



# Eastern Passage Education Centre

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



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



(902) 462-8401

Dear families,

It has been a great first week at EPEC and we have enjoyed getting to know the students. Together we will continue to follow the Back to School plan to ensure that students and staff continue to be healthy and safe. Students will continue to have access to hand sanitizer and can access masks at the main office should they choose to wear one. We encourage families to have your children vaccinated and ask that you keep your children home from school if they are feeling unwell.

Communication between home and school is a priority for us at EPEC. We encourage families to reach out to your child's teachers or school administration if you have questions or would like to know more information about events at the school. We can be contacted by phone, email or in person with a scheduled appointment. We will also be using the schoolmessenger application to share information with families via email and phone.

In the next couple of weeks, we will be asking families to update the student registration form for and to complete the media release, consent to leave school property, as well as the grade 7 immunization forms. We would appreciate you completing these forms and returning them to your child's teacher.

As we progress into term 1, we look forward to engaging in meaningful conversations with you about the teaching and learning that is happening at EPEC.

Yours in Education,

Sarah Shea & Erin Schaus



## Important Dates

September 29 – Orange Shirt Day

September 30 – Truth and Reconciliation Day (No School)

October 4&5 – Picture Day

October 10 – Thanksgiving  
(No School)

October 28 – PD Day (No School)

November 11 – Remembrance Day  
(No School)

November 17 – PD AM/PT PM  
(No School)

November 21 – Assessment Day  
(No School)

November 30 – Gr. 7  
Immunizations



## School Wide Rules

Last year, we implemented a set of school wide rules. These rules are grounded in keeping students safe and set expectations for student behaviour at EPEC. Teachers will spend time in the fall explicitly teaching what the school wide rules look like and why it's important to follow them. Our school wide rules are:

- Listen to the adults
- Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself
- Use appropriate language for the learning environment
- Use a hall pass

Posters are placed around the school and in each classroom to remind students of the expectations.

## Security Cameras



We are excited to share that over the summer the work on our security cameras has been completed! We now have an operational system both inside and outside the building. Thank you to the support of the community for helping in this initiative!

## Boys and Girls Soccer



Boys and girls soccer will be starting right away this year! Students who are interested in trying out for soccer must sign up on the sheet outside the gym.

The first tryout for the boys team will be on Monday, September 12<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 pm on the field behind EPEC.

The first tryout for the girls team will be on Tuesday, September 13<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 pm on the field behind EPEC.

We hope to see lots of our students there!

## Integrated Learning Time

Integrated Learning Time (ILT) is part of the new grade 7 and 8 curriculum. At EPEC, ILT is two blocks of 60 minutes per 10-day cycle. The goal of this time is to develop and assess the core skills and competencies of the renewed curricula through inquiry based learning experiences. In the beginning, your child will be assigned to a pair of teachers focused on developing a culture of inquiry and a safe space for each and every student to take risks and be curious. Teachers will focus on observing students and giving lots of feedback to prepare them for larger scale inquiry projects throughout the year. As the year progresses, your child may see different teachers taking the lead to share their interests and strengths. With a goal of being responsive to each community, the ILT schedule offers time for teacher collaboration as well. This means that as the year progresses, individual schools will be able to tailor learning experiences to meet the needs of their community and student interests. If you have any questions about ILT please reach out to your child's teacher.

## EASTERN PASSAGE EDUCATION CENTRE SCHOOL RULES

- ① Listen to the adults.
- ② Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself.
- ③ Use appropriate language for the learning environment.
- ④ Use a hall pass.



## Scent Aware School



EPEC is a scent aware school, which means that we recognize that the use of strong perfumes or antiperspirant and other sprays can impact staff and students. As a result, we are asking students to please refrain from using these products at school. We appreciate your cooperation with this as we have students and staff with asthma, allergies and environmental sensitivities who can be negatively impacted by their use in our building.

## National Day for Truth and Reconciliation



The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) was officially launched in 2008 as part of the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement (IRSSA). Intended to be a process that would guide Canadians through the difficult discovery of the facts behind the residential school system, the TRC was also meant to lay the foundation for lasting reconciliation across Canada. In June 2021, the Government of Canada declared September 30th as National Truth and Reconciliation Day to honor those who attended Residential School and their families. On this day we wear an Orange shirt to show our respects.

**We will be having Orange Shirt day at EPEC on Thursday, September 29<sup>th</sup> with assemblies to recognize the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. On that day, we invite students to wear orange!**

## Southland Transportation Information

We have a number of busses here at EPEC. Here is a list of all our busses and the time they are scheduled to leave the school at the end of the day:

4400 - 3:17 PM  
4401 - 3:17 PM  
4402 - 3:17 PM  
4403 - 3:17 PM  
4405 - 3:23 PM  
4406 - 3:23 PM  
4410 - 3:27 PM  
4411- 3:17 PM  
4412 - 3:17 PM  
S108 - 3:20 PM  
S114 - 3:15 PM



We ask that you please speak to your children about the necessity for being on time to catch the bus. If a student misses the bus, they will be contacting home to make alternate arrangements.

## Delayed Opening due to Inclement Weather



If weather conditions warrant, the Halifax Regional Centre for Education could implement a delayed opening. Delayed openings would be considered when a severe weather event has concluded but snow clearing or other operations require additional time. Delayed opening may also be considered when the physical plant is experiencing an issue such as a power outage or loss of water and additional time is required to prepare the school to open. If this was to occur, school would be delayed by two hours. In our school, this means school would start at 11:10 am. If Southland Transportation is operating, the expectation will be that students are picked up two hours later than their regularly assigned time pending any weather-related delays. Our lunch, afternoon schedule and dismissal times will remain at their regularly scheduled times. Should this situation occur, we will do everything we can to maintain the instructional day and ensure that quality teaching and learning is happening at EPEC.

## School Cash Online



Paying school-related fees is about to get easier!

We're excited to let you know that HRCE has launched a new system that allows families to make payments electronically, with the click of a button. From lunch orders to athletic fees, you will be able to make all payments safely, securely and quickly through SchoolCash Online.

Our school will post items for purchase and assign school fees relevant to your child. You can make all purchases and payments from your phone, tablet or computer.

We would like families to register as soon as possible.

To get started, please register for SchoolCash Online. It's free and takes less than two minutes. You will receive an email once items are posted for purchase.

Visit <https://hrce.schoolcashonline.com/> and click Register to get started.

Need support? Connect with the SchoolCash Online help desk at [schoolcashonline.com/Home/Support](https://schoolcashonline.com/Home/Support)

We hope that SchoolCash Online makes paying school-related fees more convenient!

## Head Lice

The HRCE and EPEC adhere to the Department of Health and Wellness's guidelines regarding head lice. You are encouraged to check your child's hair regularly. Please use the following link for additional information regarding head lice.

<https://www.novascotia.ca/dhw/publications/public-health-education/07135-head-lice-pamphlet-en.pdf>



## School Immunization Program



The Grade 7 immunization consents were distributed to students last week. Please ensure you have returned the forms by September 22, 2022. If you need a new form please contact your child's homeroom teacher or the office.

As in previous years Public Health will be providing immunizations to Grade 7 students to prevent:

- Meningitis
- Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis (whooping cough)
- Hepatitis B
- Human Papillomavirus (HPV-9)

Grade 8 students will be completing any immunizations missed from last year.

Below are the dates we will be hosting the Grade 7 Immunization Clinics.

- Wednesday, November 30, 2022
- Wednesday, May 31, 2023

## Volleyball



Volleyball will be beginning in early October. More information will be sent out closer to the date.



***Stay tuned for our October newsletter for more important information and to see what our students and staff have been up to!***