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**Principal:** Jacquelyn Reid    **Vice Principal:** Emily Ripley-Davis    **Admin Assistants:** Carol Sheldon and Gayle Griffin

## The Hillside Park Press



Dear Families,

Happy December! It's hard to believe we've reached this point in the school year already. As we look back on the past few months at Hillside Park, we want to express our heartfelt gratitude for your ongoing support, kindness, and partnership. Hillside is a truly special place!

We are so proud of the first-term accomplishments of all our students. Report cards will be sent to you electronically today. Please [sign up](#) for Family/Teacher conferences on Dec. 5 to discuss your child's progress.

A special thank you to Ms. Ripley-Davis for her dedication in preparing students for the upcoming holiday concert on Dec. 11. This celebration of music and togetherness is sure to lift our spirits! Tickets will be sent home on Dec. 3 with the option to request extras if needed. All info will be in the accompanying letter.

On behalf of our entire team, we wish all Hillside Park families a wonderful holiday season, filled with joy and time spent with family and friends. Here's to happiness and health in 2025!

Yours in Education,





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





December 2	Report Cards sent home via EDUPost
December 5	Professional Development Day (no school for students) Family/Teacher Conferences ★ 12:00-2:30 PM and 5:30-7:30 PM
December 11	Holiday Concert ★ Afternoon- 12:30 PM in the Gym ★ Evening- 6:00 PM in the Gym
December 12	Holiday Concert Snow Date
December 20	Last day of school for 2024
January 3	First day back to school in 2025

## Spirit Days!

<p><b>Tuesday, December 17</b></p> 	<p><b>Dress Like a Candy Cane!</b></p> <p>Deck yourself out in red, green, white, stripes, etc. Anything goes!</p>
<p><b>Wednesday, December 18</b></p> 	<p><b>Winter Wonderland Wednesday!</b></p> <p>Wear your comfiest, coziest hat!</p>
<p><b>Thursday, December 19</b></p> 	<p><b>Festive Wear Day!</b></p> <p>Bring out your holiday sweaters, fun hats, antlers, you name it!</p>
<p><b>Friday, December 20</b></p> 	<p><b>PJ Day!</b></p> <p>Who doesn't love a cozy jammy day to head into the holiday break?</p>

# Inclement Weather

Did you know? HRCE takes great care when making the decision to alter the regular operations of schools and school buses in the event of severe or inclement weather.

It is HRCE's goal to communicate any changes to the regular operations of schools and/or buses as close to 6:00 a.m. as possible. A 6:00 a.m. announcement could be:

- All schools are delayed in opening by two hours and bus pickups are delayed by two hours; or
- All schools are open, but some or all buses are not operating for the day; or
- Some schools (either individually or by family) are closed for the day; or
- All schools are closed for the day.



Visit [hrce.ca/weather](https://hrce.ca/weather) for everything you need to know about how weather could impact the operation of our school.

 Halifax  
Regional Centre for Education

If weather deteriorates, or is forecasted to worsen throughout the morning, an 11:00 a.m. announcement could be:

- Bused students will be picked up two hours earlier than their regular dismissal time; and
- Walking students will be dismissed at their regularly scheduled lunch hour.

How will I find out?

- By email to the addresses in PowerSchool
- By text message, if you have opted-in. If you aren't sure if you have opted-in, text Y to the following number: 978338
- On our website [www.hrce.ca](https://www.hrce.ca)
- On X (formerly Twitter) at [Twitter.com/HRCE\\_NS](https://twitter.com/HRCE_NS)
- On Instagram at [www.instagram.com/hrce\\_ns/](https://www.instagram.com/hrce_ns/)

It's important to always have a plan in place for childcare in the event of any cancellation.

For more information on how HRCE manages during inclement weather, visit [hrce.ca/weather](https://hrce.ca/weather).

# NOVA SCOTIA SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM 2024 – 2025 Ordering Schedule

Ordering opens on Fridays at midnight and closes on Wednesdays at noon

## SEPTEMBER 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

## OCTOBER 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

## NOVEMBER 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

## DECEMBER 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

## JANUARY 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

## FEBRUARY 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

## MARCH 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

## APRIL 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

## MAY 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

## JUNE 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

### LEGEND

- Week 1 & 2 Menu Served
- Week 3 & 4 Menu Served
- Ordering Window for Week 1 & 2 Menu
- Ordering Window for Week 3 & 4 Menu
- No School  
*Some schools may have additional closure dates. Please check your RCE/CSAP calendar for school-specific closure dates*

# We're Always Hiring!

Did you know that HRCE has roughly 10,000 employees serving nearly 60 000 students?

Our job postings are updated every Wednesday at noon and feature a wide variety of career opportunities!






As HRCE grows, so does our staff. Check out new opportunities weekly at [www.myhrce.ca/jobs](http://www.myhrce.ca/jobs).



## Raise a Reader



### At-home reading tips for caregivers

-  **Look at your child's books** with them. Discuss the pictures and build vocabulary by talking about new words.
-  **Talk with your child about their books.** Ask questions about the story and encourage your child to ask their own questions.
-  **Make reading aloud a regular part of your routine** – just 15 minutes each day can make a big difference in raising a reader.
-  **Discuss examples that help them relate** to what they're reading. Connect the story to your child's world.
-  **Connect with your child's teacher** for more suggestions on how to support reading at home.



# Computational Fluency

This year as part of our Student Success Plan in Mathematics, students are immersed in fact fluency activities and practice every day. Read to find out more!



## What does it mean to be fluent with math facts?

Information for families and caregivers

### DID YOU KNOW? Children are fluent when they demonstrate:

#### Accuracy

- Correctly solving a problem

#### Flexibility

- The ability to think about a problem in more than one way and to adapt or adjust thinking as necessary

#### Efficiency

- Solving a problem in a reasonable amount of time



### MYTH: Math today is so different

FACT: While the math itself hasn't changed, the focus of math instruction has shifted to ensure students are actively engaged in developing an understanding of the skills and concepts. Representing concepts using models to develop strategies and exercising critical thinking is a much more effective way to build understanding.



### MYTH: Memorization is the best way to master basic facts.

FACT: Children may have memorized basic facts, however, they may not have a strategy to solve the particular fact. Memorized facts can be forgotten, but when a strategy is understood, children hang on to it forever.



### MYTH: Children who have memorized the facts won't be challenged.

FACT: The goal is not to memorize facts, but to develop a range of strategies to apply to more complex concepts such as multi-digit computations, decimals and fractions. Developing strategies and an understanding of when to use these appropriately, asks children to think at higher levels.



### MYTH: Timed tests help children master facts.

FACT: Timed tests do not assess fluency, only accuracy and efficiency. As well, research tells us that timed tests can lead to the development of anxiety around mathematics.

### Questions to support fact fluency conversations with children

- How did you solve it?
- How do you know it is correct?
- Is there another way you could solve it?
- If someone didn't know the answer to \_\_\_\_, how would you help them to figure it out?
- What strategy can you use to find that fact?
- How is \_\_\_\_ like \_\_\_\_? How are they different? (example: How is  $2 \times 7$  like  $4 \times 7$ ?)