

Newsletter November 2017

PrincipalBarbara AveryVice PrincipalTera DorringtonGuidanceCindy WorthSecretarial SupportFaye SheaBuilding OperatorHubert Pettipas

Chedabucto Ed. Ctr. & Guysborough Academy 27 Green Street Guysborough, NS B0H 1N0

Phone: (902) 533-2288/ (902) 533-4006

Fax: (902) 533-3554

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

It is hard to believe that two months have come and gone in the school year already. P-12 Report cards are just around the corner and will be sent home this month with gr 9-12 report cards going home on November 16th and P-8 on November 28th. Later that week, our first Parent Teacher is scheduled by appointment for Nov 29th with an evening session from 4:30 pm-6:30 pm as well as an afternoon session from 12:30 pm-2:30 pm on November 30th. There is a PD session for teachers during the morning of Nov 30th so no school for students on this day. These parent teacher sessions are a means of facilitating discussions as to student progress and identify criteria for success, it is vitally important for all of us to use the information provided in those sessions to measure student progress. Communication is one of the biggest determinants of success or failure! There are certainly many activities and events happening in our school on a daily basis, but the bottom line has to be the academic success of each student.

A new Provincial Student Attendance and Engagement Policy came into effect on October 1, 2017. A letter regarding this policy was sent September 22, 2017 from Superintendent of Schools,

Ford Rice as well as a School letter on October 16th. A copy of this letter can be found attached to this month's newsletter as well as our school's website. The Policy recognizes 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 the school system to post-secondary studies and/or the workforce.

We just completed phase one of our Evergreen School Grounds Project, initiated by our Green Team, to enhance our school grounds. For this phase we concentrated on the grade 7-12 area. This new area now contains an outdoor classroom, crusher dust pathways, shade trees, seating area as well as a ball hockey space behind our high school wing. With the help from the Municipality staff, we completed this on October 24th under the direction of our Project Manager, Shane Cook. Our Green Team is very excited to see this Project get off the ground. A big thank-you goes out to Shane Cook for all his efforts in making this project a reality!

As for school events, our extracurricular schedule has been very busy over the first two months, with boys and girls soccer and cross country teams competing. Thanks to the coaches and parents for their efforts and commitment! Our school teams were very competitive in their respective leagues and enjoyed a fun-filled season. Our Junior Girls had an exceptionally successful season winning the JAGAS league tournament and bringing home the banner, congratulations girls! Both teams played very well and are to be commended on their efforts. CEC/GA certainly has no shortage of opportunities for students to get involved in a variety of activities and/or committees, and with volleyball and basketball seasons upon us, look for continued success and fun for all involved! As well, 20 representatives from a number of our school student leadership teams have

been very active in preparation for the WE Day event on November 30th in Halifax.

Other events of note upcoming for the month of November include Kelso on Nov 3rd,Picture Re-takes on Nov 6th, Graduation Pictures on Nov 7th & 8th, and our Regional In-service (no school for students) on Nov 20th. As well, ten Preservice teachers will be joining CECGA on Nov 14th for a five week practicum with various teaching staff.

Our school will also be hosting the annual Remembrance Day Ceremony for our school community on Friday, November 10th at 11:00 am. The community ceremony will also be held here on Saturday, November 11th at 11:00 am. Thanks to all of those who work so hard to provide such a memorable event as we take the time to honor those who have given so much of their lives to make our world a safer place to be each day.

Each month in this note, particular attention is always paid to the accomplishments and hard work of our students, and this month is no different. But I would like to especially recognize the hard work of the staff at our school. From the building manager who opens the school each morning, to the custodians who continually work hard at maintaining a clean and safe environment for us all each day, to the secretarial staff who go above and beyond the call of duty, to the bus drivers who bring the students to school every day, to our support staff who work with our students each day, and to the teaching staff who are working diligently to provide every opportunity for the students of our school ... thank you! As in all professions today, we are being asked to do more to meet the demands of an ever evolving world. The efforts these folks put forth each day is tremendous, and they deserve to be recognized for their efforts. Without everyone (home and school working together), the student success that we see each day would not be possible. Please continue to communicate with the school if there are issues that you would like to see addressed. Together we can make a positive change for all our students.

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 4^{th,} 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 <u>other than phone calls</u> 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 Guysborough, Antigonish, Richmond and recently Inverness Counties.

You can contact the SchoolsPlus Facilitator, Liz MacIntosh by calling 533-4046 or Community Outreach Worker, Krista MacEachern at 533-3609

Homework Club in the SchoolsPlus Room will be on Wednesdays from 2:30 to 3:30 beginning in September 27th. However on October 11th there will be NO homework club.

We have also on Facebook at SchoolsPlus Guysborough County.

The We Will Change group has a number of projects coming up in November and December. They are the Mitten Tree, Pop Tab Campaign (ongoing throughout the year), Christmas Care Packages, and Candy Cane Grams. A notice will be sent home in early November with more details. Please contact Krista MacEachern, SchoolsPlus Community Outreach Worker. 533-3609 at (902)krista.maceachern@srsb.ca if you have any questions. You can also check the SchoolsPlus Guysborough County/Monastery Facebook page.

Mitten Tree: A Christmas tree will be set up on November 14 however items can be brought to SchoolsPlus at any time. Gently used mittens, hats, and scarves can be donated to decorate the tree. All items will be donated to Guysborough County Operation Christmas Spirit.

Deadline to donate: November 24, 2017. Please bring any items to SchoolsPlus.

Pop Tab Campaign: Classes in Grade Primary to 6 are collecting tabs (i.e. off cans of juice, pop, etc.). These are recycled for money which goes toward any costs incurred by the We Will Change group. They will be collected throughout the year for a chance to win a prize.

To be weighed the week of December 11, 2017

Krista MacEachern, SchoolsPlus Community Outreach Worker

STUDENT SAFETY

With the ongoing concern for the safety of children, <u>all</u> <u>visitors to the school must report to the administrative</u> 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 presciption 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

Culturally Respectful Acknowledgement of Mi'kmaw Traditional Territory

On October 4, 2017, the Strait Regional School Board adopted the following Acknowledgement of Mi'kmaw Traditional Territory to be used in its entirety in schools, throughout the school year, during their daily morning commencement address and at all official School Board functions.

We would like to acknowledge that the land on which the Strait Regional School Board operates, for time immemorial, is in Mi'kma'ki (MEEG-MA-GEE), the traditional ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaq people.

Classroom teachers will be discussing the importance of this Acknowledgment with our students.

Acknowledging that we are in Mi'kma'ki, the traditional ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaq people, is a way of showing respect for and honouring our

shared history and shared Treaty relationship, a relationship based on peace and friendship. It is very important that we continue to recognize our shared history in Nova Scotia.

Implementing the Acknowledgement is an important opportunity for all of us to learn more about our shared history and to increase our cultural understanding and awareness. In addition, the Acknowledgement will further assist in building and maintaining strong relationships with Mi'kmaq students and families. It is also one of many important culturally respectful steps we can take toward reconciliation. The acknowledgement demonstrates a genuine sign of respect.

Historical Context

Mi'kma'ki is the traditional territory of the Mi'kmaq, and includes present day Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador and the Gaspe Region in Quebec.

The Mi'kmaq are Nova Scotia's first people. In the 18th Century, Mi'kmaq people and the British Crown entered historic Peace and Friendship Treaties that created treaty relationships within Mi'kma'ki.

In 1982, under agreement, the British Crown transferred the Treaties over to the Government of Canada and to the Province of Nova Scotia. As written in the Constitution Act of 1982, "the existing aboriginal and treaty rights of the aboriginal peoples of Canada are hereby recognized and affirmed". Mi'kmaq treaties are not about land, they are about peace and friendship. Land was never signed away to the British by the First Nation people. Treaties reflect the unique relationship between the British Crown and the Mi'kmaq because the Mi'kmaq controlled Mi'kma'ki when Europeans arrived. The Supreme Court of Canada has affirmed this unique relationship for more than 30 years and treaties continue to be 'living and breathing agreements'.

X-Project

Starting in November, X-project will be taking place in the African Canadian Heritage and Friendship Center. This event will take place each Wednesday from 7-8:30 pm. Students can participate in cultural activities, tutoring and homework support, reading buddies, leadership activities and may more opportunities. This program is free of charge. Please contact Ms. Dorrington if you have any questions or concerns. Hope to see you there!

MOVEMBER

This November, students and staff around CECGA are participating in Movember. The Movember campaign is built around the idea of raising awareness for health issues that affect men which often escalate without anyone ever asking for help. In particular Movember looks at prostate cancer, testicular cancer and mental health issues such as suicide. To raise awareness for the campaign men around the building have shaven clean and will begin a month of growing the most fabulous moustaches the world has ever seen. Our team is the Chedabucto MoBros and if you wish to know more about our campaign or to lend support visit our group page at https://moteam.co/chedabucto-mobros

Know a man in your life who is the strong silent type? This Movember, sit down, have a discussion and make a difference!

GREEN TEAM UPDATE

The month of October was a very busy time for the CECGA Green Team. With our Harvest Meal complete we moved on to new projects. With our We Scare Hunger campaign which involved food drives across our homeroom classrooms, our "Soup"er Heroes, as well as the support of our Haunted House crew we were able to successfully collect over 345 pounds of donations for our local Guysborough and Area Food Bank.

This month also brings the successful completion of one of our outdoor greening projects. Through the Evergreen program students now have an outdoor classroom and lounge area with new trees and gardens, large rocks for sitting in discussion circles and picnic tables. The Green Team would like to extend a huge thanks to Leona Purcell, Shane Cook, and Rhea Mahar for helping our school see this dream become a reality.

The Green Team has also been active in the community offering assistance to the Milford Haven Nursing home. We wanted to help in any way that we could with the current greening project taking

place in the back courtyard so we had offered to put in some shrub and flower gardens. The team spent an afternoon of digging, hoeing, and planting and in the end we were proud of our contribution. We would like to extend a huge thanks to Christina Marlow for allowing us to collaborate on this project, the Guysborough and Area Garden Club for donating the plants and shrubs for the project and the Waste Management Facility for providing us with compost.

Do you know of a community project connected to sustainability, community greening, or food security? Want to involve the Chedabucto Green Team? We would love to hear from you. Send an email to Michael D. Wilson at michael.wilson@srsb.ca

Chedabucto Place

Chedabucto Education Centre/Guysborough Academy

27 Green Street P.O. Box 19 Guysborough, Nova Scotia B0H 1N0 Telephone: 902-533-2288 902-533-4006

Fax: 902-533-3554

October 16, 2017

Dear Students and Parents/Guardians:

Further to the letter dated September 22, 2017, sent to you from Superintendent of Schools, Ford Rice, regarding the new Provincial Student Attendance and Engagement Policy that came into effect on October 1, 2017, please note the following additional information in regards to the implementation of this Policy at our school:

The Policy recognizes 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 the school system to post-secondary studies and/or the workforce.

Students:

- are responsible to attend school regularly and punctually;
- are expected to be present and prepared for the beginning of class;
- are responsible for catching up on any work missed as a result of an absence or absences;
- are strongly encouraged to communicate with their teacher in advance of a planned absence to discuss steps that they can take to mitigate the risk of falling behind in their coursework.

Parents/quardians:

- Are responsible for monitoring and ensuring that their children maintain regular attendance and arrive at school on time;
- Are responsible for communicating the reason for their child(ren)'s absence to the school;
- Are responsible for avoiding making commitments for their children during school hours;
- Are responsible for providing schools with a timely explanation of a student's absence;
- Are responsible for attending meetings and working with the school if their child's absenteeism needs to be addressed.

Teachers:

- Are responsible for monitoring and recording student attendance every day and for identifying potential issues related to chronic lateness and/or absenteeism;
- will take reasonable steps to promote and support regular attendance;
- will communicate with students and/or parents/guardians when concerns related to attendance arise;
- are not required to prepare additional materials or release test/examination materials prior to their release to the class.

The Policy includes the following two definitions:

- "Absence" refers to any time that a student is not in class or not participating in a school activity.
- "Late arrival" means a student arriving to class at any point beyond the scheduled start time.

Responses to Student Absenteeism and Chronic Lateness

A staged approach to responding to student absenteeism and chronic lateness will be followed. Responses to student absenteeism and chronic lateness will vary based on the age, grade, and development of the student, the professional judgment of teachers and principals, and the individual circumstances of the student. Responses may include connecting the student and/or their family with school-based or board-based supports and/or with outside agencies, if needed.

Increased connections will be made after 10 per cent of class time is missed

- Early interventions are required when between 10 and 15 per cent of class time is missed
- Targeted interventions will be provided when a student has missed more than 15 per cent of class time.

IMPORTANT: Calculations determining the percentage of class time missed are based on the following absence codes found in the Parent Portal:

- Absent with notification = E
- Absent without notification = U
- Late = L
- Out of school suspension = OSS

Based on our course schedule, the following thresholds apply for the 2017-2018 school year:

CECGA Attendance Calculations for Oct 1 2017 – June 2018

Grade P-6:

Number of Days	5%	10%	15%	20%
167	9	17	25	34

Grade 7:

Course	Classes/ Cycle	Classes/year	5%	10%	15%	20%
ELA	9	187	9	19	28	38
Math	8	167	8	17	25	34
Science	4	83	4	8	13	17
Social Studies	4	83	4	8	13	17
French	4	83	4	8	13	17
Healthy Living	3	62	3	6	10	13
PE	4	83	4	8	13	17
FST/TechEd	4	83	4	8	13	17

Grade 8:

Course	Classes/ Cycle	Classes/year	5%	10%	15%	20%
ELA	8	167	8	17	25	34
Math	8	167	8	17	25	34
Science	5	104	5	10	16	21
Social Studies	4	83	4	8	13	17
French	4	83	4	8	13	17
Healthy Living	3	62	3	6	10	13
PE	4	83	4	8	13	17
FST/TechEd	4	83	4	8	13	17

Grade 9:

Course	Classes/ Cycle	Classes/year	5%	10%	15%	20%
ELA	8	167	8	17	25	34
Math	8	167	8	17	25	34
Science	5	104	5	10	16	21
Social Studies	4	83	4	8	13	17
French	4	83	4	8	13	17
Healthy Living	3	62	3	6	10	13
PE	4	83	4	8	13	17
FST/TechEd	4	83	4	8	13	17

Grade 10-12:

Semester	5%	10%	15%	20%
S1 Courses	5	9	14	18
S2 Courses	6	11	16	22
Math 10 (full Year)	11	20	30	40

Loss of Credit for Grades 10 to 12

At the high school level, one possible response is the loss of credit at the Grade 10 to 12 level. In order to earn a course credit in high school, students are expected to be present for at least 80 per cent of class time. A teacher can recommend loss of credit when a student has missed 20 per cent of class time due to any absences, and strong efforts have been made to improve the student's attendance, but no improvement has been demonstrated by the student. Upon receiving the recommendation of a teacher, and working in consultation with the teacher and other school staff as appropriate, the principal will make the final decision around loss of credit. The principal is responsible for communicating the decision to the student and family. Students who lose credit(s) due to absenteeism are not eligible for credit recovery for that course.

Communication

Communication is an important part of managing student attendance. Recognizing that there are instances where parents/guardians are unable to provide the school with prior notification of a student absence (e.g., illness, injury, etc.), parents/guardians are encouraged to communicate any planned absences with the school well in advance of the absence occurring.

Promoting and supporting regular student attendance is a shared responsibility. All partners, including students, parents/guardians, teachers, principals, school boards, and community partners must work together. This policy is not intended to punish or marginalize students for circumstances beyond their control. The policy provides flexibility by allowing teachers and principals to use their professional judgment to determine when there may be extenuating circumstances affecting a student's attendance. In these cases, the school will work with the student and/or their family to respond with the appropriate incentives and supports, and/or to develop accountability mechanisms that recognize the student's unique situation.

Feedback from students, parents/guardians, teachers, principals, and others will be vital in determining what aspects of the policy and operational document are working well and what aspects need adjustment. You are invited to provide feedback on the policy and its implementation at any time throughout the year directly to the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development by emailing attendance @novascotia.ca.

For additional information, you are encouraged to read the Policy and Student Attendance and Engagement Operational Guide available at https://www.ednet.ns.ca/student-attendance-and-engagement-policy.

Sincerely, Barbara Avery, Principal



NOVEMBER



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Day F	2 Day G	3 Day H	4
5	6 Day A Picture Retakes	7 Day B Grad Photos	8 Day C Grad Photos	9 Day D	10 Day E Remembrance Day Service 11:00 am	11 Remembrance
12	13 Holiday	14 Day F	15 Day G	16 Day H Report Cards go home (9-12)	17 Day A	18
19	20 INSERVICE NO SCHOOL	21 Day B	22 Day C	23 Day D	24 Day E	25
26	27 Day F	28 Day G Report Cards go home (P-8)	29 Day H Parent/Teacher by appt. 4:30 - 6:30	30 Day A Inservice and Parent Teacher 12:30 – 2:30 NO SCHOOL		