EASTERN PASSAGE EDUCATION CENTRE

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DECEMBER 2016

Dorothy Hart, Principal *Jamie Kavanaugh, Vice Principal*

Self-Identification/School Cancellation

Please make sure you have self-identified in your registration information to help us better know our learners and support their success. In the next few months, we may be contacting families who have not filled in that section of their registration forms. About 25% of our families have not self-identified, and we are hoping to get a better sense of who are students are so we can better meet their needs. Identifying your ancestry and or status helps our school receive invaluable resources and staff such as our Aboriginal Student Support Worker, Mrs. Voisey.

Also 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

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:

Nov. 24	Report Cards Sent Home
Nov. 30	We Day
Dec. 1	(No classes) AM:PD Day PM:Parent Teacher Interviews 1-3 and 6-8
Dec. 5	SAC meeting 3:15pm
Dec. 8	Holiday Concert POSTPONED:Concert will take place in February
Dec. 15	School Dance: 7-9
Dec. 21	Last day of classes before break
Jan. 3	Schools Reopen

Parent Teacher 2016

Please call Ms. Wilson at the main office to schedule an appointment for parent-teacher. It is taking place Thursday, December 1st, at 1-3 and 6-8pm

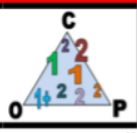
Breakfast Program

THANK YOU to our school community and families for donating hundreds of boxes of cereal to our drive. Our breakfast program gas been successful so far thanks to Mrs. Stewart, Mrs. Dimmer, several parent and teacher volunteers, Tim Horton's Cow Bay/Shearwater, the Halifax Regional School Board, and you! We greatly appreciate the support, and have noticed an increase in student engagement in the building.

Interpreting Report Cards

Please find the graphic below helpful when reading your child's report card. Students are used to seeing rubrics in their classes with the levels 1-4, which teachers use over time to generate summative(final) grades.

Aligning Achievement Levels and Reporting Codes in Determining Reporting Percentage Grades for Grades 7-12 (Including Additional 1+, 2+ and 3+ Levels)

Achievement Levels	Level	Level 4	Level 3+	Level 3	Level 2+	Level 2	Level 1+	Level 1
	Descriptor	**In-depth** knowledge and understanding of content and concepts. Able to extend the application of related skills.	**Competent** knowledge and understanding of content and concepts. Appropriate application of related skills.		**Developing** knowledge and understanding of content and concepts. Developing in the application of related skills.		**Limited** knowledge and understanding of content and concepts. Limited application of related skills.	
Reflecting on Evidence of Student Learning With Outcome Summary Scores								
Reporting Codes	Descriptor	Demonstrates **excellent** understanding and application of concepts and skills in relation to the learning outcomes	Demonstrates **very good** understanding and application of concepts and skills in relation to the learning outcomes	Demonstrates **good** understanding and application of concepts and skills in relation to the learning outcomes	Demonstrates **satisfactory** understanding and application of concepts and skills in relation to the learning outcomes	Demonstrates **minimal** understanding and application of concepts and skills in relation to the learning outcomes	Has **not met** minimum requirements of the course.	
	Grades	90-100%	80-89%	70-79%	60-69%	50-59%	Below 50%	

REPORTING WITH EVIDENCE AND USING PROFESSIONAL JUDGEMENT

Last Updated August 20th, 2015

Parking

Just a friendly reminder as the weather starts to get colder and snow eventually (hopefully not soon) hits the ground 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 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.

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

Lost and Found

Our Lost and Found is growing! There are several new looking warm jackets, a bag of soccer gear completed with shin pads and several pairs of running shoes (just to name a few).
Please encourage your student to regularly collect their property from the Lost and Found. Any items not collected will be donated on the 9th of December. Parents are also welcome to check at any time; just stop by the office.

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: November 30, January 25, February 22, March 29, April 26, and May 30. Requests for materials by contacting Anneka James at *janesa@halifax.ca* or through EPEC's school library.

Wreath Fundraiser:
Thank you for supporting our Holiday Wreath Fundraiser Sale. All the funds raised with be used to purchase technology for our transition to a Library Learning Commons.

WE Act

Our We Act Committee is already doing great things this year! Not only are our 40+ members showing their commitment to social change and the betterment of their own community, but they are helping some local groups help others in need. On Halloween this year over twenty of us participated in the We Scare Hunger campaign. We went out to our EPEC neighbours and instead of collecting candy, we asked for non-perishable food items that were donated to the Eastern Passage/Cow Bay Community food bank. Our Halloween dance canteen and bake sale helped raise money for a local animal rescue group, PAWSAbilities Rescue Society. Proceeds from these fundraisers added up to a $500 donation for the group to help rescue animals in need and find them new homes. Our focus for December will be fundraising for HomeBridge Youth Society. We are hoping to match last year's donation of $750 dollars! Look for upcoming fundraisers such as Candy Grams, bake sale, and neighbourhood caroling! Students are encouraged to join our committee at any time during the school year. If you are not on the committee already and feel you are a World Changer, please listen for announcements and join us for a meeting!

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 a Math support teacher, Melina Kennedy, who was with our grade 7 students for 8 weeks at EPEC. From November 21st to December 21st, we have 4 coaches in the building to work with French Language Arts teachers(Lindsay Matheson), English Language Arts Teachers(Angie Horne), and Math teachers(Alicia Potvin and Souad El-Achkar). We are lucky to have this opportunity, as they work collaboratively with teachers and students in their classrooms to improve achievement.

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/

From Guidance Department:

Boy's Soccer - The Boy's Soccer Team finished their season with close 4-3 penalty shootout loss in the area semi-finals. Mr. Clark and the players would like to thank all of the parents and relatives who supported the team and volunteered their time to drive to away games!

Take Our Kids to Work Day - Thank you to all of the parents, relatives, family friends and community hosts who made Take Our Kids to Work Day on November 2 such a valuable learning experience for our grade 9 students!

CyberScan Presentations - In October and November, all of the grade 7 classes heard presentations from a representative of the province's CyberScan unit on safe and responsible use of social media.

Youth Project Presentations - In November, all grade 7, 8 and 9 classes heard presentations from the Youth Project on sexual orientation, gender identity and respect and acceptance. The Youth Project is a Halifax based organization that supports youth who are lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender, as well as their families and allies.

Girls in Engineering - On November 8, grade 9 girls interested in careers in engineering visited Dalhousie's Faculty of Engineering and spent the day learning about the different engineering disciplines and hearing from professional female engineers and engineering students about careers in engineering.

Parents as Career Coaches - On the evening of November 14, EPEC hosted a Parents as Career Coaches session. Here parents could learn about ways to best support their children when it came to guiding them around making decisions about their future education and career choices.

African Nova Scotian Health Care Career Day - On November 16, grade 9 students of African Canadian descent visited Cole Harbour District High School to learn about a variety of careers in the health care field.

Skills Canada Presentations - On December 5, Skills Canada Nova Scotia will be presenting to grade 9 classes on careers in the skilled trades and technologies.

International Baccalaureate Presentations - On December 13, the IB coordinator from Cole Harbour District High School will be speaking to the grade 9 classes about the IB program at the high school. In the new year, representatives from CHDHS will be visiting EPEC to talk to the grade 9 classes about regular course selection and the Options and Opportunities program.

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!!