



Antigonish Education Centre
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September 2019

Newsletter

April Weaver, Principal
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Notes from the Office



I am pleased to welcome students and children back to Antigonish Education Centre! Vice Principal Mr. Sean Barker and I have been meeting many new students this week and are happy to see the familiar faces we have missed over the past summer months and the school closure. We are already so impressed with our students. They are adapting quickly to the changes in routines and the measures we've put in place to protect each other. As always, our students are stepping up to meet the expectations and we are proud to be part of this awesome school community.

Wishing everyone a safe and successful school year,

*April Weaver,
Principal*



Stand Up Against Bullying Day was on Thursday, September 10th. It was wonderful to see so many pink shirts. Our school mascot, ACE the Owl made a visit to the Primary to Grade 4 classrooms to remind students that our goal is to fill each other's buckets – which means treating others with kindness and respect.

We have many new staff with us this year who will be fantastic additions to our school. Please join me in welcoming:

Primary – Courtney Cameron
Grade 1 – Isabel Thompson
Grade 2 – Jeremy Reeve (for Laura Lee MacLean)
Grade 2 – Emily Bowen
Grade 3 Immersion Patti Huston (for Josette Frizzle)
Grade 3 – Susanne Kelly-MacPhie
Grade 3/4 – Jenna Hadley
Grade 4 – Maureen Armour
Grade 4 – Mandy Reid/Ashley Vernon
Teacher's Assistants – Holly McNutt, Hayley MacDonald
Learning Support Teacher – Jennifer Sampson
African NS Student Support Worker – Jermal Mansfield

September is a busy time of year for all of you with school start up and the return to routines. We appreciate your time spent reading the many notices and completing the forms we are sending home. A speedy return of all documents sent home assists us with a successful start to the school year.

Demographic Information

A **Student Demographic form** will be sent home for updates. Parents/Guardians are asked to check these over to make sure the information is **updated and correct, especially email and cell phone numbers** as school ALERT messages are sent via these methods, and then return them to the school by **Thursday, September 24th**. These are necessary to keep your child's information up to date. **Any changes which occur throughout the year should be reported to the office for our records.**

Student fees are no longer being collected at AEC ☺.

We're all in this together...

A few reminders related to new routines as a result of COVID 19.

- Don't forget your **child's mask** when they board the bus.
- Private vehicles **are not permitted** in the bus loop
- Parents/Guardians and students **are not permitted** to walk in the bus loop
- Parent Pick Up location** is in the parking lot at the basketball nets. Parents/Guardians, please come out of your car and pick up your child(ren) at the basketball nets. We do not want students walking through the parking lot.
- Be sure to **label belongings**. We want to avoid the Lost and Found!
- Don't forget to send a **water bottle**; fountains are closed but filling stations are available
- The **Cafeteria** opens September 14th. Be sure all orders are in a sealed bag with the money and a note indicating your child's name and the order.

Follow us on


Mark Your Calendar:

Our **Virtual Meet the Teacher** evening from 7:00-8:00 pm on Thursday, September 17th. Meet the Teacher provides an opportunity for parents and guardians to meet the staff and learn about the programs and community partnerships we offer at AEC. Please join us! A link will be provided for you to drop into a Google Meet.

The **Terry Fox Run/Walk** will be held during individual Phys Ed Classes during the week of September 20th. Students may choose to send in donations to the Terry Fox Foundation during that week.



Every Child Matters (Orange Shirt Day) is September 30th. Orange Shirt Day is an event, created in 2013, designed to educate people and promote awareness in Canada about the Indian residential school system and the impact it has had on Indigenous communities for over a century—an impact that continues today.

Recess Breaks and Lunch Routines

There will be three scheduled recess and lunch periods this year. Students will be eating in the classroom. Some students have life threatening food allergies. Peanuts and other nut products are not permitted at school, **including Nutella**. We are a Nut-Safe School. Cafeteria services will begin on Wednesday, September 14th. The menu will be posted on our school website. Milk cards are available for purchase. The cost of subsidized white milk is 0.40 cents/carton. Students will be going outside to play at recess breaks. Students require a spare set of clothes at school in case they get wet/muddy.

Drop off and Pick up

Drop Off: Parents may drop off students between 8:10 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. Please ring the front bell if you are dropping off after 8:40 am. Access to the school will be for essential visitors only, by appointment.

Pick Up: Students will be in the parking lot by the basketball nets for pick up at 2:25 p.m. Students will not be permitted to enter the parking lot area unless accompanied by a parent/guardian or approved adult. For the safety of our students, please come out of your car to pick up your child.

Medication

If your child requires medication at school, please contact the school office for an information package or check out the Medication Policy IV-B-2 on the SRSB website. Please do not send unmarked medication to school with your child.

All medication to be administered at school must be documented in our office.

You can access the updated COVID-19 Daily Checklist at <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/docs/Daily-COVID-checklist-en.pdf>.
<https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/docs/Daily-COVID-checklist-en.pdf>

SRCE Stay Informed Notification System (Bus Route and Class Announcements by Email and/or Text)

Please be advised that effective immediately subscribers to the SRCE Stay Informed Notification System (Bus Route and Class Announcements) must now re-subscribe annually to continue to receive notifications by email and/or text.

Subscribers to the SRCE Stay Informed Notification System are asked to please re-subscribe, if interested, to continue to receive bus route and/or class announcement notices by email and/or text.

To renew your subscription or to subscribe for the first time, please look for the SRCE Stay Informed graphic image (included above) on the SRCE website, www.srce.ca, and follow the steps outlined to subscribe or re-subscribe to this service; or click here to access the [SRCE Stay Informed By Email and/or Text](#) page directly.

Early Dismissal Plan

In the event school is **closed during the day parents must have an early dismissal plan in place**. School may be closed for power or water outage, plant failure, weather conditions, etc. Your child should know the plan and the school should know the plan if it means special arrangements. Students will be sent home on their regular buses if there is no plan in place. **Using the phone is not an option** for students due to the number of incoming calls to the school. **Phones are for emergency use only.**

Also note: ALERT Solutions communication works through our PowerSchool Program, and uses the telephone numbers, cell phone numbers, and email addresses parents provided the school at the beginning of the year. We will use the ALERT system to notify parents of all unexpected **mid-day school closures** by phone, text, and email.

Other messages of a less urgent nature will be sent by text and email.

In order for the system to work for parents, the phone numbers and email addresses in our PowerSchool system must be current. Please be sure to print clearly when completing updates so the correct information is entered in our system.

Bus Notes:

Due to new COVID 19 protocols in our school, we will not be issuing bus notes unless under an exceptional circumstance.

Safe Drop Off Zones – School Parking Lot:

Our transportation department has painted lines on our parent parking lot and bus drop off zones as reminders:

- Students are to exit the buses and cross the white line to the safety zone. Teachers will instruct students as part of their bus safety practices
- **Parents who are dropping off or picking up students by car are reminded not to pass other cars in front of our school. There are pylons placed in the drop off zone so vehicles remain in a single lane. There is no room for passing.** Those who park are asked to escort their children safely to the sidewalk. Safety of our students is our priority.
- **An additional safety feature this year - The crosswalk between Antigonish Education Centre and St. Andrew Junior School has been widened and clearly marked.**

If you have questions related to the above information, please do not hesitate to contact School Administration

Footwear/Phys Ed. Clothing Policies

AEC encourages safety and fitness for all our students. In keeping with this theme, we have instituted a “proper footwear policy”. All students should have indoor sneakers and outdoor sneakers - **no sandals, flip flops, high heels, or other unsafe footwear should be worn to school.**

Most Phys Ed classes will be held outside this year. **Students are asked to dress for the weather!**

Medic Alert’s No Child Without Program



The **No Child Without** program offers a free MedicAlert membership to students who attend our school and are between the ages of 4 up to their 14th birthday. If your child has a medical condition, allergy or is required to take medication on a regular basis a Medic Alert bracelet is required. MedicAlert is your child’s voice in an emergency.



MedicAlert membership:

- Gives emergency first responders immediate access to a child’s medical information on their MedicAlert bracelet or necklet

- Enables first responders to quickly obtain up to date medical information by means of the child’s Electronic Health Record through the **24 Hour Emergency Hotline.**



- Communicates with the parent or emergency contact upon activation of the **Hotline**
- Allows free updates of the child’s medical record as needed

Medic Alert identification can alert school staff, friends, coaches and others about your child’s medical condition should an emergency occur. For further information come to the office for a brochure or go to www.nochildwithout.ca. To register your child, you will need a **No Child Without** brochure from the office. If your child is already part of the **No Child Without** program and there have been changes to their medical condition, medications or emergency contact information, call MedicAlert at 1-866-679-3220 Ext 1 to update your child’s file.

News from the African Student Support Worker (SSW)

“Making a difference today, so that there is hope for the future”

Greetings to parents, guardians and students! The summer has quickly passed. I want to take this opportunity to welcome all students back for another great year of education. I am looking forward to sharing and working with each student for another year and meeting many parents/guardians throughout the year at the school or out in the community, for example at the up-coming “Meet the Teacher”. **Together we can make a difference.**

*For more information regarding **The African Nova Scotian Student Support Worker (SSW) Program** – Please do not hesitate to contact **Mr. J. Mansfield, SSW** or the **Principal/Vice Principal at your child’s school of the Strait Regional Centre for Education.***

Crosswalk Safety

A reminder from the crosswalk guards to all students who bring their bikes to school – you are to walk your bike across the crosswalk.

Students with Severe Allergies

The Strait Regional Centre for Education is making every effort to support students and staff with severe allergies through staff training, various accommodations and information-sharing within our school communities.

As we begin a new school year, we are asking for your continued cooperation to keep our school community safe for all students and staff.

A number of students and staff are very sensitive to scented products such as perfume, colognes and hair products. Please support our scents sensitive building by avoiding scented products. Throughout our schools, a number of students and staff have severe and life-threatening allergies to food and scents. At our school, there are allergies to nuts, dairy, mango, strawberries, shellfish and eggs. We are asking that you do not send nut products to school.

Avoiding the allergen is key in preventing an allergic reaction.

Therefore, the best way to provide a safe environment is to enlist the support of our students, staff and parents/guardians to make sure we avoid sending allergens to school. There are a number of measures that you and your child/children can take to ensure the safety of all members of our school community:

- Encourage your child to wash their hands with soap and water before eating and wash their hands and rinse their mouth after eating (including breakfast and snacks);
- Read food labels and learn how to identify allergen ingredients. If you are unsure about a product, choose something else. For information on the many common names that identify allergen ingredients on food labels, refer to the Health Canada Fact Sheets at: http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/securit/allerg/fa-aa/index_e.html. In addition, please refer to the Anaphylaxis Canada website at www.anaphylaxis.ca;
- Teach your child not to share his/her food, drink or utensils with classmates;
- Encourage your child to help clean his/her eating area after meals and snacks;
- Allergies are serious! Never play tricks or dare friends with allergies to try foods; and
- Get help, if your friend with an allergy doesn't feel well.

We recognize that creating and maintaining an allergy aware school takes effort and diligence on everyone's part. Thank you for your cooperation and assistance as we work together to make Antigonish Education Centre a safe, healthy and welcoming learning environment for all students, staff and families.

School Insurance Program

Every eligible child attending public school in Nova Scotia is automatically insured by the School Insurance Program's Basic Plan (student accident coverage). This coverage is provided without deductible and at no cost. Basic Plan coverage can cover things such as physiotherapy, dental and medical equipment expenses, up to policy limits.



However, if parents/guardians wish to purchase additional coverage, the Gold Plan increases the time that your child is covered to 24/7 including summer vacations. Many of the specific loss accident payments are triple those of the Basic Plan.

Please visit www.sip.ca for policy & limit information and for more information on how to purchase the optional Gold Plan.

SchoolsPlus is a comprehensive and collaborative interagency approach to educating and providing service to the whole child and family with the school as the centre of service. The focus of SchoolsPlus is to support students and families by helping them in attaining timely and effective services which meet their identified needs.

We would like to welcome back all students to AEC. We hope you all had a great summer and are back feeling rested and ready to take on a new year! In particular, we would like to welcome any new students in grade Primary, as well as any students new to the area. We look forward to seeing you all at Meet the Teacher night!

Marguerite MacGillivray
SchoolsPlus Facilitator

Tara Hassin
SchoolsPlus Community Outreach Worker

Information Sharing Agreement with Department of Health and Wellness

Annually, students across Nova Scotia are offered services delivered by Public Health including the Grade 7 School Immunization Program, Pre-school Screening, Enhanced Vision Screening Program and the Fluoride Mouthrinse Program. Public Health works with the education system to distribute information about these programs and to obtain consent for student participation.

Occasionally, Public Health practitioners may need to contact parents/guardians of students where consent information is incomplete or unclear, or when a consent form has not been returned. Public Health will not contact you if you have signed a consent form indicating you do not wish to have your child participate in one of these programs. The Strait Regional Centre for Education will share limited information, such as names of parents/guardians and students, with Public Health for the purposes of operating these public health services for students.

Please contact your local public health office if you have any questions about these public health programs. If you have any questions about how your information is shared, please feel free to contact the school or our Regional Centre's Information Access and Privacy Manager at 902-625-2191.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<h1>September 2020</h1>						
		1 <i>Staff Orientation Day7</i>	2 <i>In-service Day No classes</i>	3	4	5
6	7 Labour Day	8 Day A <i>First Day of Classes</i> 	9 Day B	10 Day C <i>Stand Up Against Bullying Day – Wear Pink</i>	11 Day D	12
13	14 Day E Cafeteria Services begin	15 Day F	16 Day A	17 Day B <i>Virtual Meet the Teacher 7:00-8:00 pm</i>	18 Day C	19
20 <i>Terry Fox Walk/Run this week in Phys Ed Classes</i>	21 Day D	22 Day E	23 Day F	24 Day A	25 <i>In-Service Day No Classes</i>	26 
27	28 Day B	29 Day C	30 Day D <i>Every Child Matters Orange Shirt Day</i>		Friday, October 23rd is NSTU Teacher Conference day. No classes for students.	