



15 Hillside Avenue • Lower Sackville, NS • B4C 1W6 • Tel # (902) 864-6873
Website: hpe.hrce.ca • Email: hpes@hrce.ca • Twitter: @HillsidePark1

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

The Hillside Park Press



Dear Families,

Happy New Year! We hope you had a relaxing, peaceful holiday season. We are very excited to welcome our students to school and get right back into the swing of things.

Our Hillside Park team is committed to ensuring the success and wellbeing of all students, and we are so proud of each child's accomplishments thus far in the year. We have lots of fabulous learning opportunities in store, and we can't wait to see what awaits our students and amazing community in 2025!

Just a reminder that our soft start and breakfast begins at 7:45 AM. There is no supervision prior to this time. Our instructional day begins at 8:00 and it is important for students to be in their classrooms ready for learning when the bell rings. We appreciate your support with this.

Wishing you all good health and happiness in 2025!

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

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January 3	First Day Back in 2025
January 14	SAC/PTG Meeting (6:00 PM in the Library) Maritime Dance Performance
January 23	Family Movie Night (Mark your calendar... details to come!)
January 24	MacNeil, Gordon, Parsons, Dunn to Discovery Centre
January 27	Family Literacy Day
January 29	Lunar New Year

Library Update!

Thanks to the generous support of the *Indigo Love of Reading Grant*, we have added thousands of dollars worth of new books to inspire and engage our readers. With new shelving, cozy furniture, and updated storage, our library is looking fabulous!

Our beautiful mural was created with our amazing Visual Art Specialist, Stacey Allan, and our students! While there is still lots of work to do and more books to add, our library is quickly becoming the perfect place for students to curl up with a good book and let their imaginations soar.



January 27th is Family Literacy Day!

Family Literacy Day takes place each year on January 27th to raise awareness about the importance of reading and engaging in other literacy-related activities as a family.

This year's theme is "Learn to be Green, Together!" Use less electricity, commute together, and reuse items. Being green together is a fun way to learn as a family while being kind to the environment.



Lunar New Year

Lunar New Year, also known as Chinese New Year or Spring Festival, will be celebrated on January 29.

It marks the beginning of the Year of the Snake, an animal sign that symbolizes wisdom, intuition, and renewal. It's a time for families to come together, honour their ancestors, and welcome the new year with hopes of prosperity and happiness.



Clothing and Winter Attire

Bundle up! With the cold weather upon us, we would like to remind families and students of the importance of dressing appropriately for the weather including hats, mittens, and snowpants.

As the weather changes we ask that all students pack a change of clothes in the event that their clothing gets wet or dirty/muddy while going outside during recess or lunch.



School Drop-Off and Pick-Up

A reminder to follow street signage for both 'no stopping' and 'no parking' around the school. For safety reasons, we ask that you do not park too close to the foot of the driveway. This is to ensure the buses can make the turn when they leave the school.

Please do not turn around in the neighbours' driveways when dropping off. This is especially important as snow banks develop along the sidewalks, making it harder to see people walking and crossing streets. **We ask that you do not park in the staff parking lot for drop-off and pick-up.** Thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation.



Plans for 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 (at Hillside this means we would open at 10:00 AM); or
- All schools are open, but some or all busses are not operating for the day; or
- Some schools (either individually or by family... Hillside is in the Sackville High family) are closed for the day; or
- All schools are closed for the day.

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

- Bussed 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
- On X (formerly Twitter) at [Twitter.com/HRCE_NS](https://twitter.com/HRCE_NS)
- On Instagram at www.instagram.com/hrce_ns/



A Message From SchoolsPlus



The Incredible Years is coming!

The Incredible Years is a 12-week parenting program that focuses on improving social and emotional skills, and reducing behaviour problems in children between 6 and 12 years old. All parents and guardians of students from A.J. Smeltzer, Hillside Park, and Sycamore Lane are welcome to participate. **Please register, there are a limited number of spots shared between Sackville and Millwood families of schools!**

Cost: The Incredible Years is free.

Where: Millwood High School, 141 Millwood Drive, Lower Sackville

When: Tuesdays from January 21st to April 15th

Time: 9:00am – 11:00am

Click on the link below to register:

<https://shorturl.at/h4X87>

If you have any questions, please contact the facilitators:

Michelle Boudreau, SchoolsPlus Community Outreach Worker Sackville High family of schools, 902-399-8320 or michelle.boudreau@hrce.ca

Cindy Parsons, SchoolsPlus Community Outreach Worker Millwood High family of schools, 902-719-6887 or cindy.parsons@gnspes.ca

Laura McAvoy, SchoolsPlus Community Outreach Worker Millwood High family of schools, lmcavoy@hrce.ca

