



SAERC News Letter

September 2020

304 Pitt Street
Unit 1 Port Hawkesbury, NS
B9A 2T9

902-625-1929

Principal, Mr. R. Allen

Vice Principal, Mrs. S. MacLean

Guidance, Mrs. C. Matheson

Principal's Message

On behalf of all staff of SAERC, I would like to formally welcome everyone back to school following the most prolonged absence from school in really what amounts to generations. As we return to school this September, the staff of SAERC have been preparing classrooms and general space following the leadership and guidance of Nova Scotia Public Health. Students will immediately notice these changes as we transition to fully attending SAERC 100%. Even with these changes, the staff at SAERC are glad to be back, and working with students. We hope our students feel as energized as we do!

For a more comprehensive understanding of what SAERC will look like, please refer to SAERC's most recent publication of "This Week at SAERC" which contains a description. This file, along with all school documents can be read on the official SAERC website: <http://saerc.srce.ca/>. I would also like to

ask parents/guardians to become familiar with Nova Scotia's Public Health Daily Checklist. We ask that you practice this checklist daily for the health of you own family, and the entire SAERC community.

Details can be found in-line:

<https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/docs/Daily-COVID-checklist-en.pdf>

With the limitations from Nova Scotia Public Health we cannot allow parents into the building to drop off student materials or attend meetings. SAERC ADMIN would encourage all of SAERC's community to take the time and either call us during work hours at: 902-625-1929, or email myself at rob.allen@srce.ca.

With the return to school now in motion, SAERC Saints must wait for the next NSSAF update on what reopening means to school sports. We are excited to offer the opportunity for SAERC to host a boy's hardball team this fall and will be accepting applications for a coaching staff. SAERC will also field our Golf, Volleyball, and Cross-country teams as September unfolds. Once we have an update from the NSSAF we will share any updates that puts our Saints back into action. Stay tuned!

With the return to classes at SAERC, we will hold Student council elections this September 23. Full details will be shared with all students shortly. I would encourage students to think about the importance and responsibility that these positions require. If there are any questions regarding these positions, please make an appointment at the main office with myself or Mrs. S. MacLean

During the homeroom time this week, parents will note that two letters (Demographic update, and Consent for Publication of Student Personal Information and Student Work) were sent home. Each of these letters are self-explanatory and need to be returned as soon as possible.

We will need as accurate information on phone numbers, as well as emails for SAERC's school-based communication system: Swiftreach. Please take time to check that we have accurate information on-hand.

As we move forward this year, I would like to invite all parents, guardians and students to join our many systems of communication. SAERC will share

information regarding school activities, events, and dates using:

1. Strait-Up: located on SRCE website or, <http://sharepoint.srsb.ca/straitup/SitePages/SAERC.aspx>
2. Power School located at: <https://sisrsb.ednet.ns.ca/public/>
3. our own web page: <http://saerc.srce.ca/>
4. Twitter: @SAERC_Official
5. Facebook: SAERC Official.

We will be relying upon these platforms as we share information with you during this year.

Thank you,

Mr. R. Allen

SAERC Guidance

Hello and welcome to a new semester! I am so very excited to begin another year as SAERC's school counsellor. It goes without saying that these past few months have been challenging, and this is a very different start up than what we are used to. However, SAERC remains and will continue to be a supportive community for our students and staff. Please know that if any students are struggling, do not hesitate to reach out and we will do our best to provide the resources and supports they need, either within the building or by referral to outside agencies we work with in collaboration. New routines and ways of doing things will all take some time and getting used to, and like we have always done at SAERC, we will continue to show kindness and compassion to our new and returning students. I look forward to seeing everyone this month, especially the new grade 9's. I am proud to be a part of the SAERC community and will carry on the tradition of making our students feel welcome and help to provide a place where everyone feels a sense of belonging.

Carleen Matheson

SAERC School Counsellor

SAERC Breakfast Program

SAERC proudly offers a free breakfast program for all each day of the week. The program runs as both staff-lead initiative, as well as a free service with the Chartwell's cafeteria.

Students and staff are welcome, and encouraged to participate in this program.

Lunchroom Supervisors

SAERC is currently looking to fill two part time positions as lunchroom supervisors. These positions will offer two hours a day pay, Monday to Friday during the school year.

The Shift would start at 11:45 and end at 1:45, with an hourly rate of \$15.60

If you are interested, please contact Mr. Rob Allen. Or Mrs. Shelley MacLean at the main office: 902-625-1929.

Important Dates

- Sept. 9: Homeroom for all SAERC students to be issued a Chromebook.
- Sept. 10: Anti-Bullying Day – wear Pink!
- Sept. 10: Practice Fire Drill
- Sept. 17: Course Change Deadline
- Sept. 22: Terry Fox Walk (tentative date)
- Sept. 23: Student Council Elections
- Sept. 25 In-service (no classes)
- Sept. 30: Every Child Matters Day.

Bus Passes

Due to the Nova Scotia Public Health guidelines for schools, Bus Passes will no longer be issued to students unless there is SRCE Transportation's authorization.

SRCE Protection of Privacy

The Strait Regional Centre for Education believes strongly in the need to protect the privacy of all students and recognizes the issues around the publishing of student images and personal student identifying information, especially on the public Internet and social media sites. However, the Regional Centre also believes that the showcasing of students, their work, activities and achievements, is an important part of school life and can be a very positive experience for students. Therefore, it is the practice of the Strait Regional Centre for Education and all schools to have written informed consent from parents/guardians before any student identifying information, including name, grade, school, video/voice/audio recording, images (photos) of students and/or student work, is used in print, online and in social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.), and prior to any student media interviews.

In addition, as part of our efforts to celebrate the achievements of our students and to promote the school's various educational, sports and cultural events, media partners are invited to the school from time to time throughout the year to cover these activities so that our good news and success stories can be shared with our school communities. As such, there is a strong possibility that your child(ren) may be identified either by name, grade, school, video/voice/audio recording, images (photos) and/or student work, in print, online and in social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.).

There are other times when one of our media partners may contact the school to profile a specific student, program or event that may involve a student(s) being interviewed, photographed, video recorded and/or audio recorded.

Students participating in extra-curricular activities or events where the public is invited (e.g., field trips, school concerts, sporting/team events, school fairs, etc.) may be photographed and/or reported on by the media or the general public. If photography or video recording occurs at these types of events, it is not possible for the school or Regional Centre to control the use of such recordings and therefore privacy cannot be expected at these events. It is important that when taking pictures or recordings, individuals are respectful of the privacy rights of anyone

captured in their recording and that they not share them in any way without the consent of the individual or parent/guardian.

Please complete the *Consent for Publication of Student Personal Information and Student Work* to indicate if you do or do not consent to your child being identified in the manner described above.

All media requests, and associated contact with students, are carefully considered before being approved. We do our best to ensure that the personal privacy of students is protected and respected.

If you have any questions related to the above information, please do not hesitate to contact SAERC administration.

Important Medical Information Updates

Parents and guardians are asked to contact the school if your child has a medical condition or allergy, which we should be made aware of. This will allow us to take a proactive measure to ensure that your child is safe. Please note that no prescription or non-prescription medicine (i.e., Tylenol) will be warehoused or distributed. Please refer to SRSB policy IV-B-4 for further clarification.

Medical Conditions

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

As we begin a new school year, we are asking for your ongoing cooperation to foster a safe and healthy learning environment for all students and staff.

Throughout schools in the Strait Region, there are a number of students and staff who have severe and life-threatening allergies to food and scents. At our school, there are allergies to nuts and nut products, shellfish, kiwis and scent sensitivities. Therefore, we are asking that you avoid sending these products to school and avoid using scented products including perfumed laundry detergent, fabric softener, deodorant, perfumes/aftershave, to name a few.

Avoiding the allergen is key to 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. 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:

- Wash hands with soap and water before eating, and wash hands and rinse 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: <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/food-nutrition/food-safety/food-allergies-intolerances/food-allergies.html> In addition, please refer to the Food Allergy Canada (formerly Anaphylaxis Canada) website at <http://foodallergycanada.ca/>;
- Teach your child not to share food, drink or utensils with classmates;
- Encourage your child to help clean their eating area after meals and snacks;
- Allergies are serious! Never play tricks or dare friends with allergies to try foods;
- Avoid products that have a scent/odour. For more information and resources, please visit the Canadians for a Safe Learning Environment website at <http://www.casle.ca>; and
- Get help, if your friend with an allergy or scent sensitivity doesn't feel well.

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

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact SAERC school administration.

Information sharing agreement with Department of Health and Wellness
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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 takes its responsibility for the protection of personal student and family information seriously and 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.

All Regional Centres for Education in Nova Scotia share certain personal information about students and parents/guardians with the Department of Health and Wellness, for the purposes of operating these programs. This information sharing is required by the Public Health Protection Act and is permitted by the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIPOP) Act and an Information Sharing Agreement signed by the Regional Centre.

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 your respective school or our Regional Centre's Information Access and Privacy Manager at 902-625-2191.

Head Lice Awareness

As we begin another school year, I would like to share some information with you in regards to the treatment and prevention of head lice that our school will be following.

Head lice are tiny insects and parasites of the human

body, which are most often attached to clean hair. They lay eggs called nits, which stick to the hair shaft, very close to the scalp. Head lice spread most easily through direct head-to-head contact or through articles used on the head or in the hair, such as hats, combs, brushes, ponytail holders, etc. Head lice occur mostly in children.

Based on Public Health Services information, the following sequence of treatment is recommended to break the head lice cycle: Please note that two treatments are required in order to completely break the head lice cycle:

- Two (2) head lice treatments spread apart with a period of 7-10 days between treatments or as directed by the product.
- First treatment - kills live head lice.
- Some lice may hatch but they are adolescent nits that cannot lay eggs.
- Combing and nit removal is required on a daily basis.
- Second treatment - kills the adolescent nits and breaks the head lice cycle.

Please note the following guidelines that will be helpful in preventing the spread of head lice:

☑ Notify the school administration if your child has head lice and keep school administration informed about head lice issues as they arise;

- Check your child's head regularly.
 - Once a week as part of your routine.
 - After every sleepover.
 - Every day during lice outbreaks at school.
- Keep long hair tied back or braided.
- Teach your child not to share personal items that are used on their head. This means things like brushes, combs, barrettes, headbands, elastics, towels, hats, helmets, toques, and scarves.
- Teach your child to put their hats and scarves in their coat sleeves or backpacks when they take them off at school.

When there is a suspected case of head lice, the Principal will notify the parent(s)/guardian(s). The student who is suspected of having live head lice will be sent home for treatment. The student may return to school after the first treatment in accordance with Public Health recommendations. A notice will be sent home to all parents/guardians of students in

the affected class when there is a confirmed case of head lice. In some cases, a reminder notice will be sent home school wide.

Our school and the Strait Regional School Board is committed to following the recommendations of health care professionals and supporting school communities in the treatment and prevention of head lice. Our focus is on the treatment and prevention of head lice in an effort to support student attendance and full participation at school, in accordance with healthcare standards.

For more information, please find enclosed a copy the Strait Regional School Board

If at any time you require further support on this matter, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

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.