



Chedabucto Education Centre/ Guysborough Academy



Newsletter

December 2020

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

As December begins, it is important for parents to be prepared for any unexpected situations that may arise due to inclement weather. With student safety as our primary concern, we ask that all parents/guardians have alternate procedures in place for their child(ren) in the event that inclement weather results in early dismissal. Please discuss with your child the family plan should school be dismissed early 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.

If you would like to be notified by text or email of all bus route announcements and/or class cancellation information in the Strait Regional Centre for Education, please click on the "Stay Informed" icon on the SRCE web page and follow the directions to sign up for this useful and informative service provided by the SRCE. Further to this, administration at CEC/GA have the ability to send out a school alert message by text, email, and/or phone. If any of your contact information has changed since the first week of school, be sure to call the school to update this information so that any

school communications go to the correct email addresses and phone numbers. As a reminder, our water fountains remain disabled but bottle re-fill stations remain in service. If your child forgets or loses their water bottle please tell them to share this with their teacher so we can make arrangements for them to still have access to drinking water during the day.

Also as a reminder, I wanted to share with you a flow chart that Mr Landry, SRCE Regional Executive Director, recently shared in his letter to families to show how Public Health officials respond to reported cases of COVID-19 in a school community. Please refer to the following resource: http://www.nshealth.ca/sites/nshealth.ca/files/contact_tracing_schools_2020_10_26.pdf

We have been very fortunate to have no COVID 19 cases in our school and as a result have been able to come to school each and every day. However, if we start to see cases this may change. We will work closely with Public Health and partners in the public education to put plans in place to keep our school community safe and support the well-being and learning of all students and communicate these plans with families. Should we need to move to at home learning, students will be responsible for school work throughout the time we are working from home. Earlier in the year, gr 9-12 students were assigned chromebooks for use both at home and at school. Additional devices will be distributed to students in other grades who need them, and we will have plans for learning for those families struggling with internet access. More details will be provided at a later time. Please call the school if you have any questions about online learning should we have to make that transition.

The SRCE has provided us with instruction about how to get school pictures done safely, as long as COVID-19 cases remain as they are now. We have

tentatively scheduled school pictures for Thursday, January 28th and Friday, January 29th with several protocols in place to ensure safety. If things change and we need to postpone pictures this will be communicated to families.

It is hard to believe we are in December already with the upcoming Christmas Holiday break around the corner. As a special treat, students will be served a pancake breakfast on December 18th in their classrooms. The last day of school before the Christmas holidays is Tuesday, December 22nd. Students will be returning to school on Monday, January 4th. On behalf of staff and students, we wish you a relaxing and safe holiday season!

Barbara Avery
Principal



BUS PASSES

Just a reminder that there will be **NO BUS PASSES** issued this year. Each student will be allowed to have one alternate route for the year, which has to be registered with the SRCE transportation office by calling 902-747-3644.

**Notice to Subscribers of the SRCE Stay Informed Notification System (Bus Route and Class Announcements by Email and/or Text)
Annual Subscription to the Service Required Effective Immediately**

Please be advised that effective immediately subscribers to the SRCE Stay Informed Notification System (Bus Route and Class Announcements) must now re-subscribe annually to continue to receive notifications by email and/or text.

Over the summer, changes were required to the operation of the system to enhance the efficiency and timely delivery of the notifications. Annual subscription to this service will also ensure that the system contains the most up-to-date subscriber contact information (i.e., email address, cell phone number(s) and service provider).

Subscribers to the SRCE Stay Informed Notification System are asked to please re-subscribe, if interested, to continue to receive bus route and/or class announcement notices by email and/or text.

At the end of each school year, subscriber contact information will be deleted. You may re-subscribe after August 1 of each year.

To renew your subscription or to subscribe for the first time, please look for the SRCE Stay Informed graphic image (included above) on the SRCE website, www.srce.ca, and follow the steps outlined to subscribe or re-subscribe to this service; or click here to access the [SRCE Stay Informed By Email and/or Text](#) page directly.

WATER BOTTLES



As a reminder, our water fountains remain disabled but bottle re-fill stations remain in service. If your child forgets or loses their water bottle please tell them to share this with their teacher so we can make arrangements for them to still have access to drinking water during the day.

REOPENING OF SCHOOL GYMS

The Province of Nova Scotia announced the gradual reopening of school gyms to community groups for physical activity and sports.

The province is investing \$5.5 million of federal funding from the Safe Return to Class Fund to hire additional cleaning staff, ensure access is contained to the appropriate area of the school and to ensure students come back to schools that have been cleaned in accordance with public health COVID-19 protocols following a school sporting activity.

This reopening will be gradual, as gym rentals will differ from school to school and will depend on the availability of cleaning staff. As well, first priority will be given to school-based sporting events.

Our school is now accepting applications to access the school gyms in the evenings, Monday to Friday, for bookings beginning Monday, November 16, 2020. Community groups may access the application form for the use of SRCE facilities at the following link:

Application and Permit for Use of SRCE Facilities

Additional Information:

- To ensure equitable access to facilities, rental fees are being waived for the 2020-2021 school year.
- Community access will be restricted to school gyms and washrooms.
- Those who access school gyms will be responsible for ensuring Sport Nova Scotia and public health COVID-19 guidelines are followed.

Information about Spectators:

- There are no spectators permitted for any sporting events held in our schools.
- Following Nova Scotia's Back to School Plan, only essential adults will be permitted in schools during community use. This includes players/participants, officials, coaches, instructors or anyone else who is required to be on or near the field of play.

Intimate Images and Cyber-Protection Act

The rapid growth of smart phones, social media and the anonymity of the online world has created increasing opportunity for cyberbullying and the unwanted sharing of intimate images. The impacts of these behaviours can be devastating for victims.

Supports are available. For more information please visit novascotia.ca/cyberscan.

Feminine Hygiene Products in Schools

The Strait Regional Centre for Education provides free feminine hygiene products in all schools with Grades 5 to 12 students. These products are located in all female and non-gender specific washrooms.

Safe Arrival Process for Elementary Schools

Chedabucto Education Centre/Academy and the Strait Regional Centre for Education 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 SRCE 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.

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.

CHEDABUCTO LIFESTYLE COMPLEX

To use the CLC facilities, **CHILDREN UNDER GRADE 6** will need to be accompanied by an adult unless it is a Municipal program such as PACY,

However in order to go to the CLC after school written permission is required in the office.

PARENTS/GUARDIANS TAKE NOTICE

We are asking parents and students to take extra caution when packing lunches for your son/daughters. Due to the many allergies that some students have we would like to remind people that Nutella is also considered a nut based product.

NUT AWARE SCHOOL

There are currently students attending **Chedabucto Education Centre/Guysborough Academy** 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!

PERMISSION NOTES



Written permission must be given to a student when he/she plans to stay after school hours, leave the school, **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.

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. SRCE currently has four SchoolsPlus Models. They are located in Guysborough, Antigonish, Richmond and recently Inverness Counties.

SchoolsPlus would like to welcome Amanda Millar into the role of Community Outreach Worker.

You can contact the SchoolsPlus Facilitator, Liz MacIntosh by calling 533-4046 or Amanda Millar at 533-3609. We are also on Facebook at SchoolsPlus Guysborough County.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 <i>Day H</i>	2 <i>Day A</i>	3 <i>Day B</i>	4 <i>Day C</i>	5
6	7 <i>Day D</i>	8 <i>Day E</i>	9 <i>Day F</i>	10 <i>Day G</i>	11 <i>Day H</i>	12
13	14 <i>Day A</i>	15 <i>Day B</i>	16 <i>Day C</i>	17 <i>Day D</i>	18 <i>Day E</i>	19
20	21 <i>Day F</i>	22 <i>Day G</i> <i>Last Day of Classes</i>	23 <i>CHRISTMAS BREAK</i>	24 <i>CHRISTMAS BREAK</i>	25 	26
27	28 <i>CHRISTMAS BREAK</i>	29 <i>CHRISTMAS BREAK</i>	30 <i>CHRISTMAS BREAK</i>	31 <i>CHRISTMAS BREAK</i>		