

NEWSLETTER



North Nova Education Centre

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2023

343 Park Street, New Glasgow, NS B2H 6B2
 Phone: 902-755-8180 Facebook: www.facebook.com/nneccgryphons/

Principal: Lia Lewis Vice Principals: Mark Arbuckle,
 Mat Gauthier & Emily MacDougall



The Creation of Mi'kmaq History Month

In 1993, Premier John Savage and Mi'kmaq Grand Chief Ben Sylliboy declared October as the official month to recognize and celebrate Mi'kmaq culture and heritage. Mi'kmaq History Month is celebrating its 30-year anniversary in 2023.

Each October, community activities, events, sharing and showcasing the Mi'kmaq history takes place across Nova Scotia. Everyone is encouraged and welcome to participate in Mi'kmaq History Month events.

Treaty of 1752

When the English arrived in Mi'kma'ki (the Mi'kmaq homeland that includes present-day Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, central and eastern New Brunswick, the Gaspe Peninsula and Newfoundland) the Mi'kmaq and the Crown signed treaties of peace and friendship so they could live in harmony and peace.

The 1752 Treaty showed the Crown's intentions to make peace, provide trading posts, and protect the land and way of life for the Mi'kmaq people. The Treaty also designated October 1st as the date on which the Mi'kmaq people would receive gifts from the Crown to "renew their friendship and submissions."

September 30th, National Day for Truth and Reconciliation acknowledges the legacy of residential schools and the role it holds in the reconciliation process.



Treaty Day, (October 1st) marks the beginning of **Mi'kmaq History Month** in Nova Scotia as proclaimed in 1993 by then Premier John Savage and Mi'kmaq Grand Chief Ben Sylliboy.

Its purpose is to promote public awareness about the Mi'kmaq culture and heritage for all citizens of Nova Scotia. A poster is produced and numerous events are organized throughout the month in recognition of Mi'kmaq History Month. Check out our facebook page as we celebrate Mi'kmaq Heritage and Culture.



Calendar of Events

October is Mi'kmaq History Month & Women's History Month

Oct. 16-20	Rocktoberfest - Activity Schedule Coming Soon
Oct. 27	NO SCHOOL - Provincial Conference Day
Nov. 1	Take Our Kids to Work Day
Nov. 3	NNEC Music Trivia Night 7 pm West Side Community Centre
Nov. 11	Remembrance Day
Nov. 13	NO SCHOOL - Observance of Remembrance Day
Nov. 14-16	Report Cards Distributed
Nov. 24	NO SCHOOL - Staff PD/ Parent-Teacher A Christmas Carol - 7 pm General Admission \$15 pp
Nov. 25	A Christmas Carol - 2 pm General Admission \$15 pp A Christmas Carol - 7 pm General Admission \$15 pp
Dec. 6	National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women
Dec. 10	NNEC Music Holiday Concert
Dec. 21	First Day of Holiday Break
Jan. 2	NO SCHOOL - Staff PD Day
Jan. 3	Students Return from Holiday Break



Provincial Student Attendance & Engagement Policy



Every student. Every day.

As you may be aware, all policy directives established in the Attendance and Engagement Policy by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Education Development have been reinstated. The purpose of the provincial Student Attendance and Engagement Policy recognizes that regular attendance at school supports greater student success and achievement. Regular attendance supports student learning and promotes a sense of responsibility that students will need as they transition from the school system to post-secondary studies and/or the workforce.

The policy will be applied in a fair and equitable way and is not intended to punish or marginalize students for circumstances beyond their control. Schools will work with the student and families to respond with the appropriate incentives and supports, and/or to develop accountability mechanisms that recognize the student's unique situation.

Responses to student absenteeism and chronic lateness will vary based on the age, grade, and development of the student, the professional judgment of teachers and principals, and the individual circumstances of the student. Responses include the following:

- Universal/prevention strategies will focus on promoting regular attendance for all students. This may include school-

based use of incentives, as appropriate.

- Increasing connections will be made when the reason for an absence is not communicated to the school by the parent/guardian or when the frequency of total absences or chronic lateness has reached 10 per cent of class time.
- Early intervention responses will be used when an issue with attendance has been identified and/or the frequency of total absences or chronic lateness is between 10 and 15 per cent of class time, or earlier if advised by the student's teacher.
- Targeted interventions will be provided for students facing greater attendance challenges, often when the frequency of total absences or chronic lateness has gone over 15 per cent of class time.
- Loss of credit for Grades 10 to 12: In order to earn a course credit in high school, students are expected to be present for at least 80 percent of class time. A teacher can recommend loss of credit when a student has missed 20 per cent of class time due to any absences, and strong efforts have been made to improve the student's attendance, but no improvement has been demonstrated by the student.

We look forward to working together to ensure students are attending and engaged in their classes. Please do not hesitate to contact the school with any questions and/or concerns.

Please use the following link to access the full policy:

www.ednet.ns.ca/docs/provincialstudentattendanceandengagementpolicy.pdf

Safe Arrival Phone App

Parents recently received a communication announcing NNEC will now be using the Safe Arrival App through School Messenger. Safe Arrival is a phone app that allows parents and guardians to notify the school in advance about an upcoming absence or rapidly respond to excuse an absence after the fact. In both situations, parents can send attendance alerts to schools for all of their children and provide a reason for each absence – all in one simple communication.

With **SafeArrival**, you are asked to report your child's absence in advance using any of these 3 convenient methods:

- Using your mobile device, download and install the **SchoolMessenger app** from the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store
- Use the SafeArrival website, go.schoolmessenger.ca.
- Call the toll-free number **[1-833-578-0533]** to report an absence using the automated phone system.

These options are available 24 hours/day, 7 days a week. Future absences can be reported at any time.

Additionally, the **NNEC Attendance Line** remains available. Call 902-755-8180 Option 1 and leave a message that includes the students name, reason for the absence and symptoms (ie. sore throat, stuffy nose etc.). Schools still require this information when reporting attendance numbers to Public Health.

ATTENDANCE NOTIFICATIONS

The automated notification system will contact parents whose child is absent without notification. Families, who have **not** reported their child's absence, will receive an attendance notice at 5:30 pm.

The automated notification system will attempt to contact parents at multiple contact points until a reason is submitted for the absence. If you report your child's absence in advance using the Safe Arrival toll-free number, website or mobile app, you will NOT receive these notifications. Parents will have until approximately 10:00 pm to submit a reason for their child's absence.



Gryphitude Awards

SEPTEMBER



Grade 9 – Nathan Fraser

Nathan Fraser- Nathan goes out of his way to make sure all students in my class have a friend and are supported. He helps people

get caught up on missed work and sits with a new person nearly every day. He also is an active participant in class discussions and is always willing to see things from a different perspective.

Grade 11 – Sage Balesdent

Sage participates in class discussion with a smile. She is never late, and her work is pristine.



Grade 11 – Rihana MacKay

Rihana is in the North Nova News this semester. She is quickly becoming an excellent leader in the group. She consistently demonstrates determination and passion in her work. She makes her peers better when she is around.

Grade 12 – Addison Mathieu

Addi makes a positive contribution in our classroom everyday. She is respectful, and shows kindness towards others while making sure that everyone feels included in our classroom.



Congratulations

A huge congratulations is extended to all of the students recently recognized for academic excellence. Certificates were awarded to students for academic achievement in their courses for the 2022-23 school year.



Grade 9



Grade 10



Grade 11

Well done!



BREAKFAST PROGRAM

OPEN DAILY FROM 8:00 TO 9:45 AM
SERVING ENGLISH MUFFINS, BAGELS, FRUIT
AND GRAB & GO ITEMS

TO VOLUNTEER CONTACT
APRIL NEWCOMBE AT 902-755-8180 EXT 10060
OR EMAIL NEWCOMBEAT@CCRCE.CA

North Nova Education Centre

Grad Portraits by Pridhams Studio

Book Your Appointment Online
<https://pridhamsstudio.com/portrait-sittings/>

Option 1

Free Sitting Fee

Portrait Sitting

at NNEC

Nov. 2nd, 3rd & 6th

Option 2

\$10 Sitting Fee

Portrait Sitting

at Pridhams Studio

Questions? Contact Pridhams at 902-752-4282

Absences, Lates & Sign Outs

If your child is absent, arriving late or leaving at any point during the day (other than lunch time), you will need to notify the school.

All public schools are still required to report absences due to illness, to NS Public Health. Caregivers are asked to provide a reason for the absence including symptoms if illness related. If the absence is not illness related, please also include the reason ie. appointment, family trip etc.

We are reminding parents that our school day ends at 3:10 pm. We recognize end of day traffic can be challenging, however, it is expected that students remain in class until the dismissal bell rings.

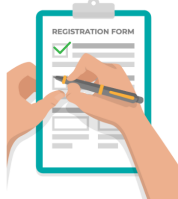
Parents have been regularly picking their child up early, to avoid traffic at the end of the day. We have been experiencing a high volume of parents calling from the parking lot asking for their child to be called out of class. While there may be instances when a student is required to leave school on short notice (ie. sudden illness, emergency appointments etc.) generally, parents know in advance when their child needs to leave early.

Each time a parent requests a student be signed out; the main office must interrupt a teacher's class. Some classes are interrupted several times throughout the period. To avoid these constant interruptions, parents are asked to notify the school no later than 12:30 pm, when their child plans to leave during last period. This will allow time to record the absence in our system so students can be released from class without interruption.

Registration Forms

All students were provided with a registration form on the first day of school. These forms are used to ensure we have current contact, custodial and medical information for our students. It is important for these forms to be completed and returned to the school. Please sign and return the form, even if no changes were made. This will help to ensure we have everyone form and all information is up-to-date.

Many of these forms have not been returned. Parents were asked to review the form, note any changes, date and sign. **Please return the completed form to the school's main office, as soon as possible.**



Protect Your Property!

Each year students report that personal belongings have been stolen. Unfortunately, we have those among us who seek opportunity to take items of value that belong to someone else. Each student has been assigned a personal locker. Students are asked to refrain from bringing valuables to school, but if necessary, please ensure that your valuables are kept securely in your locker.

Any student who does not have their locker number or combination can get them from the main office. We also offer 1-number combinations for any students who have difficulty with a 3-number combination. **Remember to ALWAYS keep your locker locked and your combination private.**



Ensure your locker is kept locked at all times

COVID-19

It is important to acknowledge that we are not losing sight of COVID-19 and will continue to be guided by Public Health recommendations; masks are supported by those who decide to wear one, stay home if you feel unwell, and continue to practice healthy hand hygiene. Reusable masks and Covid-19 Test Kits are available in the administration office.

Student Accident Insurance

Available Sept. 1

Basic Plan covers ALL public-school students at **NO** charge.

Expanded **Gold Plan** coverage for only **\$14**/year.

Coverage summary and **Gold Plan** details at sip.ca



SIP
School Insurance Program

Not for Profit

Register your kids in the **Gold Plan** at sip.ca

Every eligible child attending public school in Nova Scotia is automatically insured by the School Insurance Program's Basic student accident coverage. This coverage is provided without deductible and at no cost to students, parents/guardians or schools. Basic coverage is provided to cover students during school hours, school activities and travel to and from their school.

Who is eligible? All full-time pre-primary, primary, elementary, junior and senior high public school students and attendees at school board day-care centres in the province of Nova Scotia who are covered under a Canadian federal and/or provincial health and hospitalization insurance plan are eligible. Please note that university, private school, private day-care, community colleges and foreign students, etc. are not eligible.

There is optional Gold Plan coverage insurance available for purchase which extends coverage for your child outside of school hours and activities, around the clock. Coverage begins at \$14/year for one student as well as family discounts. For complete benefit descriptions and/or additional information, please refer to the policy found on the website www.sip.ca.

Emergency Evacuation Plan

In case of an emergency, North Nova (in coordination with the New Glasgow Police Department, CCRCE, and local businesses) has the following plan for Code Black (evacuation and relocation of the entire school), Code Blue (lockdown) and Code Green (Hold & Secure).

Code Black (Evacuation & Relocation)

After exiting the building as per Code Red, all students and staff will leave the property (walking only; no vehicles may leave the property) and make their way to the assigned evacuation point.

Bluenose Curling Club: All students, teachers and EA's from the Learning Centre, students with mobility issues (ie. using crutches, wheelchairs etc.) and students with last names from A to D.

Summer St. Industries: Students and staff with the last names from E to MacPherson

First United Baptist Church: Main Church Floor—Students and staff with the last names from MacQuarrie to Z.

If required, students would be bussed home from these locations. The New Glasgow Regional Police Station will serve as the Central Communication Centre.

Code Blue (Lockdown)

When a lockdown is called students will remain in the building until evacuated by police. The primary perimeter will be put in place as well as a secondary perimeter with manned road blocks set up at both the end of Walkerville Road and near the corner of Park & Summer Streets.

If Code BLUE leads to a Code BLACK, students will be evacuated from the school and taken to one of the relocation sites for processing and release. In addition to NNEC's evacuation, all homes and businesses within the secondary –perimeter will be evacuated and taken to relocation sites.

The basement of the First Baptist Church will serve as the Central Communication Centre.

Students will be evacuated one classroom at a time, therefore, parents are advised to expect a several hour delay in students being processed and released during a Code BLUE Lockdown that has led to a Code Black evacuation situation.

Code Green (Hold & Secure)

Hold & Secure is used for emergencies such as an animal threat, an altercation involving students, threats outside the building, custody dispute concerns, police action in the community or medical emergency in school.

When a Hold & Secure is called, all exterior doors will be locked and students will remain in the building until the threat has ended. Police may put a perimeter in place. Students who are not at school when Code Green has been called, will not be permitted to enter the building. Likewise, parents will also not be permitted to come into the building or pick up their child.

During a lockdown or hold & secure, no one is permitted to come in or leave the building. Therefore, parents are asked not to come to the school expecting to pick up their child. While we understand that during these emergency situations, parents will be concerned and seeking information, parents are asked not to phone the school. The office will need phone lines open for communication with emergency services. Communication to parents may come from outside sources, such as CCRCE or Police.

Although our hope is that we never have to use these emergency codes, we need to be prepared. Please keep this information somewhere safe to have on hand if needed.



Make online payments with
SchoolCashOnline!

- Field Trips
- Sport Trips
- Activity Fees

Register now: ccrce.schoolcashionline.com



Don't forget to
bring your own
bottle to refill

The office doesn't supply disposable cups, therefore, it is recommended that students bring their own water bottle. There are numerous water bottle filling stations available throughout the building.



OPEN DAILY FOR STUDENTS
COORDINATOR: KATHY WASSON
PHONE: (902) 759-1881

The Youth Health Centre is a welcoming, safe space for students to access information and support in a confidential manner. The Youth Health Centre coordinator provides non-judgmental support to all students and assists in accessing/navigating health needs in the school and community. Some of the services we provide are: pregnancy testing, free condoms, supports/counseling in sexual health, relationships, mental health referrals, pregnancy options, free period products. Please note that the Youth Health Centre coordinator cannot treat, diagnose or administer medications however she will work with you to access these services.

We also run various groups throughout the school year, in partnership with other community agencies such as Big Brothers, Big Sisters. The GSA (Gender Sexuality Alliance) also meets here once a week. Students from all grade levels are encouraged to check us out! This is a safe, inclusive space for all.

If you have a question or concern about your health or the health of a friend, drop in or text Kathy. All conversations and texts are confidential.

SCHOOLS PLUS

Schools Plus staff are located in the Youth Health Centre.

- Kaylin Comeau-Leil – Facilitator
- Roni Chaisson- Community Outreach Worker (Wednesdays)
- Ashley MacPherson-Community Outreach Worker (Thursday, Friday)

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF PICTOU COUNTY

Keegan Hughes - Community Outreach Worker

NNEC MUSIC PRESENTS...



**FRIDAY
NOVEMBER 3** | **\$90 PER TABLE
6 PLAYERS PER
TABLE**

**DOORS OPEN AT 7PM
TRIVIA STARTS AT 7:30PM
WEST SIDE COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Cash prizes to the winning team!

Secure your table today! Email nneccmusiccaux@gmail.com
 CASH BAR - 19+ EVENT

The Pictou County Celtic Association are hosting their 20th Workshop in Music and Gaelic and Arts



**CELTIC CHRISTMAS
COOKIN' & HOOKIN'**

FREE
 for all school-aged children
 Parents and Grandparents get a Free Celtic Christmas dinner prepared by the participants!

PLUS MORE !
Nov. 13th, 2023
9am - 6pm
Lismore
Community Centre

In English and Gaelic
 Ann am Beurla agus Gàidhlig



Registration required (FREE)
 Please contact Frances MacDonald
 Text: (902) 872 - 1586
 or
 Email: frances.music62@gmail.com



NORTH NOVA EDUCATION CENTRE PRESENTS

Charles Dickens'
A CHRISTMAS CAROL
by Jacqueline Goldfinger

NOVEMBER 24, 2023 - 7PM
NOVEMBER 25, 2023 - 2PM & 7PM
TICKETS \$15

GENERAL ADMISSION SEATING.
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT NNEC OFFICE
902-755-8180
CASH ONLY

A portion of all ticket sales will support the NNEC holiday meal program.

PICTOU LANDING FIRST NATION MAWIO'MI

Head Dancers
Tonia Marshall & Hiawatha Paul
Host Drum & Co-Host
Wabanaki Confederacy & East Boys
Master of Ceremonies: Michael R Denny
Arena Director: D Labilliois

Honouring our Toddler & Babies
 6533 Pictou Landing Road, Nova Scotia
All are Welcome
October 21-22

Schedule of Events
 Thursday: Lighting Sacred Fire
 Friday: Hot Dog Roast & Story Telling @ health center
 Saturday: Registration @ 11
 Grand Entry 1pm
 Grand Exit 5pm
 Supper 5:30pm @ cafeteria
 Sunday: Registration 10am
 Grand Entry 12pm
 Grand Exit 5pm
 Feast to follow
 Drummers and Dancers Welcome, must be registered for honourium

Vendor Info:
 Food Vendors: \$100
 Crafts/Other: \$80
 & donation to giveaway
 CONTACT: HALEY BERNARD
 haley.b@pifn.ca
 19023010256



Take Our Kids to Work Day 2023

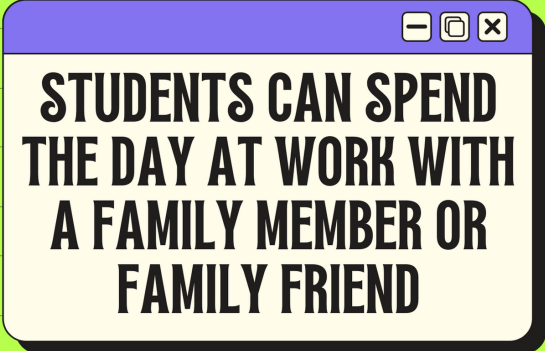
TOKTWD

November 1st, 2023

STUDENTS CAN SPEND THE DAY AT WORK WITH A FAMILY MEMBER OR FAMILY FRIEND

Permission Forms must be returned to their Grade 9 English Teacher

For More Info Contact Ms. Pinkohs or Ms. Harquail



Gryphons Den Pantry

Good nutrition and healthy eating patterns are essential for both immediate and long-term effects on health, learning and student success. Our NNEC food security committee is made up of both students and staff to help address food security for our NNEC community. The Gryphons Den Pantry is located in the hallway just outside of Student Services. The purpose of the pantry is to give students the opportunity to gather meal ingredients, food staples or personal hygiene items that can be taken home at the end of the school day. The pantry is open Monday, Wednesday & Friday Afternoon breaks/after school; If there is another time when students need food items, they can go into student services, and someone from there can open the pantry. Healthy food items have also been added to some learning spaces with snacks throughout the day.

Our food security group also distributes food once a month to identified families with the ingredients for a healthy meal. If there are any families who would like to have their names added to our distribution list, please contact Marilyn Sandluck at sandluckm@ccrce.ca or 902-755-8180 ext 21662.

Donations:

If anyone is interested in helping support our pantry, donations are welcome. Each month, we will target a specific area of food or personal food items.

October/November

- Canned soup
- Canned pasta (such as Chef Boyardree)
- Deodorant
- Body wash



Register TODAY!

MENTORING PLUS STRATEGY

ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT FUTURE CAREERS

October 24th
 9 a.m. - 10 a.m.
 NNEC Presentation Centre

Register ONLINE! Space is Limited
<https://forms.gle/tWNoqxyzPUKB3s1t5>

Questions? Email Joey Desmond
 joey.desmond@gnsps.ca




Students are invited to drop in and work on any creative writing projects they have on the go, or to share and workshop their writing with other students and staff. We also have weekly writing prompts and various fill-in-the blank poetry resources available to help kick start students who are new to writing.

We sometimes have guest authors come in and answer student questions about the writing and publishing process. Students can bring their lunch. All are welcome!

NNEC Creative Writing

Fridays at Lunch Begins Nov. 3rd English Pod fishbowl

SEPTEMBER 2023						
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DECEMBER 2023						
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JANUARY 2024						
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APRIL 2024						
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MAY 2024						
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JUNE 2024						
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LEGEND

- Holidays and Breaks (No School)
- PD All Schools and Assessment & Evaluation Days **All Schools** (No Classes)**
- Assessment/Evaluation Day **Secondary*** (No Classes)
- Assessment & Evaluation Day **P-8*** (No Classes)
- NS Virtual School Assessment
- First Day of School for Students
- Last Day of School
- Report Cards Secondary
- Report Cards P-8*
- Culturally Significant Day

Grades P-8

- Term 1: Sept 1 to Nov 17
- Term 2: Nov 20 to Mar 8
- Term 3: Mar 18 to June 28

P-8* Sometimes Grade 9

** PD on [Sept 22](#) for Cobequid & Nova Only

** PD on [Sept 25](#) for Chignecto & Celtic Only

Grades 10-12

- Semester 1: Sept 1, 2023-Jan 31
 - ♦ First Reporting Period Sept 1-Nov 3
 - ♦ Second Reporting Period Nov 6-Jan 31
- Semester 2: Feb 1, 2024-June 28
 - ♦ First Reporting Period Feb 1-Apr 5
 - ♦ Second Reporting Period Apr 8-June 28

DETAILED CALENDAR

Sept 1	Orientation & Organization Planning (No Classes ALL Schools)
Sept 4	Labour Day
Sept 5	Regional/Site-based PD (No Classes ALL Schools)
Sept 6	First Day of School for Students (PP-12)
Sept 22	Cobequid & Nova Family PD: (No Classes COBEQUID & NOVA Family Only)
Sept 25	Chignecto & Celtic Family PD: (No Classes CHIGNECTO & CELTIC Family Only)
Sept 30	Truth & Reconciliation Day (Observed Oct 2 No Classes ALL SCHOOLS)
Oct 1	Treaty Day
Oct 9	Thanksgiving Day
Oct 27	Provincial Conference (No Classes ALL Schools)
Nov 10	Assessment & Evaluation (No Classes ELEMENTARY Only)

Nov 11	Remembrance Day (Observed Nov 13 No Classes ALL SCHOOLS)
Nov 14-16	Report Cards Distributed Grades 10-12*
Nov 20-23	Report Cards Distributed Grades P-8*
Nov 24	Site-Based PD, Parent/Teacher (No Classes ALL Schools)
Dec 21 - Jan 1	Holiday Break (Return to School January 3)
Jan 2	Regional/Site-Based PD (No Classes ALL Schools)
Jan 23	Nova Scotia Virtual School Assessment
Jan 31	Assessment & Evaluation (No Classes SECONDARY Only)
Feb 5-9	Report Cards Distributed Grades 10-12*
Feb 19	Heritage Day
March 8	Assessment & Evaluation (No Classes ELEMENTARY Only)
Mar 11-15	Spring Break
March 25-27	Report Cards Distributed Grades P-8*

March 28	Site-Based PD, Parent/Teacher (No Classes ELEMENTARY Only)
Mar 29	Good Friday
Apr 1	Easter Monday
Apr 15-18	Report Cards Distributed Grades 10-12*
Apr 19	Site-Based PD, Parent/Teacher (No Classes SECONDARY Only)
May 15	Black Excellence Day
May 20	Victoria Day
Jun 17	Nova Scotia Virtual School Assessment
Jun 21	National Indigenous Peoples Day
Jun 26	Assessment & Evaluation (No Classes SECONDARY Only)
Jun 27	Assessment & Evaluation (No Classes for ALL Schools)
Jun 28	Last Day of School (PP-12) (Report Cards Distributed P-12)