



October, 2024
Volume 4



Principal's Message

Hello and welcome to the 2024-2025 school year. We have been busy getting started and have lots of great things to report. First, I would like to welcome back our vice principals and our amazing team of teachers and support staff, cafeteria staff, care takers as well as new and returning students. I also want to welcome all our new staff.

This year Auburn is hosting 29 international students who are here from all over the world. We are so proud of our school and community and look forward to sharing our culture and overall high school experience.

Many of our sports teams and groups are underway and I encourage students to get involved in any way they can. There are many groups and clubs to join that will suit all interests. Part of a positive high school experience comes from participating in school activities, getting to know your peers and making great memories!

Since the beginning of September, there have been many things happening at Auburn Drive High School; welcome week, curriculum night, spirit week, fire/lock down drills, home openers, games, Tea for Terry, Anti-bullying day, fundraisers, school trips and school photos to name a few. We have had guest speakers and post-secondary visitors with more to come. Make sure to check the board inside the student services office, google classroom, Instagram @auburnstudentservices regularly for up-to-date information on open houses, visits, scholarships and bursaries, job opportunities, summer programs and more.

(Cont. on the next page)



October

- 11-PD Day– No Classes
- 14-Thanksgiving– No Classes
- 25—NSTU Conference -No Classes

November

- 7-8– School Clothing Sale
- 11-Remembrance Day- No Classes

December

- 5-PD am -Progress Conferences 1:30-3:30 & 6:30-8:30
- 6-17—Grad Photos
- 20—Last Day Before Holiday Break

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Principal's Message (cont.)

October is Mi'kmaw History month. As a school, we continue to recognize Truth & Reconciliation and we honour the rich culture and heritage of the Mi'kmaq people.

This year, the province of Nova Scotia and HRCE have rolled out a new cell phone policy, I recommend reading it and having a conversation with your student about how important it is to abide by these guidelines. I strongly encourage you to continue to review PowerSchool for your child's progress and attendance. I also encourage you to stay involved in the educational development of your child so we can work together to make every student a success!

In the days ahead there are some important dates to remember. Picture retakes will be on October 30. All students who missed getting their school picture taken in September, as well as those who would like to try for a different picture are welcome to come. In November, will have our annual Remembrance Day Assembly and Progress Conferences (formerly parent/teacher conferences) will take place on Thursday, December 5. A messenger will be sent out via email with a link to book your time. Appointments will be available in both the afternoon and the evening.

Our Breakfast Program is up and running again this year. We have various hot and cold items available for students and staff.

Once again this year, Auburn Drive High School, in partnership with our SAC, will focus our efforts on raising funds for new bleachers for our gymnasium; our old ones are outdated and need replacing. The SAC is currently selling tickets on 2 NHL jerseys, one signed by Sydney Crosby and the other signed by Nathan MacKinnon. I thank you ahead of time for your participation in our fundraisers. New bleachers are important to our school and our community, however they are very expensive, so any support is greatly appreciated.

Please remember Auburn Drive High remains a Scent Free School. We also are a strawberry and kiwi free school. Please be mindful when sending food with students.

I wish you a healthy and successful school year and look forward to the days ahead.

Karen Hudson

Principal



WELCOME NEW STAFF!

TEACHER PETER FARRELL	TEACHER CYNTHIA THIBOEAU
TEACHER MITCHELL FIRTH	TEACHER KRISTI WINTERTON
TEACHER BEN GALLUP	TEACHER AMY WITHINGTON
TEACHER MARK GILLIE	EPA TAMMY JAKEMAN
TEACHER LESLIE STEWART	

MEET OUR SUPPORT STAFF!

VP A-L ANDREW MCDUGALL	AFRICAN NS STUDENT SUPPORT IRA FRASER
VP M-Z CHRIS MACLELLAN	INDIGENOUS NS STUDENT SUPPORT RACHEL MERRICK
GUIDANCE A-L LINDSAY MUNROE	SOCIAL WORKER MARSHA HUDSON-ASH
GUIDANCE M-Z JANET ROSE	YHC JANE YEO
LANGUAGE SPECIALIST JACK WARD	

The Auburn Africentric Cohort has been fundraising to help raise money for their trip to Toronto. Thank you to all of those who have supported and continue to support these students.



ATTENDANCE REPORTING

A reminder to families that the preferred method for reporting attendance at Auburn is in writing. Please send your absence report by email to msaunders@hrce.ca or your student can bring in a note when they return from their absence. Please include student first name, last name and grade.

allergy alert

Due to severe and life threatening allergies, we ask staff and students to please avoid bringing the following allergens to school:

- Peanuts**
- Strawberries**
- Kiwi**

We are a Scent Aware and Nut Aware Facility!



Mi'kmaq History Month is a time to celebrate and recognize the rich culture, history, and contributions of the Mi'kmaq people. This month-long observance, held every October, highlights the significance of Mi'kmaq traditions, languages, and stories that have shaped the heritage of Nova Scotia and beyond.

Schools and communities engage in activities that promote understanding and appreciation of Mi'kmaq history, including educational workshops, storytelling sessions, and cultural events.

By honoring the past and embracing the present, we can foster a greater respect for the Mi'kmaq community and their enduring legacy.



Mi'kmaq/Indigenous Student Support Worker Program

Auburn Drive High School is pleased to offer a Mi'kmaq/Indigenous Student Support Worker Program for students identified as having Indigenous ancestry - This refers to First Nation, Inuit or Metis (you do not have to have a status card to be part of the program).

The Halifax Regional Centre of Education (HRCE) developed the program to help Indigenous students achieve a more positive school experience and have greater success throughout their schooling.

Rachel Merrick (Rachel.Merrick@hrce.ca) is available Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Please reach out if you have any questions.

BREAKFAST PROGRAM

Our school breakfast program is up and running. In addition to fruit and items like granola bars, Auburn has a healthy hot breakfast option available for students daily.

After a successful debut last year Upward Kitchens has returned for the 2024-25 school year to provide tasty items such as : egg and cheese breakfast sandwiches, breakfast burritos, yogurt parfaits and more. Students can stop by on their way to class to grab a healthy option from the warming cupboard.

The program has been a great success so far with many of our students participating!



“Did you know students who have a healthy breakfast will be better learners?” *(Nova Scotia Health Promotion and Protection, 2007).*



Connect with us!

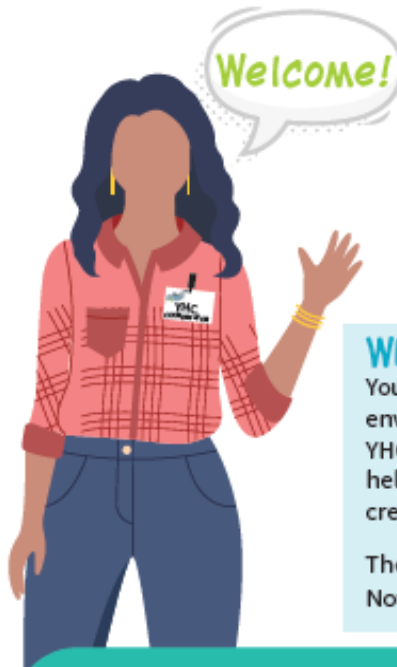
SchoolsPlus is a confidential, free service available in every school in Nova Scotia. Our goal is to build positive relationships between families, schools, and communities. We can help families navigate complicated situations when they are involved with many different services.

Phone: 902-464-2041
Email: schoolsplus@hrce.ca
Twitter: @HRCESchoolsPlus



Schools Plus
Écoles Plus
NOVA SCOTIA / NOUVELLE-ÉCOSSE

Auburn’s Schools Plus has been busy this past month getting ready for the year ahead! Erin Cotie our Schools Plus Outreach staff member has been working hard meeting new students, getting new referrals and attending meetings and training sessions. She is the recipient of a grant from the Nourish Youth Food Fund and due to this we will have lunch hour programming coming up. Coming soon are information sessions for students where they will have the opportunity to expand their knowledge, and also connect to different community resources and supports. Snacks will be provided during these sessions. Students should listen to the announcements for dates and times.



YOUTH HEALTH CENTRE

What is the Youth Health Centre?

Your Youth Health Centre (YHC) provides a safe, welcoming and supportive environment to help you make decisions about your health and well-being. The YHC Coordinator supports your health needs through confidential conversations, helps navigate you to health resources in the community if needed, and helps to create opportunities for health and well-being in the school.

The YHC is a partnership between the Halifax Regional Centre for Education and Nova Scotia Health, and is operated by Public Health.

You can come to the YHC to get private confidential information or support on topics like:

- Emotional support
- Feeling confused or stressed
- Learning how to cope
- Relationships issues
- Problems at home
- Birth control education
- Safer sex information
- Sexuality/gender questions
- Dating violence
- Help to change a relationship with a substance (alcohol, cannabis, nicotine, other drugs etc).
- Healthy eating/nutrition
- Condoms, pregnancy tests and other sexual health products are available through the YHC.

Students can drop in on their own at a time that works for them or schedule a time - you don't need a referral or anyone else to direct you. You also don't need to tell anyone why you are going - teachers and staff will support you.

The YHC is not a place to come if you are physically sick or injured. We do not treat, diagnose, or administer medication or provide first aid.

Why would I go to the YHC?

All services provided by the Youth Health Centre are confidential, with some exceptions. The YHC staff will not share any information following your visit without your permission. We are happy to explain how we protect your health privacy.

What can I expect when I go there?

What else does the YHC do?

The YHC also offers youth-led health programs, groups and clubs. These help you get involved in school life, and creates leadership opportunities if you want to learn some new skills. The programs at the YHC are driven by you, and decisions are made through your input. This is a great opportunity to get involved!

Your Youth Health Centre Coordinator is a trained health professional dedicated to YOUR health and well-being. You can expect someone who:

- Offers confidential services
- Is non-judgmental
- Values your knowledge
- Welcomes your input
- Respects your opinion
- Addresses your health concerns and helps you connect with the right services
- Is an advocate

If your health needs can't be met through the YHC, your Youth Health Centre Coordinator can help connect you to services and programs in the community.

Provincial Directive on Cell Phone Use in NS Schools

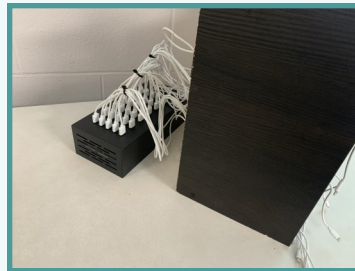
All public schools in Nova Scotia will ensure that access to personal cell phones during the school day adheres to the following expectations:

No Phone Zone



Ready to learn
Disconnect to reconnect

- Every student will have their personal cell phones turned off and stored during instructional time.
- Cell phones are not permitted in washrooms and/or change rooms at any time.
- Restricted access to social media sites on wifi networks will continue.
- In accordance with section 39(2)(e) of the Education Act, principals can direct a student to surrender their phone if not complying with expectations and will follow the Provincial School Code of Conduct Policy when addressing non-compliance.



Built with tools learned about and used in the Design 11 course, Mr. Coombs has made a unique cell phone holder for his classroom (above).



Student Council Halloween Events

The Auburn Student Council is organizing several Halloween week events to be held at the school, between October 28 and 31. Watch our school announcements via our website (abn.hrce.ca) for details!

Tue, Oct 29: Haunted House (geared towards younger siblings and children in our community)

Wed, Oct 30: Sensory-Reduced Trick-or-Treating (also for children)

Wed, Oct 30, 6:30pm—9pm: Humans vs. Zombies (for teenagers)



DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

Our school has an active Duke of Edinburgh Award program. We have students in all grades working on their Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards. These students will earn a personal development credit which will appear on their transcript. We are now busy preparing for our Adventurous Journeys (camping trips) this spring.

AUBURN ATHLETICS 2024-25

The Auburn High School Eagles Athletic season is in full swing.

The football team has had many successes and a few setbacks as we attempt to once again win a Provincial Banner.

Our boy's Baseball team is on their way this weekend to the High School Provincial Championships in Cape Breton. They had a very successful season and lost a close game to CPA in the Capital Region final.

Our High School soccer seasons are winding down, and our Boy's team is currently in Regional Playoffs where they too are hoping to earn a spot in this year's provincial championships.

The 3 school volleyball teams are currently playing in the regular season, and Cross Country Regionals and Provincials have all been decided.

The home openers for both the Girl's & Boy's hockey teams are this week and we hoping for great successes on the Ice this season.

We had open tryouts for our Girl's & Boy's Basketball this week and between the 2 programs we had almost 100 Athletes vying for spots on our teams!

From Student Services

Follow us on Instagram, @auburnstudentservices and check on the board in Student Services regularly for updates on available scholarships and bursaries

The Learning Centre began their daily coffee cart for staff on October 1. Coffee, Tea, Hot Chocolate and Muffins will be available for purchase at the cost of \$1.50 per beverage and \$0.50 for a muffin.



Attendance Policy

- As per policy if a student has missed 20% of the course (18.2 classes) throughout a semester they may be eligible to lose the credit for that course and will not be eligible for credit recovery.
- If a student has missed 20% of class time (15min) they are to be marked absent.
 - 15min late for class will be entered into PowerSchool as an absent.
 - If a student leaves 15min before the class has ended, they have missed 20% of the class time and should be marked absent.
 - Professional judgment may be needed to adjust for various school activities or specific situations.
 - If a student has been late for class five times an absence will be added to their total.