



# *Chedabucto Education Centre/ Guysborough Academy*

*Newsletter*

*September 2019*

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<u>Vice Principal</u>	<b>Tera Dorrington</b>
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<u>Building Operator</u>	<b>Hubert Pettipas</b>

School's Child and Youth Care Practitioner. We also welcome back Faye Liz MacIntosh and Fraser our Schools Plus staff, Meagan Mulcahy our School's Plus Mental Health Clinician serving all Guysborough County Schools as well as East Antigonish as well as Patsy Borden our ACHFC Program Leader & Colleen Pelley our ANS Student Support Worker.

**Chedabucto Ed. Ctr. & Guysborough Academy**  
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As you are likely anxious to meet the new or "new to you" staff, I encourage parents/guardians to take advantage of the upcoming "Meet the Teacher" night scheduled for Thursday, September 19<sup>th</sup> with a meet and greet from 4:30pm to 6:30pm. We will all start in the Performance Arts Centre for a quick assembly introducing staff as well as an information session. Following this, classrooms will be open if you wish to take a tour of your child's classroom.

## **PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE**

I am pleased to welcome students, parents, staff and school community members back to a new year at Chedabucto Education Centre/Guysborough Academy! I hope you all had an enjoyable break with family and friends this summer. I am very excited to start this school year and look forward to working with Chedabucto Education Centre/Guysborough Academy School Community. Please feel free to contact us at any time if you have any questions or concerns.

Our school is very much a community-based school, with many partners involved in a wide variety of programs for the school and community. Our school is very fortunate to have a wide variety of supports for our students. From a school perspective, we welcome volunteers as we strive to offer as many opportunities for our students as possible. Over the last couple of year we enhanced the menu items for our Breakfast program to provide breakfast items 5 days a week. To maintain this we need the help from community members. Volunteers can choose their own schedule (even if only volunteering 1 day per month). Breakfast Program Volunteers for Breakfast Program no longer require a Criminal Records Check or Child Abuse Registry check however they do require our in house Volunteer Application Form & Guidelines for Volunteers (forms are available at the main Office and can be filled out upon your arrival very quickly). Volunteers do not need to arrive until 8:00am for set up and leave at 8:40am after clean up. Those who are interested can contact the office (902-533-2288) or email me at [barbara.avery@srce.ca](mailto:barbara.avery@srce.ca) and let us know what day(s) you are available. Please pass this note along to any community members you think would like to help us out as well. Other volunteer opportunities include fluoride rinse, walk-a-thon, chaperoning school events, School Advisory Council, and many other activities that we make available in our school, all of which can only be

Again, we had a few teacher movements since last school year. I would like to extend a special welcome to the incoming members of Chedabucto Education Centre/Guysborough Academy; Teagan Lombardo will be our new 4/5 teacher and Kelly Samson grade 5/6 & ELA 7. Teachers with new assignments this year are Mandi MacLennan who has moved to our high school wing to teach ELA 8,9,11,12 & Canadian History 11 as well as Canadian Families 12 and Jodi Chisholm will be our new High School YSF/Resource teacher as well as FST 7 & 8. I welcome all our staff back; teachers, teacher assistants, office staff/building operator, custodial staff as well as all community partners and look forward to working with you all again this year.

Also joining our school community is Renee Hodgson, Child and Youth Care Practitioner, who will be teaming up with Andrea MacKinnon, our Guysborough County

as successful as the volunteers who offer their time...thank you to those who have helped in the past and continue to do so, along with any new volunteers! Please contact the school (902-533-2288) if you wish to know how to become involved or stop by during Meet The Teacher Night.

We will continue to work in accordance with Recommendations from the *Report of the Council to Improve Classroom Conditions* (April 28, 2017). In-progress mark will be updated and displayed through the Student Parent Portal, at least once a month. For grade 7-12 students at CECGA this will be the first of every month. The Student-Parent Portal is a web-based, home-to-school collaboration system linking parents, students and schools with real-time information via the internet. Parents of students have the ability to view their child(ren)'s in-progress mark, possible teacher comments and/or homework assignments, and attendance of their child. As well, high school student attendance will be updated in PowerSchool by the end of the school day. A Safe Arrival process will also be implemented this year at our school for our elementary students (P-6) to help us account for any student's unexplained failure to arrive at school. If a student is marked absent during first class and we have not been previously notified by parents/guardians, we will call home to inquire as to the reason for the absence. Also in alignment with 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.

Also, just a reminder regarding the Provincial Student Attendance and Engagement Policy for P-12 that came into effect on October 1, 2017. 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. For additional information, you are encouraged to read the student handbook as well as the Policy and Student Attendance and Engagement Operational Guide available at <https://www.ednet.ns.ca/student-attendance-and-engagement-policy>.

We would like to remind everyone that the school policies, academic calendar and school schedules are found in the student agendas, as well on the school

website under the heading **2019-2020 Student Agenda**. It is important to review these policies so that you are well informed of the policies of the school. The student agenda is an excellent tool for students to organize their school activities and is an excellent communication tool for teachers, parents, and students. Positive and open communication between all parties involved in our school community is key to our continued success as a school. There have been many new policies introduced over the last couple of years such as Volunteers in the School, Provincial Homework Policy and Provincial Code of Conduct to name but a few. One new ministerial policy that came into effect September 2019 is the Extracurricular Activity and Supervision Policy. This policy focuses specifically on recognizing who can lead and supervise extracurricular activities for students. It aims to increase opportunities for family and community members to become registered volunteers with schools in their communities. One of the big changes is now principals or their designates may allocate responsibility for supervising extracurricular activities to an employee of an Regional Centre for Education who has volunteered to lead the activity or a registered volunteer (paperwork required includes Criminal Records Check, Child Abuse Registry check as well as in house Volunteer Application Form & Guidelines for Volunteers. More information regarding this policy can be found at <https://www.ednet.ns.ca/docs/extracurricularactivitysupervisionpolicyen.pdf> All these can be found on the new SRCE website at [www.srce.ca](http://www.srce.ca).

Many studies show that the presence of cell phones or other electronic communication devices can interfere with student learning. As a staff we will work together to minimize this interference. To support student learning electronic devices will be turned off/silenced and stored out of sight. Usage is only permitted in the building before and after school, recess, lunch or during free periods unless otherwise specified by teachers/lunch supervisors. We ask that if an emergency arises to please call the office phone at 902-533-2288 and we will notify your child in a timely manner to make contact with home. Students were informed of these expectations at the opening general assembly, in the Student Handbook and by their subject area teachers at the beginning of the school year.

***As a green school, this year we are going to try and reduce our ecological footprint even more. One initiative we are continuing with this year is to reduce the number of paper copies of the newsletter. With PowerSchool we are able to compile a list of emails and forward the newsletter electronically. Those that wish***

to receive a paper copy please contact the school at 902-533-2288 or email [faye.shea@srce.ca](mailto:faye.shea@srce.ca) and we will put your name on a list to have it sent home with your child.

Again, we look forward to working together to make this a memorable year!

Barbara Avery  
Principal



**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](http://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.

**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](http://novascotia.ca/cyberscan).

**\*\*NEW\*\***

**BUS PASS REQUEST FORMS REQUIRED**

We have received correspondence from the SRCE Operations Department regarding the importance of care and control around the issuing and driver acceptance of bus passes. We have been provided with a Bus Pass Request Form, which will have to be used in order to request a Bus Pass. We will be sending some of these forms home with your child in the near future. 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. Please contact the school at 902-533-2288 if you have any questions about bus pass procedures.

**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](http://www.sip.ca) for policy & limit information and for more information on how to purchase the optional Gold Plan.

**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.

### TRANSPORTING STUDENTS TO EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

As of June 4<sup>th</sup> 2014, the SRCE 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.

### 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.

### KELSO ASSEMBLY

Kelso Assembly will take place on October 4th for this month at 9:00 am.



### 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, 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. SRCE 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 Faye Fraser at 533-3609. We are also on Facebook at SchoolsPlus Guysborough County.



Sunda	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturda
1	2	3	4	5 Day A  FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL	6 Day B	7
8	9 Day C	10 Day D	11 Day E	12 Day F	13 Day G	14
15	16 Day H	17 Day A	18 Day B Picture Day Gr. Pr. - 3 Gr. 7 - 12 Neptune Theatre Gr. 4 - 6	19 Day C Picture Day Gr. 4 - 6 & PP Meet the Teacher 4:30 - 6:30 Neptune Theatre Gr. 4 - 6	20 Day D	21
22	23 Day E	24 Day F	25 Day G	26 Day H  Terry Fox Run	27  <b>SCHOOL BASED IN-SERVICE NO CLASSES</b>	28
29	30 Day A				Kelso October 4 <sup>th</sup> 9 a.m.	