

EASTERN PASSAGE EDUCATION CENTRE

D. Hart
Principal

J. Kavanaugh
Vice Principal

A. Swinemer
Guidance



93 Samuel Daniel Dr.
Eastern Passage, NS
B3G 1S8

Tel. 462-8401
Fax. 462-8403

SEPTEMBER 2017

Welcome to the 2017-18 school year! We are excited to start a new year and work with your students during an important year of their junior high lives. We look forward to supporting their success during their time at EPEC, and encourage them to get involved in all of the opportunities in our building. This year is an exciting one in education, where classes are smaller and supports have increased. The staff here are amazing, and have a strong desire to know who their students are as learners. In order to keep up to date, I encourage you to check out our school website at <http://epe.hrsb.ca/> Most of the information you will need to access can be found here, and please follow us on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/EPEC3> to help celebrate all of the opportunities your students will be engaging in through the year at together. We welcome any questions you may have, and encourage you to reach out when your child has any concerns.

© Dorothy Hart, Principal

Jamie Kavanaugh, Vice Principal

Bell Schedule Changes for 2017-18

Our bell schedule has changed slightly during lunch hour. Our bell to come into the building is at 8:55, with classes beginning at 9:00. Supervision does not begin until 8:40 in the morning, so please remind students that they are not to be in the building until this time. Busses generally do not arrive before this time, but if they do, those students will be supervised. Breakfast program starts at 8:40 on M-W and F. Lunch time is now from 12:15 to 1:00pm for all students. The end of the day dismissal is at 3pm.

Bussing

Stock transportation now has a new app to track your child's bus. It is called Stock bus tracker, and all you need is your child's student number if they are a bus student(3.6km from the school). If they are a courtesy bus student, they are able to take the bus to and from school if a stop is in your area and there is room on the bus. This hasn't been an issue in the mornings, but can be on the way home, especially during the winter months. If you have any bussing questions, don't hesitate to check our website for the link to bussing, or to call Stock at 902-481-8400.

Class configurations

This year, we have 7 homerooms in grade 7(2 Early French, 1 Late French, and 4 English), 5 homerooms in grade 8(1 Early French, 1 Late French, and 3 English), and 6 grade 9 homerooms(1 Early French, 1 Late French, and 4 English).

New Staff Members

We would like to welcome the following new staff to our school this year:

Gareth Watt----	Immersion 7-8/9 Core	Jodi Robinson----	Math/Science 7	Andrew Swinemer-	Guidance
Stephen Fougere-	8 Math/Science (returning from leave)			Christina Campbell----	Resource 7-8
Matt Klasz-	9 Math/Science	Tina Buott-	9 English & Social Studies	Cindy Pedvis----	Social Worker
Caitlyn MacDonald---	Immersion 8 ELA & Soc. Studies			Tristan MacDonald--	9 Math/Science
Alexandra Heath----	Immersion Math & Science 7-9			Phillip Howell	7 and 8 ELA & Soc. Studies

Emergency Management

We will be starting with emergency management drills early in the year. We will be practicing fire drills, and will be having hold and secure and lockdown drills during the month of September. Students will be educated about exits, and their teachers will be reviewing what to do when we have a hold and secure (where classes continue) or when we have a lockdown drill (when students position for safety and nobody is permitted to move in or out of their classes. If your child has anxiety about any of these drills, please reach out to administration or guidance to help us create an individual plan to support them and ensure their safety.

Student Fees

Student Fees will be \$25.00 this school year. They cover lock rental, replacement of broken or lost locks, and student activities for the year, guest speakers, special events, trips, etc.

LUNCH MONITORS

Both Seaside and EPEC are looking to hire paid monitors. Monitors can go to Seaside, then up to EPEC and be paid for the 2 hours. If you are interested, please contact either school as soon as possible.

Curriculum Night 2017

This year we will be having our Curriculum Night on Thursday, September 21st at 6pm. We will begin in the gym, and then teachers will have the opportunity to visit their students' classrooms to find out what they will be learning this year.

Breakfast Program

Starting the September 18th, we will be offering a grab and go breakfast program in the morning in the movement room. As we all know, it's hard to get students in junior high up and awake and fed before they head to school, so this can help alleviate that stress in the morning, and improve student focus in class. If you know of anyone interested in volunteering or donating things for our program, please contact us at the main office.

Video Surveillance

EPEC has video surveillance at areas inside and outside of the building. The purpose of the system is to enhance school safety and deter or take action in response to unlawful behaviours such as violent acts, vandalism and theft. Video will be viewed by school administration when necessary, and can be shared with the police to help with an investigation. We value the privacy and rights of our students, and their safety is our first priority. If you have any questions about video surveillance at EPEC, please contact Ms. Hart at the main office.

Volunteering

If you are interested in volunteering this year for school trips, events, or coaching, please make sure you bring a copy of your current criminal record check and child abuse registry to the main office. They are good for 3 years and they often take a bit of time to process and get sent back. We would love to have you involved!

Dates to Remember:

Sept. 14	Stand Up Against Bullying Day-Wear Pink!!!
Sept. 19	Bus evacuation practice
Sept. 21	Curriculum Night 6pm
Sept. 25	First SAC meeting 3:05pm
Sept. 29	PD Day (No Classes)
Oct. 4	Grade 7 Immunization (AM)
Oct. 20	Picture Day (AM)

Oct. 9	Thanksgiving (No School)
Oct. 28	Provincial PD Day (No Classes)
Nov. 13	Remembrance Day (No Classes)
Nov. 22	Assessment & Evaluation Day (No Classes Elem and Jr High)
Nov. 27	Term 2 Begins
Nov. 27	Report Cards Sent Home
Dec. 6	Parent Teacher Interviews 6-8
Dec. 7	(No classes) AM:PD Day PM:Parent Teacher Interviews 1-3
Nov. 30	Holiday Concert
Dec. 21	Last day of classes before break
Jan. 3	Schools Reopen
Feb. 1 - 28	Registration Month for 2017-18
Feb. 19	Mona Louise Parsons Heritage Day (no classes)
Mar. 9	Assessment & Evaluation Day(no classes)
Mar. 12 - 16	March Break (no classes)
Mar. 29	Term 3 Begins – Elementary & Jr High
Mar. 29	Elementary/Jr High Report Cards Home
Apr. 19	(No classes) AM – PD Day PM – Parent Teacher Interviews 1-3 and 6-8
Mar. 30	Good Friday (no school)
Apr.2	Easter Monday (no school)
May 18	Professional Development Day P-12 (no classes)
May 21	Victoria Day (no classes)
June 28	Assessment & Evaluation Day P-12 (no classes)
June 29	Last Day of School – Report Cards Home

Registration Verification

Forms will be going home this week to verify your information on PowerSchools. Please make sure you fill in the Self-identification section to help us better know our learners and support their success. Also make sure you fill in the School and Bus Cancellation section to make sure in the event that school is closed mid-day, that we can make sure your students have a plan to get home safely.

From the Gym:

Students are reminded that cell phones will not be permitted during class time due to privacy reasons, and should be kept in student lockers or in the gym office.

Lockers

A reminder that lockers belong to the school and there is no expectation of privacy for items stored in lockers. School administration will use their discretion when determining if a locker needs to be opened for any reason. Please remind students that they should not be storing anything in their lockers that would be considered inappropriate for school. Backpacks must be stored in lockers and are not permitted in classrooms.

School Advisory Council

We are looking for members for our SAC this year. The role of the SAC is to advise the principal on the perspectives, ideas and opinions of the parents, community and students. We will be looking for a community member (someone who does not have students at the school, but lives in our feeder area), parent members, and student representatives from each grade. If you are interested, please come to our meeting in the library at 3:05pm on September 25th. We meet at least 6 times per year and would love your input. If you are interested and unable to attend on the 25th, please send Ms. Hart an email to let her know you would like to join.

Student Success Planning (SSP)

We are entering our fourth year of our goals for our SSP. Our goal for Literacy is students will demonstrate improvement in reading comprehension of informational text. Our goal for Math is students will demonstrate improvement in the ability to apply and communicate their knowledge to solve problems in a variety of contexts. We will be implementing a variety of strategies and supports this year to help all of our students experience success that we look forward to sharing with you.

Nova Scotia Action Plan for Education: Renew, Refocus, Rebuild - The Four Pillars:

https://www.ednet.ns.ca/files/2015/Education_Action_Plan_2015_EN.pdf

Powerschool Parent Portal

Please check your child's progress on powerschool regularly. Important information regarding attendance, course outcomes, and marks on assignments can be found there. If you need your parent portal login, please email jwilson@hrsb.ca Please make sure you call the school to report any absences at 462-8401

School Clothing

EPEC clothing can be purchased online at <http://easternpassage.entripyshops.com/>

Medic Alert

If your child has a medical condition which requires a MedicAlert bracelet/necklace, you can access a MedicAlert memberships (from age 4 to their 14th birthday) through the *No Child Without*[®] program in HRSB schools at <http://www.nochildwithout.ca/>

Head Lice

It's back to school time! Here is some helpful information about head lice from the Department of Public Health: http://www.novascotia.ca/dhw/publications/Public-Health-Education/07135_HeadLicePamphlet_En.pdf

CHECK OUT DARTMOUTH ALL-CITY MUSIC!

Are you in your school band? If so, you can also join us! Please visit <http://dacm.hrsb.ns.ca> for more info and to register for one of our All-City Bands! Our Junior Concert, Intermediate Concert and Studio B Jazz Bands do not require an audition. Yes, you MUST be in your school band.

Attention grades 7-9 orchestral string students: Are you continuing lessons with us? If so, please visit <http://dacm.hrsb.ns.ca> to register if you haven't already done so. How about registering for one of our orchestras too?

Thank you for your support for our HRSB music programs.

Cheers,

Pam Paddock

Coordinator, Dartmouth All-City Music

<http://dacm.hrsb.ns.ca>

From Guidance Department:

Mental Health Counselling - The Phoenix Prevention Program on Young Street in Halifax offers free counselling to students and/or their families. Parents can be offered up to three counselling sessions even if their child is not interested in attending. To make an appointment call 902-444-3400 or visit <http://phoenixyouth.ca/services> . Services through the IWK can be accessed by calling 902-464-4110.

Teen Mental Health - For the most reliable information on mental health and mental disorders in teens, visit <http://teenmentalhealth.org/> .

MacPhee Centre for Creative Learning - Located at 50 Queen Street, Dartmouth, the Centre empowers youth between 12-19 who are facing barriers reaching their full potential. These barriers could include disengagement from school, mental health disorders or finances. They provide free programming in creative arts such as African drumming, music production, sketching and drawing, theatre, ukulele, Halcon, painting, guitar and photography. For more information visit macpheecentre.ca.

Parents and Children Together Resource Centre - P.A.C.T. is located at 1114 Cole Harbour Road. They offer programs for parents on such topics as communicating with your child, effective discipline, and how to help siblings get along. A new offering they have is the Parenting Journey Home Visitor Program which provides in home support to families in a way that best meets the family's needs. For more information please visit <http://www.parentsandchildrentogether.info> or contact Arlea Walsh at 902-219-2444 or by email at arlea.pact@gmail.com.

Parents as Career Coaches - On Thursday, November 2, EPEC will be hosting a Parents as Career Coaches session in the library. This event assists parents with helping their children make informed career choices. Specifically, it helps parents:
-begin to explore their child's interests, skills and personal qualities, which will help them make career decisions
-find tools and resources to research numerous career options, education opportunities, and financing
-help their child select appropriate courses for high school
Parents can register at no cost at <http://www.parentsascareercoaches.ca> under Program Schedule/FAQ or sign up at the school through Mr. Swinemer at 902-462-8401 extension 5.

Once you have read the newsletter, please email your child's name to Epec@hrsb.ca to enter a draw for a chance for them to win school clothing and prizes!