

Chedabucto Education Centre/ Guysborough Academy



Newsletter

October 2017

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MESSAGE FROM OFFICE

The month of September has flown by and many new and exciting events are already underway as we move into the fall season. Our school soccer, Sr. volleyball and cross country teams are in full swing, presenting lots of opportunities for students to participate in inter-school sports, be physically active, and represent their school. Thanks to our coaches and staff advisors for all of their commitment, time and effort with our student athletes. With school sports and all other school related activities, comes the necessity for the required permission forms to attend school based events. Parents and guardians are reminded that we must receive written permission for **all** school based activities as per SRSB policy IX-F-1. Please remind your son or daughter to bring in the requested written permission to their coach prior to the day of the event so that the office can confirm all travel arrangements. It should also be noted that coaches are volunteering a considerable amount of their time as is to supervising and directing students on the field of play, and parent/guardians are reminded to be prompt in picking up their son/daughter following the completion of games and practices. Parents of our athletes are encouraged to complete the necessary paperwork for Chaperoning and/or Transporting Students as extra chaperones are often

needed for events at competing schools. Please contact your child's coach or the school (902-533-2288) if you would like us to send you a package of the necessary paperwork required as per SRSB policy IX-F-1 Student Travel. Please note that some of the required documentation can take a few weeks to process.

Our school is very fortunate to have a wide variety of extra-curricular and activities and services for our students, such as a wide variety of sporting events, choir and Fluoride Rinse to name but a few. From a school perspective, we welcome volunteers as we strive to offer as many opportunities for our students as possible. Our door is always open to any new volunteers! Please contact the school (902-533-2288) if you wish to know how to become involved and we will send you a package of the necessary paperwork required as per SRSB policy VI-C-1 Volunteers in the School.

Our annual Harvest Meal took place on September 20th, and a big "Thank You" goes out to our school Green Team, Shane Cook, Chef Connor MacKenzie, Jodi Chisholm and her FST classes, Michael Wilson and our ACHFC staff for all of their hard work in planting, harvesting, and serving the meal to the entire student body as well as invited guests! Our school community is very fortunate to have many great students doing great things for our local area, as well as in support of greater global initiatives...a great learning opportunity for all involved!

Our biggest fundraising event of the year, our annual walk-a-thon, took place on October 6th. We recognize and appreciate the fact that we are a small community in population, but the generosity that our catchment area has shown to our students through this fundraiser was great. Thank you to all for your continued support!

Other events of note upcoming for the month of October include a NSCC Open House for interested grade 10-12 students on Oct 19th. Halloween activities this month include our annual Haunted House on Oct 30th from 7pm to 8:30 pm and an elementary Halloween dance for grades 4-6 on Oct 25th from 5pm-7pm followed by a High School Halloween dance for grades 7-12 (8pm-11pm).

The provincial government has introduced a new *Student Attendance and Engagement Policy*. The policy was created following months of consultation, and advice from a new Council to Improve Classroom conditions, composed of teachers, as well as a parent and student representative.

Please review the new *Student Attendance and Engagement Policy*, Frequently Asked Questions and the Operational Guide to support the policy. These documents may be accessed at <https://www.ednet.ns.ca/student-attendance-and-engagement-policy> or on the Strait Regional School Board website at <https://srsb.ca>. The policy took effect October 1st, 2017 and replaces any existing school board or school policies. More detailed information will be distributed later this week to students and parents.

While many wonderful events are taking place and on the horizon, it is essential that students continue to put their academics first as they strive to do their best each day. We will continue to hold strong to our mandate; to provide a complete educational experience at all levels. We have high school students accessing the Nova Scotia Virtual School, allowing us to continue to offer all the courses that we have offered in the past. While this may be a different method of accessing some courses, it is the reality of rural schools such as ours. By offering a blend of both online and classroom learning, students gain more choice of courses, greater access to courses as well as more flexibility to learn outside classroom, thus enhancing education.

As with all academic concerns, students and parents are asked to continue to keep the lines of communication open to ensure that we can all work together to support the needs of our school community. As a school we will continue to support our students with every available resource at our disposal. Please feel free to contact the school at any time to share your concerns about any issue that

affects your son or daughter.

Thank you for your continued support of our school community!

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.

FLUORIDE RINSE PROGRAM

The **Fluoride Mouthrinse Program** will be offered to students in your school. As in past years, the success of this valuable dental preventative program will depend on support from dedicated volunteers. The program is carried out once a week, at the beginning of the school day. The entire process takes about one hour and



volunteers are trained by the Public Health Dental Hygienist.

If you as a parent, guardian, aunt, uncle, grandparent or community member have time to donate please call me for more information about the program.

Sharon Hearn 902-625-4375

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 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.

We Will Change Corner

The *We Will Change* is a student-led group made up of grade 7-12 students who have a keen interest in volunteering. If there are any students interested in joining the group please see Krista in SchoolsPlus. We always love to hear suggestions for projects from you! Our first meeting will take place on Wednesday, September 27th from 12:00 – 12:30 in the SchoolsPlus Room.

Krista MacEachern,
SchoolsPlus Community Outreach Worker

Media Coverage School Events & Parent/Guardian Consent Forms

The Strait Regional School Board 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 Board 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 School Board and its 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.

As part of our efforts to celebrate the achievements of our students and to promote the school's various educational, sports and cultural events, media partners are invited to the school from time to time throughout the year to cover these activities so that our good news and success stories can be shared with our school communities. As such, there is a strong possibility that your son/daughter may be identified either by name, grade, school, video/voice/audio recording, images (photos) of students and/or student work, 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. In these types of instances, it is our practice to request written parent/guardian permission prior to granting the media request.

Students participating in extra-curricular activities or events where the public is invited (e.g., field trips, school concerts, sporting/team events, school fairs, etc.) may be photographed and/or reported on by the media or the general public. If photography or video recording occurs at these types of events, it is not possible for the school or School Board to control the use of such recordings and therefore privacy cannot be expected at these events. It is important that when taking pictures or recordings, individuals are respectful of the privacy rights of anyone captured in their recording and that they not share them in any way without the consent of the individual or parent/guardian.

Please complete the *Consent for Publication of Student Personal Information and Student Work* to indicate if you do or do not consent to your child being identified in this manner.

All media requests, and associated contact with students, are carefully considered before being approved. We do our best to ensure that the personal privacy of students is protected and respected.

If you have any questions related to the above information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

SCHOOL INSURANCE PROGRAM

Every eligible child attending public school in Nova Scotia is automatically insured by the School Insurance Program's Basic Plan student accident coverage. This coverage is provided without deductible and at no cost. Basic Plan coverage can cover things such as physiotherapy, dental and medical equipment expenses, up to policy limits.

However, if parents/guardians wish to purchase additional coverage, the Gold Plan increases the time that your child is covered to 24/7 including summer vacations. Many of the specific loss accident payments are triple those of the Basic Plan.

Please visit www.sip.ca for policy & limit information and for more information on how to purchase the optional Gold Plan.

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.

October Happenings

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Day B	3 Day C	4 Day D	5 Day E	6 Day F <i>School Walk - a -thon</i>	7
8	9  <i>Happy Thanksgiving</i> NO SCHOOL	10 Day G Gr. 6 Assessment Reading & Writing	11 Day H	12 Day A Gr. 6 Assessment Reading & Writing	13 Day B	14
15	16 Day C Gr. 6 Assessment Math	17 Day D	18 Day E Gr. 6 Assessment Math	19 Day F NSCC Open House 10-12 Students	20 Day G	21
22	23 Day H	24 Day A	25 Day B  Halloween Dance Gr. 4-6 (5pm-7: pm) Gr. 7 - 12 8pm - 11 pm	26 Day C	27 Provincial Conference NO SCHOOL	28
29	30 Day D Haunted House 7:00 - 8:30 	31 Day <i>Happy Halloween</i> 