

OCTOBER 2023 |

CAPE BRETON HIGHLANDS EDUCATION CENTRE/ACADEMY



CONTACT US:

902-235-7500

cbh.office@srce.ca

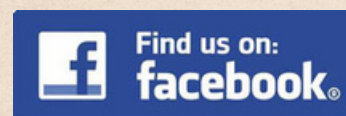
School Office:

Angela MacKinnon Principal

Stacia Evans Vice Principal

John MacKinnon Guidance Councilor

Cheyenne Camus School Secretary



Message from our Principal

September has been a very busy month, but now routines are established, and things seem to be running smoothly. Our teachers are beginning the development of our 2023-2024 Student Success Plan. A Literacy and Math Goal will be chosen and strategies will be developed to advance student academic achievement in these areas. Our Wellness Goal this year is focused on relationship building (with students and with each other) and communication.

A lead team has been identified and will be receiving professional development to support Restorative Practices in the classroom and school community on October 11&18. This is exciting!

Each month in our newsletter going forward, we will be highlighting activities happening in our beautiful classrooms.

Another “new” idea we have implemented is weekly staff shout outs which are shared in our internal weekly “In the Know” every Monday morning. We will be starting weekly student shout outs next week as well, these will be shared on the tv in the school cafetorium each week.

School announcements are read each morning and posted daily on the school tv. Our goal is to also have these added to the school fb page.

Soccer and volleyball are under way and hockey is going to start very shortly. Our Student Council is busy planning events for our students! Stay tuned!!!

We are currently looking for 2 community members to join our SAC- if you know of anyone who may be interested, please have them contact the school. Looking forward to a wonderful year! If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out

Angela MacKinnon, Principal

Weather

Students in grades P-6 will be going outside daily, so please remind them to bring/wear appropriate clothing. The weather is slowly changing and we don't want anyone caught off-guard on a chilly day.

Important Dates:

October 2nd: Truth and Reconciliation Day Observance
- No Classes.

October 6th: Deadline to order School Photos

October 9th: Thanksgiving - No Classes

October 11th: Grad Photos

October 16th: Grade 7 Immunizations

October 27th: October Conference - No Classes

CBHECA



2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Truth & Reconciliation Day Observance No Classes	Day B 3	Day C 4	Day D 5	Day E 6 School Photo Deadline to order	7
8	9 Thanksgiving No Classes	Day F 10	Day G 11 Grad Photos	Day H 12	Day A 13	14
15	Day B 16 Grade 7 Immunizations	Day C 17	Day D 18	Day E 19	Day F 20	21
22	Day G 23	Day H 24	Day A 25	Day B 26	Day 27 October Conference No Classes	28
27	Day C 28	Day D 29				

- Please remember to return to the school the following signed forms as soon as possible:
 1. Registration Form
 2. Consent for Publication of Student Personal Information and Student Work Form
 3. Canada's Anti-Spam Legislation Form
 4. Permission to Leave School Grounds (Gr. 7-12)
- Parents/guardians entering the school are asked to sign in at the office. Parents are not permitted to go directly to their child/ren's classroom. If you need to see your child, the secretary will call the student to the office.
- Students should not be making calls or texting during instructional time. We ask that parents reinforce responsible use at home and know that the only time 7-12s should be using and receiving texts/calls is at recess (10:15-10:30am) and lunch (12:15pm-1pm).
- After school arrangements should be noted in the student's communication journal. Calling or emailing the office with instructions should only happen in **emergency** situations.

Teacher Assistants	Bus Drivers
Lorna Phillips	Audrey Leblanc
Nadine Clark	Rita Arsenault
Denise Deveau	James MacNeil
Natasha Romard	Jody Ingraham Phillips
Donna McDaniel	Lindsey Hart
Catherine MacNeil	Fletcher Ingraham
	Angela Ross
	Melanie Burton
Building Technician/Janitorial	Cafeteria
Dan Longtin	Annie Bourgeois
Heather Leblanc	Librarian
Priscilla Leblanc	Sharon Burchell

Who Do I Contact with Questions or Concerns?

1 Start with your child's teacher.

2 Follow up with the school principal, if required.

3 For general inquiries:

Please contact the Strait Regional Centre for Education where we will be happy to connect you with the right member of staff:

902-625-2191/1-800-650-4448
srce@srce.ca

4 For questions related to student behaviour and/or discipline:

Please contact Elizabeth Teasdale, Coordinator of Student Discipline at 902-625-7065;
elizabeth.teasdale@srce.ca.

5 For all other matters and media inquiries:

Please contact Deanna Gillis, Coordinator of Communications at 902-625-7065;
deanna.gillis@srce.ca.

Strait Regional Centre for Education
304 Pitt Street, Unit 2
Port Hawkesbury, NS B9A 2T9
902-625-2191/1-800-650-4448; 902-625-2281 (fax)
www.srce.ca/srce@srce.ca
Follow SRCE on Twitter @SRCE_NS



Reminders

- Parents are reminded not to send birthday party invitations to their child(rens) classrooms as they will not be passed out in school.
- Parents and visitors are more than welcome to visit the school. However, be sure that you only go as far as the office. For our students' security we ask that you don't go to coat racks, classrooms, the gym etc. during school hours. If you need to see your child administration will call your child to the office for you.
- We also ask that parents communicate in their child(rens) agendas if there are any after school arrangements, cafeteria instructions, and extracurricular activities that need to be noted. We have over three hundred students from pre-primary to grade 12 and it is not possible for our secretary to manage all these arrangements or changes in plans.
- Please ensure that you send your child to school with a water bottle. CBHECA does **not** provide cups and we no longer have the older style water fountains – we have water fill stations.
- Students are not permitted into the school until 8:40am. Please do not drop your child(ren) earlier than 8:40am as there is no one available to supervise your child(ren) and the doors are locked.
- Parents of elementary students are encouraged to keep an extra set of clothes in their child(ren)s school bag in-case they get wet during the school day. This eliminates the need for phone calls home for dry clothes.

Student Pick-Up

When picking up your student(s) before the end of day due to illness, appointment, early dismissal or other reason, we are asking that you **park your car in the parking lot or next to the curb by the flagpole and come to the door to collect your child(ren).**

Reminder: Bus loop is closed to all vehicles during school hours (8:30-3pm) and parking in the bus loop after hours is not permitted – please use the parking lot when dropping off students or picking up students.

We appreciate your support in keeping our students safe!!!

Attendance and Engagement Policy

We will be sending emails at the beginning of every month regarding student attendance - currently for grades 7-12. If your child's absenteeism is greater than 10%, you will receive an email. A point of clarification - there is no longer what was known as an excused absence. An absence is an absence. We encourage parents/guardians to continue to call and inform us their student is absent and provide the reason as this will be looked at in the event your student is recommended by their teacher to not receive the credit for the course they have missed more than 20% of the time.

Parent Portal

The student-parent portal gives you real-time access to attendance, grades, assignments, teacher comments, and school bulletins. You access the portal using your own user account. For assistance, please reach out to the school for support.

How to Stay Informed?

The SRCE uses a number of communication platforms, including print, online and social media, to regularly update and share information with students, parents, guardians, staff, and community partners on a variety of education matters. These platforms include:

- SRCE website (<https://srce.ca/>) and school websites;
- Twitter/X (@SRCE_NS);
- Regional Executive Director of Education's Report to School Communities in the SRCE;
- [Stay Informed Notification System](#) for class/bus announcements and news items/stories;
- Subscribe to the SRCE YouTube Channel @SRCE_NS;
- Local newspapers; and
- Local radio stations.

BREAKFAST PROGRAM

CBH continues to offer our daily breakfast program again this year! We have yogurt, cheese, bagels, fresh fruit, and milk available daily. On Fridays, we offer treats from AuCoin's Bakery in place of bagels.

This program is open to ALL students, no questions asked. Some students do not eat early, some are hungry again, some like to have something at school, some were in a rush, etc. - whatever the reason, everyone has access to food at school! We also continue to offer snacks in the classroom when needed.

We sincerely appreciate community and RCE support to enable us to provide this service for our students:)

Thank you to our dedicated volunteers who come in to prepare each morning, Cheyenne, Barbara and Andrew for helping organize, and Ethna for picking up our fresh fruit from the Margaree Coop every week. And thank you to the Margaree Coop who keep an eye out for sales and cutting our fruit!

It truly takes a village!!!

Dressing for the Weather

Although some days might not seem so cold at your home, when your children arrive at CBHECA we get some good winds from the Atlantic Ocean that cause it to be colder at the school. We ask that you be sure to dress your child(ren) warm so they can enjoy their time outside at recess and lunch. It would also be appreciated if you could pack an extra set of clothes in their backpacks for days that are wet. This way we won't need to call you to come in with new clothes

Safe Arrival Policy

Please continue to be mindful of our **Safe Arrival Policy** for students in Grades P-6. You should email cbh.office@srce.ca or call 902-235-7500 by 9:15am if they aren't attending school, even if the student's bus is canceled. Please leave a message with your name, your child's name and reason for absence. If the school is not notified and we are unable to reach a parent/guardian the RCMP may be contacted to ensure the safety of the student.

Restorative Practices

CBHEC/A lead team: Mrs. Evans, Mr. LeBlanc, Mrs. McDaniel, Mrs. B MacKinnon, Mrs. C MacKinnon

Restorative practices are rooted in restorative justice. They emphasize repairing the harm done to people and relationships, rather than punishing people. By building more supportive learning environments and focusing on social-emotional learning, restorative practices can:

- reduce social barriers to learning
- engage more students
- create a context for understanding and valuing diversity
- nurture a sense of belonging
- promote positive mental health

SRCE Fostering a Love of Reading at Home

1. **Read to your child** - This special time promotes healthy brain development and strengthens bonds.
2. **Read a variety of texts** - Picture books, story books, biographies, digital texts, how-to books, comics, manuals, recipe books, food labels, news articles, etc.
3. **Listen to your child read** - Take turns reading a book, comic, magazine, newspaper, or other reading material together.
4. **Talk about the story** - This helps children understand what they are reading.
5. **Read in front of children** - If all household members “practice what they preach” and model reading, it sends a clear message that reading is valuable.
6. **Create a space for reading and writing** - A comfy space with reading materials, pens, pencils, markers, and paper nearby will encourage your child to practice their reading and writing skills daily.
7. **Look for opportunities to use reading and writing skills** - For example, have your child write the shopping list, read the traffic signs, and name all the things in the kitchen that start with the letter *P*, etc.
8. **Turn off technology** - Kids often need extra encouragement to pick up a book and read or get pencil and paper and write. (Unless using technology to read or write)
9. **Write messages to family and friends** - Think of a family member, friend or community member who might like to receive a letter, text, email, or notes on the fridge, etc.
10. **Listen to music with your child** - After listening, talk about it. For example, discuss the meaning of lyrics, the historical aspects of the song and the way music makes you feel, etc.
11. **Make up stories together** - Take turns adding details. Start with “Once upon a time...”; “It was a sunny day...” or “Yesterday...” etc.
12. **Visit the local library virtually with your child** - Take advantage of book borrowing and other activities offered at our local library. <http://ecrl.library.ns.ca/> or <http://www.parl.ns.ca>

SEPTEMBER 2023						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

of teaching days - 20

- 1 Staff Orientation & Organization Day
- 4 Labor Day
- 5 Regional In-service Day
- 6 First Day of Classes
- 22 School Based In-service

FEBRUARY 2024						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

of teaching days - 20

- 1 Start of Semester 2 (Quarter 3)
- 8 Report Cards Distributed (9-12)
- 19 Heritage Day

OCTOBER 2023						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

of teaching days - 20

- 2 Truth and Reconciliation Day Observance
- 9 Thanksgiving Day
- 27 NSTU Conference Day

MARCH 2024						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

of teaching days - 15

- 8 Term 2 Ends (P-8)
- 8 Administration & Evaluation Day (No Classes PP-8 / Regular Class 9-12)
- 11-15 Spring Break
- 29 Good Friday

NOVEMBER 2023						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

of teaching days - 21

- 3 Quarter 1 Ends (9-12)
- 3 Administration & Evaluation Day - No Classes PP-8 / Regular Classes 9-12
- 13 Remembrance Day Observance
- 16 Report Cards Distributed 9-12
- 17 Term 1 Ends (P-8)
- 20 Report Cards Distributed P-8
- 23 In-service (AM) / Parent Teacher (PM) (No Classes PP-12)

APRIL 2024						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

of teaching days - 21

- 1 Easter Monday
- 2 Report Cards Distributed (P-8)
- 4 In-service (AM) / Parent Teacher (PM) (No Classes PP-8 / Regular Classes 9-12)
- 5 Quarter 3 Ends (9-12)
- 18 Report Cards Distributed (9-12)
- 25 In-service (AM) / Parent Teacher (PM) (No Classes 9-12 / Regular Classes PP-8)

DECEMBER 2023						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

of teaching days - 14

- 20 Last Day of Classes Prior to Holiday Break

MAY 2024						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

of teaching days - 22

- 17 Regional In-service Day
- 20 Victoria Day

JANUARY 2024						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

of teaching days - 22

- 2 School Resumes After Holiday Break
- 23 NSVS Summative Assessments
- 25 Semester 1 Summative Assessments Begin
- 30 Semester 1 Summative Assessments End
- 31 Semester 1 (Quarter 2) Ends (9-12)
- 31 Administration and Evaluation Day (No Classes 9-12 / Regular Classes PP-8)

JUNE 2024						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

of teaching days - 20

- 17 NSVS Summative Assessments
- 19 Semester 2 Summative Assessments Begin
- 26 Administration & Evaluation Day (No Classes 9-12 / Regular Classes PP-8)
- 26 Earliest Date for Graduation
- 27 Administration & Evaluation Day (No Classes PP-12)
- 28 Last day of school

- Summative Assessment Days
- Inservice/PD/Assessment & Evaluation Days
- School Holidays/Observances
- Report Cards and Parent-Teacher Conferences

Approved: February 27, 2023
Revised: March 27, 2023