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**Principal:** Jacquelyn Reid      **Vice Principal:** Emily Ripley-Davis      **Admin Assistant:** Carol Sheldon

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## The Hillside Park Press



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Dear Hillside Park Families,

What an incredible start to the school year! It's been such a joy to watch the students settle into their routines, collaborating with their peers, and building positive classroom communities. The energy in the building is awesome! A big thanks to our dedicated staff, students, and families for your ongoing support. Our Hillside community continues to grow, and as we welcome new students, please be aware that class configurations may change up until September 30.

We are looking for members to join our School Advisory Council (SAC) and Parent Teacher Group (PTG). Our first meeting is Tuesday, September 10 at 6:00 PM in the school library. If you'd like to attend, please reach out to me at [jacquelyn.reid@hrce.ca](mailto:jacquelyn.reid@hrce.ca). We'd love to have you join us!

Friendly reminders:

- Send a filled water bottle with your child each day
- Pack cutlery in lunch bags
- A spare change of clothes is always handy for those unexpected spills or muddy adventures

Wishing you all a fantastic day ahead!

Yours in Education,  
Mrs. Reid, Ms. Ripley-Davis and the Hillside Park Team



Date	Event
September 10	SAC/PTG Meeting in the Library 6:00 PM- all are welcome!
September 12	Stand Up Against Bullying Day- wear pink
September 19	Curriculum Night & Ice Cream Social 6:00 PM
September 27	Orange Shirt Day
September 30	National Day for Truth & Reconciliation (no school)
October 2	School Picture Day
October 11	Professional Learning Day (no school for students)
October 14	Thanksgiving Day (no school)
October 25	Provincial Conference Day (no school for students)

## Breakfast Baskets

We are happy to offer breakfast foods for students at our school. Students can enjoy breakfast items including granola bars, yogurt tubes, cheese, and fruit directly from their class baskets first thing in the morning. A healthy breakfast gives our students the fuel necessary for learning.



## Provincial School Lunch Program

The school lunch program announced by the province is slated to begin at the end of October. You can learn more by visiting the [provincial site](#). **For now, please continue to pack your child's lunches.** The online ordering system will be opening mid-Oct. We are **not** going to offer the hot lunch program with Healthy Hunger as we learn to navigate the new program and online system. This is very exciting news for our school!



**Stand Up Against Bullying Day** is recognized on the second Thursday in September across Nova Scotia. Recognizing this day early in the school year allows us to set a positive tone by engaging students in activities that focus on the importance of building healthy relationships.

Please join us in taking a stance against bullying by wearing pink on **Thursday, September 12!**

## Fantastic Friday Phone Calls!

We love celebrating our students at Hillside Park. If you get a call from the school on a Friday, there is a good chance it is Mrs. Reid or Ms. Ripley-Davis calling to tell you your child has been recognized by one of our staff members for doing something “fantastic” that week. We will leave a message if the call goes to voicemail.



## National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

Each year on September 30, National Day for Truth and Reconciliation honours the children who didn't return from residential schools, as well as survivors, their families, and communities.

Orange Shirt Day, led by Indigenous communities, aims to raise awareness about the intergenerational impacts of residential schools and allows us all to show our support for the *Every Child Matters* movement. As there are no classes on Monday, September 30, we welcome staff and students to wear orange on Friday, September 27.





Hillside Park School

# CURRICULUM NIGHT

**Ice Cream Social**



**Meet Our Staff  
Visit Our Classrooms  
Learn about Curriculum**

**Thursday  
Sept 19**

**Classroom Session 1- 6:00-6:15 PM  
Classroom Session 2- 6:15-6:30 PM  
Ice Cream Social- 6:30-7:00 PM**

Please enter at Primary side doors, or Main  
entry by the blue sign

After the sessions, all are invited for ice  
cream and conversation on the front  
commons (gym if it rains!)



## Life Threatening Allergies

We have students and staff at Hillside Park with severe life threatening allergies to peanuts, tree nuts, kiwi, and eggs. Please do not send foods containing peanuts/tree nuts to school. This includes Nutella.

If your child has an allergy, please drop into the office to fill out the required forms. Please check the labels of food if you are unsure.



## Medication at School

Students requiring medications at school must have proper documentation on file in the school office. Forms must be completed on a yearly basis so we have current information in the office. Over the counter drugs must also follow this procedure. All medication is kept in a secure location in the office and is given to the student by appropriate school personnel when required. Please contact Mrs. Reid if your child requires medication during school hours.

## Volunteering at Hillside Park

We would love to welcome volunteers into our school this year! We are specifically looking for help with our Breakfast Program and our Library (Thursdays). If you are interested, please reach out to Ms. Ripley-Davis ([emily.ripley@hrce.ca](mailto:emily.ripley@hrce.ca)). We can provide you with a letter that states you are volunteering with us which reduces the cost of the checks.

Prior to volunteering with the Halifax Regional Centre for Education, all volunteers must provide:

1. A completed Child Abuse Register - Request for Search Form, which can be found **here**
2. A certified and true copy of a Criminal Records Check with Vulnerable Sector Check available **here**, from your local Police or RCMP detachment or through online organizations endorsed by Nova Scotia law enforcement agencies.



Please note: the Child Abuse Register Search and Criminal Records Check must be updated every three years. If you completed yours last year, we still have them on file!



We will be holding our annual **Terry Fox Run** on Monday, September 23. Our students will learn about Terry and his incredible journey during the Marathon of Hope.

If you wish to donate online, go to [www.terryfox.org](http://www.terryfox.org). We will also be making a donation on behalf of Hillside Park School.

## Head Lice

Please continue to regularly check family members for head lice. Please let the school administration know if we can help. A child with head lice may return to school after the first treatment. Please know that head lice is a common occurrence and we can all work together to minimize the effects.

## Safe Arrival

One of our greatest priorities is ensuring that all our students arrive safely at school each day. You are able to report future absences using an app, website, or toll-free phone number.

If a student is going to be absent from school for any reason, you have 3 options to report the absence:

- 1) Call Safe Arrival toll free at: 1-833-582-6940
- 2) Report via [SchoolMessenger](#)
- 3) Download the SchoolMessenger app for Android and iOS devices and use your username and password for the PowerSchool Portal.

All three methods are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Up to five consecutive absences can be recorded at once. If your student is absent and the absence has not been reported in advance, you will receive notifications via email, text, and phone calls from School Messenger.

If SchoolMessenger cannot reach you, office staff will follow up. Please make sure you contact Safe Arrival before 8:00 am as teachers will be completing their attendance at that time.

*Children arriving late must sign in at the office.*

# Arrival and Departure Safety Reminder

As we begin our school year, we'd like to remind you of how you can help keep our students safe as they arrive and leave our school grounds:

- ★ PLEASE do not park in the no stopping zone at drop off/pick up. This creates a safety issue for the buses and for the walkers as the bus cannot make the turn. There are signs to indicate where you can park. Please drop off on the **school side of the street**.
- ★ Students and families should only walk up the hill to our school via the **second** driveway. When facing the school from Hillside Drive families would walk up the driveway on the left of the building (not the driveway closest to the blue wall or main entry door).
- ★ For the safety of students, please remember to park on the street and **DO NOT drive up into the parking lot**. Please keep the driveway and areas near the driveway clear for the buses to get in and out safely.



## Fire Drill & Lockdown Drill

The safety and security of our students and staff is a top priority for Hillside Park Elementary School and the Halifax Regional Centre for Education. We have been implementing a number of measures as part of a comprehensive plan aimed at ensuring our school remains a safe place for our students to learn. *Our first fire drill will take place this week.*

One of the procedures our school will be practicing is a lockdown drill. During a lockdown drill, classroom doors are secured and the students remain inside the room until instructed by the teacher to resume their activities. All exterior doors are locked and no one is permitted to enter or leave the building. Students are kept inside the school and classrooms when circumstances make it safer to stay in the classroom rather than evacuate.

Just as we prepare our students to properly respond to a fire drill, they also need to be aware of the proper response during a lockdown drill. These drills should be treated with the same level of importance as fire drills. Please be assured that staff at our school will spend time discussing the importance of this procedure with students prior to running a drill. We will also take time after the drill to remind them that it was only a practice and there was no danger. When possible, our School Liaison Officer may assist us in conducting the lockdown drills just as the Fire Department assists with evacuation drills. Please take the time to speak with your child about this procedure and reinforce its importance. *Our first lockdown drill will be during the week of September 16-20.*

## Dogs on Property



We are reminding families NOT to bring dogs onto school property. We realize that combining a dog walk with your child's trip to and from school is convenient. Although these pets are usually playful and harmless, the presence of dogs on the school grounds represents a potential health and safety issue for several reasons.

Thank you for helping us to maintain a safe environment by not bringing your dog onto school property. As a suggestion, you could make arrangements with your child(ren) to meet you on the sidewalk if you are walking your dog to and from the school.

## Provincial Student Attendance and Engagement Policy

Regular school attendance plays a key role in setting students up for success. We understand that sometimes special circumstances arise and we work collaboratively with our families to navigate these challenges. Please let us know if there is anything we can do to support regular, consistent attendance for your child. You can also read more about the provincial policy [here](#).



## Provincial Directive: Cell Phones in Schools

Students in grades P-5 must keep cell phones stored and turned off during the school day. The policy is available [here](#).

