

EASTERN PASSAGE EDUCATION CENTRE

D. Hart
Principal

J. Kavanaugh
Vice Principal

I. Clark
Guidance



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

Tel. 462-8401
Fax. 462-8403

February/March 2016

Dorothy Hart, Principal

Jamie Kavanaugh, Vice Principal

THANK YOU!

Thank you for your patience and support during work to rule. Although many extracurricular activities may not resume right now, we are starting the breakfast program on Monday, February 27th. It will continue to take place on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. We have appreciated the support we have received from our families during the past few months, and want to reassure you that student achievement was our priority. Teachers have been teaching, and we will continue to work together with you to support our students.

REGISTRATION

Cole Harbour High will be coming in in the next few weeks to discuss the IB program, the O2 program, and registration. We will keep you informed when registration forms are coming home and when they will be due to us.

Cole Harbour High Visit

Students in grade 9 will be visiting Cole Harbour High on March 8th from 9-1. They will be learning about the Manufacturing and Skilled Trades program and the IB program, and registering for courses in their computer labs. Lunch will be provided. They will be bringing home a copy of the courses that they have registered for you to confirm after that date.. Our guidance counselor will be bringing course selection booklets to classes in the next few days and they will be bringing them home with them. It is highly recommended for them to write their name on them and bring them to Cole Harbour for the visit. After selecting courses, a print-out will be generated to send home to you. Math recommendations will be in consultation with their grade 9 teachers. Students will be travelling by bus and permission slips are being sent home on Monday. Please have them returned by Friday, March 3rd. A copy of the course selection booklet is also available on our website.

From Guidance

Options and Opportunities (O2) Program - O2 is a program offered at Cole Harbour District High School for incoming grade 10 students. It "offers students more hands-on learning experiences with a career focus. It is designed to prepare students for successful transitions from high school to work, a career path, or a post-secondary program." Mr. Denike, the O2 Program lead teacher, will be visiting EPEC shortly to speak to the grade 9's about the program. Students interested in the program will have to fill out an application form and pass it in to Mr. Clark by Wednesday, March 22. More information about the O2 program can be found at http://hrsbstaff.ednet.ns.ca/denikedm/O2/options_and_opportunities.htm .

IB Program Visit Dan MacDonald, O2 Lead teacher, will be coming to present to students about the IB Program on March 1st at 1pm. This presentation will be for interested students only. If you want your child to attend, please email Mr. Clark at iclark@hrsb.ca

Pre-IB Information Night - There will be an information night for parents of students going into grade 10 who are interested in the Pre-International Baccalaureate program on Monday, March 6, 6:00pm-7:00pm, in the Cole Harbour District High School cafeteria.

Girls Conference - The sixth annual Girls Conference will be held at Mount Saint Vincent University on Friday, March 3 from 9:00am to 2:30pm. Young women at the conference will have the opportunity to participate in various workshops and activity sessions which include confidence building, leadership skills, personal and professional growth, and developing stronger minds and bodies. The cost is \$25.00 and more information and the online registration form can be found at <http://www.msvu.ca/girls2017> .

Camp Courage - Camp Courage is an 8 day camp for girls ages 15-19 that are interested in careers as paramedics, police officers or firefighters. It takes place from July 9-16 around the HRM. There is no cost, but girls have to write an essay on how they would improve the life of someone less fortunate or how they would improve their community. They then actually have to do what they have described. The application form and further information can be found at <https://campcourage.ca/>. The deadline is Friday, March 31.

AVC Vet Camp - The Atlantic Veterinary College in P.E.I. is hosting week long summer camps in July for students interested in veterinary medicine. Information and application forms can be found at <http://www.upei.ca/avc/summer-programs/vetcamp>. The deadline for applications is Friday, March 10, 2017.

My Child is Anxious. Should I Worry? - This 2-week program through the IWK helps parents learn how to identify early signs of anxious feelings in your children and skills to help them manage everyday anxiety. Mondays, May 8 and 15, 9:30-11:30 a.m., Community Health Team, Tacoma Drive, Dartmouth. Call 902-470-3817 to register, no cost.

Parenting Your Teenager - Walking the Middle Path (IWK Mental Health & Community Team) - Learn to better understand your teen, improve communication and help your family run more smoothly. Saturday, April 1, 9:30-4:30 p.m., MacPhee Centre for Creative Learning, Dartmouth. Call 902-470-3817 to register, no cost.

Staffing changes

We would like to say goodbye to Ms. Ashley Daley as she begins her maternity leave March 10th. She is looking forward to her new adventure in parenting, and we will miss her greatly. Ms. Marcy Clark will be filling Ms. Daley's position until the end of the year, and we are excited to welcome her to the EPEC family.

Lates

We understand that at times students are late for appointments, for late busses or reasons beyond their control. Lately, there has been a significant increase in students coming to school late, which causes disruption to the learning environment. We would appreciate it if you could chat with your child about the importance of being to school on time (in the morning and afternoon), as it is helpful in increasing their engagement and success.

Student Contact/School Cancellation

Please ensure that you let the office know when you change contact numbers. If there is ever an emergency, or if your child is ill, it is very difficult to ensure students are supported if contact information is outdated. If you do not currently have an emergency contact, please make sure we have one in case of urgent situations. We also need to make sure you have updated your school cancellation information to make sure in the event that school is closed mid-day, so we can make sure your students have a plan to get home safely. In the event of school closures, parents can receive texts to their phone from HRSB if they register at <http://www.hrsb.ca/about-our-schools/parents/subscribe-notifications?platform=hootsuite> We are hoping for no more cancellations this year!

Volunteering

We would love to have you involved! If you are interested in lunch monitoring for the 2017-18 year, please let the office know. If you are interested in volunteering with the breakfast program on a regular basis, we would be happy to pay for the cost of a criminal records check if you don't already have one.

Dates to Remember:

March 2	Grade 7(for 2017-18 school year) French Immersion Program Information Session 6-7 PM
March 7	SAC Meeting 3:15
March 13-17	March Break
March 22	Assessment and Evaluation Day(no classes)
March 27	Term 3 Begins
March 30	Report Cards home

Parking

Just a friendly reminder that we have 5 accessible parking spaces for our building. There are three in front of the building, and two to the left front side of the building. We also have a ramp at the front of the school for students with walkers/wheelchairs to gain access to the parking lot. We have numerous students in the building who rely on being able to use these spots for drop off and pick up in the morning, and we also have a ramp our front of the school that is used by individuals with walkers, crutches and wheelchairs. When you are dropping your student off in the morning, please refrain from using the accessible parking or blocking the ramp.

Lost and Found

Please feel free to come check the lost and found for items your child may be missing. We also have a lost and found in the office for more valuable items. Please call Mrs. Wilson to inquire about any jewelry items/small items that may have been turned in.

From the Library

Pop Libraries:

Halifax Public Libraries (Woodlawn Branch) will be visiting EPEC the last Wednesday of each month to provide our students with the opportunity to borrow material for personal enjoyment or class projects. All students are encouraged to sign up for a Halifax Public Library card. Applications can be found online at halifaxpubliclibraries.ca or are available at EPEC's school library. Pop-up library are scheduled on the last Wednesday of each month: March 29, April 26, and May 30. Requests for materials by contacting Aneka James at janesa@halifax.ca or through EPEC's school library.

Student Success Planning (SSP)

We are entering our third 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 have been lucky this year to have Melina Kennedy, a Math support teacher, work with our grade 7 students for 16 weeks at EPEC, We have also had Math 94 weeks) and Literacy Coaches (8 weeks) in our building this year. English Language Arts teachers have also been receiving PD on running record in junior high in the content areas.

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/>

Come Try Soccer!

Our local soccer clubs have combined to give every child in our community the opportunity to try the wonderful game of soccer. Join us on February 25th & 26th at Shearwater Gym for a *FREE* "COME TRY SOCCER" event. *All ages from 4 - 15 are invited to attend a welcoming, fun filled hour of soccer with no costs or obligation. Sessions will be led by top coaches in the region. All you need to join us are: Indoor Sneakers and Gym Clothes. Shin Pads are highly recommended. Don't miss out on this Fantastic event!*

Visit: <https://sites.google.com/site/cometrysoccer> for more details and to sign up.

Saturday February 25th

4, 5 & 6 yrs. boys & girls: 9 - 9:50am
7 - 10 yrs. girls: 10 - 11am

Sunday February 26th

4, 5 & 6 yrs. boys & girls: 4 - 4:50pm
7 - 10 yrs. boys: 5 - 6pm
11 - 12 yrs. boys & girls: 6 - 7pm
13 - 15 yrs. boys & girls: 7 - 8pm

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!!