



Highbury Education Centre
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Principal – Mike Mason
"An experiential approach to learning"

SEPTEMBER 2016 NEWSLETTER

Our Mission Statement:
To provide a high school educational opportunity for students, who for a variety of reasons, are unable to achieve success in the traditional school environment and who have difficulty coping with the conventional structures, instructional methods, and curriculum delivery methods of the traditional school setting.

Dear Students, Parents, Guardians:

Welcome Back!

I'd like to take an opportunity to welcome everyone back to a new school year here at Highbury Education Centre. Our staff have been busy planning and we are looking forward to a great year full of learning, new experiences and personal development. Highbury Education Centre is a very special place, one where students who have not typically been successful in the school system can experience an experiential approach to education and achieve both academic and personal goals.

Please take some time to look through this newsletter as well as the information package that was sent home earlier in the week. There is very important information contained in these documents that may help in your student's transition to our experiential school. Also, please take the time to complete the registration form as it provides the school with accurate information in case we need to contact you. The ancestry section of the registration form is also very important as it provides you the opportunity to self-identify.

I'd also like to draw your attention to the home high school closures section of our newsletter. On several occasions throughout the year, Highbury will have different early dismissals than home high schools. When this happens, students will be picked up and dropped off at their home high schools. Parents/guardians must make arrangements to drop off students in the morning

and pick students up in the afternoon at their home high schools.

I look forward to working with students and families this school year. Should you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me at any time via e-mail Michael.mason@avrsb.ca or via phone (902) 681-4930.

Mike Mason
Principal, HEC

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Sept 27	NS Sea School – Sail Tour; Lunenburg, NS
Sept 30	Regional Inservice – No School
Oct 6 & 7	School Photos
Oct 7	HEC Family Holiday Dinner

SERIOUS ALLERGY ALERTS!!

We have individuals in our school this semester with the following serious allergies:

- **PEANUTS, PEANUT PRODUCTS**
- **FISH/SEAFOOD**
- **ONIONS**
- **LAYTEX**
- **KIWI**
- **SCENTED PRODUCTS (ie: perfume, cologne, aftershave, scented hair spray, scented deodorants, etc)**

Please do NOT bring these items to school as they could cause a fatal allergy attack!!

TRANSPORTATION NOTE: HOME SCHOOL CLOSURES



Please note the following home high school closures which will affect transportation arrangements for some HEC students. **HEC students are expected to attend school, even if their home high school is having a shutdown day or early dismissal.** Guardians will be responsible to get their teen to/from the taxi pick up location (CK, NKEC or Horton) on these dates:

CK: Sept 16 - no pm buses
NKEC: Sept 21 – no pm buses

HEC DISCIPLINE POLICY 2016-17

We would ask that parents/guardians review the school policies and procedures as outlined in the School Handbook.

You should also review the “Discipline Levels” which could lead up to dismissal from the school if a student is unable to follow the school rules and/or is unwilling to make positive changes while with us. We will be communicating regularly with the home to ensure that parents/guardians are kept informed on their teen’s progress in this regard.

A summary of School and Board behaviour categories, and the School Discipline Levels was sent home on the first day of school in our school handbook, and are clearly posted in both classrooms and the student common room at school. They can also be found online at our school website (click “handbook” then scroll to “code of conduct” section).

It is also important to note, as was discussed at student/parent/guardian interviews, for acceptance into this program that students **MUST** participate in ALL aspects of the school. This includes regular academics, adventure activities, the experiential education component, and the work experience component. All activities are an integral part of the experiential school

setting, and vital to your teen’s personal and academic growth and success.

We are looking forward to a positive year with students working to achieve their full potential.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE

Consistent student attendance is important. When a child is frequently absent from school he/she will miss important learning experiences including specific skills and knowledge that may be necessary for further learning. The real danger of frequent absences from school is that students will develop gaps in their learning that will hinder future learning.



Please contact the school if you are encountering difficulties getting your child to attend school. Allow us to work with you to find solutions. We are willing to sit with you to look at your child’s programming and school experiences as well as any other factors that may impact on your child attending school.



Our school runs an organized breakfast & lunch program on a daily basis.

Cash donations can also be made – please send a cheque payable to “Highbury Education Centre” (a receipt will be issued for monetary donations).

If you are able to contribute, please send items (and a cheque) in with your teen. Your donations are greatly appreciated! This program would not be possible without your support.

STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE

Attached are the Student Accident Insurance Brochures for the 2016-17 school year. Every student is covered under the Basic Plan; however parents and guardians have an opportunity to purchase additional insurance. Note there is a deadline of **NOVEMBER 27th, 2016**. All forms must be returned by this date. See the enclosed brochure for further information.

ABSENT FROM SCHOOL???



Guardians and students are asked to call the school if you are planning to be absent for the day: **681-4930**. You **MUST** also **call your taxi!**

If no phone call is made to the school it will be reported as an inexcusable absence.

STUDENT FEE

If you have not yet paid your teen's student fee please do so. The student fee is \$25, and covers the cost of student ID cards, group composite school photo, agenda books, water bottles, and student printer paper. A receipt will be sent home with your teen when they have paid their fee.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Any parents/guardians wishing to get involved in the school in the capacity of volunteer should please contact Deanna at 681-4930 to put their name on a "HEC volunteer list". Those interested should note that there are two forms which must be filled out before you are able to volunteer...a Criminal Record Check and a Child Abuse Registry Check...these are required by the School Board in order to help to ensure the safety of students...any volunteer, be it parent/guardian or community person, who may be in contact with your teen, is required to do this.

TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION

Students / guardians MUST contact the taxi company if they will not be using the taxi on a given day.

→ **M & G Taxi: 691-2500**



Please call at least a half hour before your scheduled taxi pick-up time. This is out of common courtesy to both the driver/taxi company and to the other students in the taxi.

Students/families that are repeatedly not able to comply with this requirement risk the chance of having their taxi pick-up taken away and will then be responsible for making their own transportation arrangements to HEC.

Remind is a communication tool that helps teachers and staff connect instantly with students and parents. You will receive quick, simple messages/emails to your device.

We will be using Remind as one of our communication methods to deliver information to guardians and students

Please make sure you update your cell phone number and email address on the 2016-17 registration form being sent home with this newsletter.

**SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING @ HEC??
CHECK US OUT!!!**

hec.ednet.ns.ca

