



Chedabucto Education Centre/ Guysborough Academy



Newsletter

January 2018

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year!

I hope that everyone had a safe and restful holiday season and as we move into the true winter months, 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, as we have seen this past week!

I want to take this time to share an important point pertaining to playground use as per our Self 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.

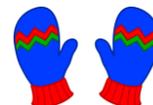
January 1st, 2018, is a date that offers each of us a new beginning in order to set new goals for ourselves, and to make changes for the upcoming year. If your New Year's resolutions include taking a more active role in your child's education, then we ask that you have a conversation with your child(ren) to see how you can support learning through home activities. We believe that a more informed parent provides more opportunities for involvement and support.

As always, the New Year brings with it many opportunities for our students to experience success-academically, socially, and physically. One such opportunity comes in the form of our Annual Guysborough Academy Invitational Basketball Tournament, which will be held January 12th – 14th. Come on out and support our team in what promises to be an exciting and fun tournament!

If anyone has any outgrown outside clothing such as hats, mitts, snowpants etc we would love to take them off your hands to have for days a student might be in need. You can drop any items off at the office or send them in with your child(ren). Thanks.

For Grade 9-12 students, January brings the conclusion of the First Semester, and along with it, final exams. Exams are set to begin on January 25th, 2018, with the exception of Distance Education exams, these will take place on Jan 24th. Course 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. Thursday, February 1st will be an in-service/administration day (no school for students), with the first day for Second Semester Friday, February 2nd. Please note that Report Cards for grades 9-12 only will go out Feb 13th with Meet the Teacher/Parent Teacher for grades 9-12 on Feb 15th from 4:30 pm -6:30 pm by appointment only.

Barbara Avery
Principal



Safe Arrival Process for Elementary Schools

Chedabucto Education Centre/Academy and the Strait Regional School Board believe that regular attendance at school supports greater student success and achievement. Attendance supports student learning and promotes a sense of responsibility that students will need as they transition from grade to grade.

Promoting and supporting regular student attendance is a shared responsibility. All partners, students, parents/guardians, teachers, school administration and school board staff, must work together.

As a result, the following safe arrival process will be implemented at our school to help us account for any student's unexplained failure to arrive at school:

- Parents/guardians are responsible for notifying the school when their child(ren) will not be in attendance.
- If your child(ren) is going to be late or absent from school, the parent/guardian is asked to contact the school by telephone at 902-533-2288 before 9:30 a.m. An explanation is required.
- On a daily basis, homeroom teachers will complete morning attendance. A list of those students who are absent will be generated.
- If a student is marked absent during first class and we have not been previously notified by parents/guardians, we will call the numbers provided in the student demographic information.
- When direct follow-up contact with parents/guardians cannot be reasonably made, we will then determine appropriate action. This may involve contact with the RCMP.

We have received correspondence from the SRSB Operations Department regarding the importance of care and control around the issuing and driver acceptance of bus passes. **We have been asked to ensure that each and every bus pass includes a civic address for the requested stop** and that bus passes are not given for new stops. Drivers are not authorized to stop anywhere but an existing stop except under emergency situations. Bus drivers are being reminded not to accept a bus pass which does not comply. Also, please include the date and name of the bus driver on the bus pass note. Please contact the school at 902-533-2288 if you have any questions about bus pass procedures.

TRANSPORTING STUDENTS TO EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

As of June 4th, 2014, the SRSB has a new transportation policy in terms of student travel (IV-B-6) to extracurricular activities. In order to transport students (other than their own children) parent/guardians/volunteers will have to do the following:

1. Completed a Vulnerable Sector Check and a Child Abuse Registry Check. (These are good for three years)
2. Complete a revised J-form, which will require the school have a copy of
 - Driver's license
 - Vehicle registration
 - Proof of insurance
 - Teacher/Chaperone consent form
3. Confidentially Form
4. Volunteer Form

Please feel free to contact the school should you have any questions or need assistance completing the required paperwork.

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.

CANCELLATIONS MADE AFTER STUDENTS COME TO SCHOOL

From time to time, school may be cancelled due to inclement weather, power outages, etc. As well, after school programs may be cancelled such as PACY, yoga, basketball, and so forth. We ask that all parents/guardians have alternate procedures in place for their child(ren) in the event that there is an early dismissal or cancellation. Please discuss with your child the family plan should school be dismissed early or a program/event is cancelled 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.

We will do our very best at this end to make sure things run smoothly, so please make sure you take the time to make these alternate arrangements. The office is very busy at these times; therefore, we request that arrangements **other than phone calls** be made for students to get home in a safe and orderly manner.

PERMISSION NOTES



Written permission must be given to a student when he/she plans to stay after school hours, leave the school, get dropped off at another stop other than his/her regular stop or change buses. **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. Parents are reminded that bus passes will only be issued **upon written request** signed by parent or guardian. These requests are to be brought to the office and given to the secretary **no later than recess.**

Students phoning home during the day asking parents/guardians to request a bus pass ***IS NOT ACCEPTABLE***. Phone requests from parents/guardians will only be accepted in ***EMERGENCY SITUATIONS***.

SCHOOLS PLUS



SchoolsPlus seeks to improve the collaboration and coordination of services and programs for children, youth and families. The main goal is to bridge the gap between various community organizations and the schools by connecting students and families in attaining timely and effective services to meet their identified needs. SchoolsPlus supports a number of programs within the schools and community. Referrals come from the School Program Planning Teams, Administration, Families and Students as well as outside agencies. SRSB currently has four SchoolsPlus Models. They are located in Guysborough, Antigonish, Richmond and recently Inverness Counties.

You can contact the SchoolsPlus Facilitator, Liz MacIntosh by calling 533-4046.

Homework Club in the SchoolsPlus Room will be on

Wednesdays from 2:30 to 3:30 beginning on January 10th.

We are also on Facebook at SchoolsPlus Guysborough County.

STUDENT SAFETY

With the ongoing concern for the safety of children, **all visitors to the school must report to the administrative office upon entering the school.**

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 Mouth Rinse 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 school board 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.

Please contact your local public health office if you have any questions about these public health programs. Please contact your principal or school board information access and privacy manager, if you have any questions about how your information is shared.

NUT AWARE SCHOOL

There are currently students attending **Chedabucto Education Centre** 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 and nut products**). 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!



MEDICAL CONCERNS AND ALLERGIES



Parents/Guardians are asked to contact the school if their child has a medical condition or allergy which we should be made aware of (if you have not already done so). This will allow us to take some proactive measures to ensure the safety of your child. **Please note that no prescription or nonprescription medicine (ie: Tylenol, cough medicine) will be distributed to a student without a completed school medical form.** Please refer to SRSB policy to view the Board's new policy "Administration of Medications and Medical Procedure: IVB-2.

For more information go to our school webpage under Parent/Guardian tab.

Child, Youth, and Family—Mental Health & Addictions



The Child Youth & Family
– Mental Health &
Addictions team with the

Nova Scotia Health Authority are happy to be providing school-based services in communities throughout the district! This year, substance-use specific intervention, education, and prevention services will be provided by the Adolescent Community Outreach Worker, Katherine

Ryan-Rankin. Services include: individual, confidential sessions for youth affected by substance use and/or gambling; evidence-based programs and presentations that promote resilience, healthy decision-making, and safety; and resource consultation for staff and parents. Referrals for individual counselling will be accepted from youth themselves, family members, school staff, and anyone who has a reason to be concerned. It is important to note that all services provided by Mental Health & Addictions are voluntary and confidential.

You can contact the Adolescent Community Outreach Worker, Katherine Ryan-Rankin, by calling (902) 867-4500 (ext) 4417 or emailing katherine.ryan@nshealth.ca

January 2018 Exam Schedule

Wednesday January 24 th (DAY G)	Thursday January 25 th (DAY H)	Friday January 26 th (DAY A)	Monday January 29 th (DAY B)	Tuesday January 30 th (Day C)
Distance Ed	Agriculture 11 Math 12 Precal/Acad Math 9	ELA 10 Oceans 11 Physics 11 ELA 9	Math 10 Ac Can Hist 11 ELA 12 Science 9	Math 11 GGs 12 Social St. 9

DistanceEd exams Jan 24th

EXAMINATION POLICY:

- All exams will be written in the classroom with the subject teacher.
- Students must write their exams as scheduled unless prior arrangements have been made and approved by the principal.**
- All students will report to their exam room for attendance and gathering of permission forms at 8:42am. Teachers will send this information to the office by 9:00 am. Exams will begin at 9:00am, and students will not be permitted to leave the class until 11:00 am. Absolute silence must be maintained for the entire exam. Students will have until 12:00pm to write.**
- During the writing of the exam, all books, bags, etc., must be stored at the front of the classroom. **Any electronic device at a student's desk must be removed.**
- Students who need to use the washroom must raise their hand and obtain permission from the supervising teacher. Only one student is permitted to use the washroom at a time.
- Any students in the school in the afternoon are to report to **Room 122/123.**
- Any cheating on examinations will result in the offenders receiving "0" on the exam.**
- If inclement weather causes school closure on an examination day, the exam would be held on the following day, and the entire exam schedule would be bumped up a day.
- For further information, please refer to Guysborough Academy's School Handbook for the Assessment, Evaluation, and Reporting Policy as it pertains to exams.
- Students who sign out of the school following their exam are not permitted to use the bus for their transportation home.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 Day H	4 Day A	5 Day B	6
7	8 Day C	9 Day D	10 Day E	11 Day F	12 Day G Sr. Girls/Boys Invitational Basketball Tournament	13 Sr. Girls/Boys Invitational Basketball Tournament
14	15 Day H	16 Day A	17 Day B GRAD RETAKES X Project	18 Day C	19 Day D	20
21	22 Day E PRIMARY REGISTRATION	23 Day F PRIMARY REGISTRATION	24 Day G X Project Distance Ed Exams PRIMARY REGISTRATION	25 Day H EXAMS PRIMARY REGISTRATION	26 Day A EXAMS PRIMARY REGISTRATION	27
28	29 Day B EXAMS	30 Day C EXAMS	31 Day D X Project			