

# EASTERN PASSAGE EDUCATION CENTRE

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OCTOBER 2017

September was a busy, but wonderful month! The weather has gone from being incredibly hot, to freezing! Encourage your students to wear layers, as we never know how hot or cold the day may get. We have had the pleasure of meeting many parents on curriculum night, and from dropping off lunches and forgotten binders from home, and look forward to meeting more during the month of October as we review student individual program plans with families. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your child, we encourage you to reach out and connect with teachers or call the office.

© Dorothy Hart, Principal

Jamie Kavanaugh, Vice Principal

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### *Lates/Early Supervision*

It was a busy September with lots going on. We still have over 30 students being dropped off late in the morning which is very disruptive to the classrooms who have already started their morning routines. If there is a concern with your child getting to school on time, please call the office or come in to chat with Ms. Hart, Mr. Kavanaugh, or Mr. Swinemer so we can problem solve together on how to get your child to school on time so they are prepared for learning. Please remember that classes start at 9:00am and students can be dropped off anytime after 8:35am when teacher duty begins. Some students are arriving earlier than staff members, which can be a safety concern.

### *New Provincial Attendance Policy*

We all want our students to do their very best. For teachers to help them succeed, students need to be in school. Research shows that poor attendance is linked to poorer student performance. Employers also want students to learn good work habits, like good attendance, in school so they carry these habits with them into the workplace. Yet too many students are missing too much school. More than 25 per cent miss more than 16 days each year. The provincial government has introduced a new student attendance and engagement policy. The policy was created following months of consultation, and advice from a new Council to Improve Classroom Conditions, composed of teachers, as well as a parent and a student representative.

Please take a few minutes to review the new *Student Attendance and Engagement Policy* and *Frequently Asked Questions*. It can be found at:

[https://www.ednet.ns.ca/sites/default/files/docs/provincial\\_student\\_attendance\\_and\\_engagement\\_policy.pdf](https://www.ednet.ns.ca/sites/default/files/docs/provincial_student_attendance_and_engagement_policy.pdf)

The provincial policy will come into effect on October 1, 2017, and replace any existing school board or school policy. Government will review the policy and operational guide at the end of the 2017-18 school year, and make adjustments based on lessons learned and feedback received. You can provide feedback at any time of the year by emailing [attendance@novascotia.ca](mailto:attendance@novascotia.ca).

As the policy is being implemented, you will receive more information from us. Improving attendance is a team effort, and we look forward to working with students, families, and community partners on attendance and engagement.

Sincerely,  
Dorothy and Jamie

### *Parking*

Please remember to refrain from blocking or parking in front of the accessible parking spots or ramp.

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### ***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.

### ***Toonies for Terry***

On Friday, October 6th, classes will be participating in the Terry Fox walk on our grounds for ½ hour each to raise money for cancer. We encourage all students to bring in a toonie or loonie (or any donation) to help support this cause.

### ***Farm Boxes***

We will be sending home envelopes this week for our breakfast program campaign. We will be selling fresh boxes of produce (mostly vegetables, possibly fruit) from Noggins Farm from October 6th to 19th. Farm boxes are \$30.00, and support a great cause. Once ordered, they are delivered fresh to the school November 1st, and pick up is that afternoon from 1-5 at the school. They are a great way to stock up on yummy fall veggies! Cheques are payable to Eastern Passage Education Centre.

### ***Bussing***

The busses have been getting better! We've been working with Stock to improve arrival times in the morning, and to reduce wait times at the end of the day! 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.

### ***Band Trip***

Friday's Band Trip to the Dartmouth All-City Music Centre. Friday 13th from 9:30 am to 1:00 pm. We will be having Master classes with clinicians Kenneth MacKay and Bob Nicholson. Thank you. Jill

### ***New Staff Members***

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

Ryan Bucci-grade 8 Social Studies, Science 8, Healthy Living 8 and Art 7 and 8.

Sara Hutt-Grade 8 Science and Healthy Living

### ***Emergency Management***

We have had a fire drill, lockdown drill, and hold-and-secure drill so far this year. Students did an amazing job at all 3! :) We will be having another fire drill and practicing for if we need to relocate to another site this week.

### ***Breakfast Program***

We are offering a grab and go breakfast program in the morning for all students 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.

### ***Pop-up Library Brings Books to EPEC Readers***

Eastern Passage Education Centre has teamed up with the Woodlawn Public Library in an exciting way to encourage a love of reading and books among our students. Back by popular demand is the monthly Pop-up Library! Set up in our school's lobby during lunch break, the Pop-up Library brings numerous new and popular books EPEC community! Students will be able to browse, borrow and return library material, sign up for a library card, and learn about the library and its services. Pop-up library are scheduled on the third Monday of each month: September 18, October 16, November 20, January 15, March 19, April 16 and June 18. Requests for materials by contacting Annesa James @ [janesa@halifax.ca](mailto:janesa@halifax.ca) or through EPEC's school library.

### ***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:***

<b>Oct. 4</b>	Grade 7 Immunization (AM)
<b>Oct. 6</b>	Terry Fox walk (PM)
<b>Oct. 20</b>	Picture Day (AM)
<b>Oct. 9</b>	Thanksgiving (No School)
<b>Oct. 10-11</b>	Youth Project Presentations
<b>Oct. 26</b>	Halloween Dance 7-9-\$5.00 in advance, \$7.00 at the door
<b>Oct. 27</b>	Provincial PD Day (No Classes)
<b>Nov. 13</b>	Remembrance Day (No Classes)
<b>Nov. 22</b>	Assessment & Evaluation Day (No Classes Elem and Jr High))
<b>Nov. 27</b>	Term 2 Begins
<b>Nov. 27</b>	Report Cards Sent Home
<b>Dec. 6</b>	<a href="#">Parent Teacher Interviews 6-8</a>
<b>Dec. 7</b>	<a href="#">(No classes) AM:PD Day PM:Parent Teacher Interviews 1-3</a>
<b>Nov. 23</b>	Retakes
<b>Nov. 30</b>	Holiday Concert
<b>Dec. 21</b>	Last day of classes before break
<b>Jan. 3</b>	Schools Reopen
<b>Feb. 1 - 28</b>	Registration Month for 2017-18
<b>Feb. 19</b>	Mona Louise Parsons Heritage Day (no classes)
<b>Mar. 9</b>	Assessment & Evaluation Day(no classes)
<b>Mar. 12 - 16</b>	March Break (no classes)

<b>Mar. 29</b>	Term 3 Begins – Elementary & Jr High
<b>Mar. 29</b>	Elementary/Jr High Report Cards Home
<b>Apr. 19</b>	(No classes) AM – PD Day PM – Parent Teacher Interviews 1-3 and 6-8
<b>Mar. 30</b>	Good Friday (no school)
<b>Apr.2</b>	Easter Monday (no school)
<b>May 18</b>	Professional Development Day P-12 (no classes)
<b>May 21</b>	Victoria Day (no classes)
<b>June 28</b>	Assessment & Evaluation Day P-12 (no classes)
<b>June 29</b>	Last Day of School – Report Cards Home

### ***SCHOOL CANCELLATIONS***

The Halifax Regional School Board takes great care when making the decision to alter the normal operations of schools in the event of severe or inclement weather. Decisions on school closures and/or bus cancellations are posted on the board’s website at [www.hrsb.ns.ca](http://www.hrsb.ns.ca) , on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/HRSB\\_Official](http://www.twitter.com/HRSB_Official), recorded on 464-INFO (4636) and communicated to all local radio stations. You can also receive notice of school and bus cancellations by e-mail or text message by following the link on the front page(left side) of the HRSB website. If you are interested in learning more on how decisions regarding closures and cancellations are made, visit <http://www.hrsb.ns.ca/content/id/1137.html> .EPEC is in the Cole Harbour High Family of Schools as schools are cancelled by feeder schools.

### ***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.

### ***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@hrsbc.ca](mailto:jwilson@hrsbc.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*<sup>®</sup> program in HRSB schools at <http://www.nochildwithout.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 [macpheedcentre.ca](http://macpheedcentre.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](mailto:arlea.pact@gmail.com).

	<p>CHSC/CHEP Soccer Registration Now OPEN.</p> <p>Offering Competitive and Recreational Programs for ages 5-17 yrs</p> <p>Lots of Spaces still available for Recreational programs for ages 5-12 yrs.</p> <p>Please see our website <a href="http://coleharboursoccer.ca">coleharboursoccer.ca</a> for more information.</p>	
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Once you have read the newsletter, please email your child's name to [Epec@hrsb.ca](mailto:Epec@hrsb.ca) to enter a draw for a chance for them to win school clothing and prizes!