



Eastern Passage Education Centre

93 Samuel Danial Drive, Eastern Passage, NS B3G 1S8



<https://epec.hrce.ca/>



(902) 462-8401

Message from Administration,

It is so nice to see that Spring has finally arrived and students are really enjoying getting outside to socialize with their peers during breaks and lunch. We want to thank students and their families for a smooth transition back to school after the March break. We were grateful to be able to allow students the opportunity to travel to all classes as well as enjoy lunch in the cafeteria. Lockers are now being used to secure personal items. Students are expected to leave their cell phones and book bags in their lockers throughout the instructional day. This is in an effort to ensure the safety of all students and security of personal property. Students are permitted to go to their lockers at the beginning of break and lunch to gather any necessary items.

We continue to work with students to teach them about responsible use of technology and social media. We want to encourage families to speak to your children and monitor their interactions on social media on a regular basis. This will help to ensure that students are being safe and are making good choices around what they are viewing, posting, liking etc. Together we can help students become more responsible digital citizens.

Teachers are looking forward to engaging in meaningful conversations with families about your child's academic success for term 2. Families will have the option to sign up a phone interview or in person.

We want to thank families for their continued support of our school wide initiatives. As always if families have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact school administration.

Yours in Education,

Sarah Shea



Important Dates

- April 6 Report Cards go home
- April 7 PD Day AM/Parent Teacher
PM 1-3, 6-8
- April 15 Good Friday (No Classes)
- April 18 Easter Monday (No Classes)
- May 23 Victoria Day (No Classes)
- June 29 Assessment Day (No
Classes)
- June 30 Last day of school

Ms. Kennedy, our fine arts specialist and students painted this mural on our wall! Thank you for the beautiful work!



Student Absences

If your child is going to be absent from school, please call the school and leave a message on the safe arrival line. The phone number for the school is 902-462-8401. If your child is going to be absent for multiple days, you can advise the dates on the message so you do not have to call every day and the office will mark your child as excused for the duration of the absence. The purpose of safe arrival is to ensure that every child who came to school arrives at school safely. Thank you for your support!



Parent Teacher Meetings

Parent Teacher meetings will be on April 7th. We will be using the same online booking system we used in the fall for parents to make appointments with their child's teachers. The system will go live on Wednesday March 30th and families will have the option to sign up for a telephone or in person interview.

Supporting Ukraine

Students in 6 Lindal made these beautiful pins as a fundraiser to help support people in Ukraine. All proceeds raised will be donated to the Red Cross. Thank you to our students and their families for their hard work and generosity!



Upgraded Security System

We are currently in the process of upgrading our school security system at EPEC. A special thanks to the Honorable Becky Kent for her generous donation in support of the purchase of our external cameras. We also wanted to say thank you to our SAC for their support with this endeavor. We appreciate the community for helping to ensure we keep our students and school community safe.

Consent to Access YouTube

Within HRCE, we have been using Google Workspace for Education (GNSPES) for a number of years, Google Workspace for Education is a set of education productivity tools from Google including Gmail, Calendar, Docs, Classroom, and more. In HRCE, students use their GNSPES accounts to complete assignments, communicate with their teachers, sign into their Chromebooks, and learn 21st century digital citizenship skills.



Recently Google has changed how students can access videos on YouTube and currently students logged into GNSPES cannot watch videos except when shared by their teachers. As this is limiting to students' learning, HRCE would like to change the settings to make YouTube available to students in Grades 7 to 12. Changing this setting would give students logged into GNSPES the ability to search and view YouTube videos that have been moderated (aligned with content rating 13+).

Google has a restricted YouTube experience for students in GNSPES. Students are not able to create channels, upload content, view or add comments, watch or create live stream events or participate in live chat amongst other things. (Full list of restrictions here <https://support.google.com/a/answer/10651918#zippy=%2Cyoutube>)

Please contact Ms. Cunningham (carly.cunningham@hrce.ca) with your child's name and GNSPES username if you DO NOT wish your child(ren) to be able to access YouTube to support their learning.

Online Tutoring

VIRTUAL TUTORING SESSION FOR PARENTS

Would you like to improve your ability to help your child with their math homework?

The Halifax Helpers is offering virtual sessions to help parents navigate math education from grades P-5.

Please contact thehalifaxhelpersinfo@gmail.com for more information.



DO YOU REQUIRE TUTORING BUT DO NOT HAVE A LAPTOP TO ACCESS PROPER SUPPORT?

The Halifax Helpers, SchoolsPlus, and HRCE are happy to provide k-12 students with access to a **free** laptop in order to use The Halifax Helpers **free** virtual tutoring services!

PLEASE REACH OUT TO
THEHALIFAXHELPERS@GMAIL.COM
FOR MORE INFORMATION



School Garden

Mme. Lindal's class would like to start a garden in the boxes out front of the school and if there were parents or caregivers who would be interested in helping if they could email me at sarah.lindal@hrce.ca.

Student News written by Lucas Garnhum

As March break comes to a close, it brings with it the end of the second term, which makes students wonder what's in store for the third and final term.

Students of EPEC rejoice as many of the Covid-19 restrictions are lifted. Lockers are now being used, students travel between classes more frequently, and the cafeteria is now open for use! As well, students may now visit other classrooms during break. Sadly though for many students, masks are still required in all indoor areas of the school, and physical contact is not permitted.

There are currently many different extracurricular activities for students to take part in, including but not limited to badminton, volleyball, and Dungeons & Dragons, which many students have joined and participated in over the past few months, and I wouldn't be surprised if more showed up.

That's it for this edition of Student News, but stay tuned, because there might be something new in the next one.