

# Dutch Settlement Elementary

902-883-3000  
<https://dts.hrce.ca/>

## A message from Mrs. Richard

Thank you so much for the warm welcome to Dutch Settlement Elementary!

We have had a wonderful start to the 2023-2024 school year. Our staff have worked hard to establish warm and inviting classrooms for the students. As a school, we are focused on building relationships with students to support an inclusive learning environment for each student based on his or her strengths, experiences, interests and backgrounds. We look forward to working with families to learn more about individual students so we can best support their learning.



I am looking forward to meeting the families of Dutch Settlement Elementary as we work together for a positive 2023-2024 school year!

### Important Dates:

- Milk Orders Due - September 22nd
- National Truth & Reconciliation Day - September 30th (Observed on Monday, October 2nd - no school for students and staff)

### Important Reminders:

- We are a nut free school. Please do not send nut products into the building.
- Doors open at 7:40 when buses start arriving. There is no supervision prior to this time.
- The weather shifts quite frequently each day. Layering is a great idea so children can add/remove a sweatshirt when needed.

## **Emergency Drills**

Each new school year we are required to perform a variety of drills to help our students and staff practice being safe while at school. One of the first drills we practice is exiting the building in case of a fire. Within the first couple of days of school, staff talk with students in their classrooms about what this looks like and how we know when we need to exit the building. We had our first full school fire drill this week! Students did a wonderful job of exiting the building in an organized, timely manner.

Another way we practice being safe at school is by practicing drills called Lockdowns and Hold and Secures. These are drills that are used to practice what we would do in the event that we need to keep students and staff safe in the building. Further communication will be sent home regarding these drills in the near future.

The final practice we have at school that takes place during the month of September is bus evacuations. Our transportation team sends buses to the school and bus drivers talk with students about how to exit the bus safely in a variety of settings.

## **Head Lice**

Please ensure that you are checking your child's head frequently for lice. If you find any live lice, or nits, students can return to schools once they have been treated. Please review with your child the importance of keeping hats in backpacks or tucked in the sleeve of a jacket.

## **Communicating Student Learning**

Each classroom teacher will be sharing information with families about the grade level curriculum, ways that teachers communicate with families and different ways they assess student learning.

The school will also share a Communicating Student Learning Policy. This will be posted on the school website.

These documents will be shared with families by the end of September.

## **Breakfast Program**

Eating breakfast is a very important part of having a positive start to the school day. Breakfast items are available every morning as students enter their building and are available for ALL students.

## **Safe Arrival**

If your child is going to be late or absent, please remember to call the toll free attendance line at 1-833-582-6940. This will allow you to mark your child absent for the day. Should the student arrive late this will be changed at school when they arrive.

## School Closures

There are times throughout the year that HRCE may need to make a decision to close schools for a variety of reasons.

**Dutch Settlement is part of the Musquodoboit Rural High family of schools.**

### How will I find out?

- Check the HRCE website at [www.hrce.ca](http://www.hrce.ca)
- Follow HRCE on Twitter at [Twitter.com/HRCE\\_NS](https://twitter.com/HRCE_NS)
- Call the HRCE information line at 902-464-INFO (4636)
- Listen to your radio (All local radio stations are informed)
- Sign up to receive e-mail or text message notification of cancellations ([link](#))

As weather changes it is important to monitor the HRCE website for closures, early dismissal and delayed openings.