a great night for connecting with other families in the community.	
The evening begins at 5:00pm. Entry will be through the main entrance doors and stu-	
dents can go directly to their classroom. Teachers will reach out to families on Friday, September 1st to introduce themselves and provide you with information for the night.	
For families with multiple students, there will be 3 sessions offered. An announcement	
will be made when it is time to switch classrooms. Once you are done your sessions, we will end the night off by meeting in the lower courtyard for a frozen treat. If there is inclement weather, we will be giving treats out in the gym. We hope to see you there!	



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Dismissal Doors:

Students will be dismissed out of the following doors at Lunch and the end of the day.

Front doors: Primary MacDonald, Grade 1 Lynch/MacEachern, Primary/One Robinson, and Primary/One Mercer/Cornick.

All daycare students will also go out the front door. Daycare providers are not permitted in the building.

Lower Courtyard door: Grade 2 Walker, Pre Primary Manson, Pre Primary Clarke, Grade P/1 Samaha, Primary Pearson, 1/2 Thistle, Grade 1/2 Power, Grade 1/2 Bonin/Cornick, Grade 3/4 Fucsek, and Grade 2 Emery.

Cowie Hill Rd door: 2/3 Garagan, 3/4 Deacon, 4/5 Daley, and 4/5 Ramoutar

Outside Gym Door, Front of Building: 5 Heisler, 4/5 Radzikowski

** ON INCLEMENT WEATHER DAYS (Rain/ Heavy Snow, and Extreme cold temperatures all students are dismissed out Cowie Hill Road Doors.

Entry Doors:

In the mornings students will enter the building through any door at 8:50am and go directly to class. At recess and lunch, students will line up in their designated spots on the yard and enter the building with their teachers.

Parking Lot Safety	
The school driveway is	
for bus and staff use	
only. Please estab-	
lish the habit early in	
the year of parking on	
the street if you are vis-	
iting the school or	
dropping off/picking-	
up children. The drive-	
way policy remains in effect on inclement	
weather days as well.	
Exceptions apply for	
students whose mobili-	
ty is impaired for any	
length of time. Thank	
you for helping main-	
tain a safe environ-	
ment for the students	
at Chebucto Heights.	
Also, please adhere to	
the signs marked BUS	
STOP on Cowie Hill	
Road as we strive to	
keep our students as	
safe as possible going to and coming from	
the bus daily.	
che bos dany.	

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!