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The Hillside Park Press



Dear Families,

Happy February! It's hard to believe that we've already reached the midpoint of the school year. This month, we're excited to celebrate African Heritage Month as we honour the culture, history, and the brilliance of Black achievement. Our students will engage in learning that highlights art, dance, literature, and experiences that celebrate this vibrant and powerful legacy.

Thank everyone who attended our Family Movie Night – it was a fantastic success and a great opportunity to come together as a community! Later in the month we will host our Family Dance with a Glow Stick theme. Get ready to bust a move!

We wanted to remind you that we have an account with *O'Connell's Recycling* at 15 Sackville Cross Rd. If you're returning refundables, you can ask them to credit the proceeds to our account, with all funds going directly back into supporting our classrooms.

Thank you for your continued support!

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

February

February 7	Pajama Day! (Coins for Books)
February 10-14	Lockdown Drill (see page 5 for details)
February 11	SAC/PTG Meeting 6:00 PM in the Library
February 12	Keonte Beals Performance
February 14	Valentine's Day- Wear pink, red & white (Coins for Books)
February 17	Nova Scotia Heritage Day- no classes
February 21	Bring Your Favourite Book & Stuffy (Coins for Books)
February 27	Hillside Family Dance! Glow Stick Theme!
February 28	Hawaiian Beach Party Day (Coins for Books)
March 7	Assessment and Evaluation Day- no classes
March 10-14	March Break- no classes



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Students are welcome to exchange Valentine's Day cards and teachers will provide their classes with some treats! It's also Red, White and Pink Day. Dress style as we celebrate kindness and friendship here at Hillside Park !



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Heritage Day 2025 honours the late Nora Bernard. From Millbrook First Nation, she was a Mi'kmaq activist who fought for her community and First Nations people across Canada.

Ms. Bernard played a key role in getting justice, recognition, and compensation for survivors of the Canadian Indian Residential School system. As a survivor the system herself, she founded and became president of the Shubenacadie Indian Residential School Association in 1987.

Celebrate African Heritage Month!

African Heritage Month in Nova Scotia, celebrated each February, honours the contributions of African Nova Scotians. This year's theme, *Legacy in Action: Celebrating Black Brilliance*, highlights the achievements and resilience of African Nova Scotians, who have shaped the province's history for more than 400 years.

In schools, recognizing African Heritage Month is crucial for promoting cultural awareness and inclusion. It fosters understanding of the diverse cultural landscape of Nova Scotia, empowering African Nova Scotian students by reflecting their history and heritage in their classrooms. Highlighting their achievements serves as a source of inspiration.

African Heritage Month 2025 is an opportunity to educate, inspire, and celebrate the richness of African heritage in Nova Scotia every day.





Coins for Books!

We are excited to be participating in the Tattletales Annual Campaign for Books again this year! Tattletales is a locally owned bookstore in Dartmouth, and for the past 18 years they have run an amazing campaign to help schools raise money for classroom books.

Last year our small but mighty school raised the 4th highest amount of money out of over 100 participating schools. It just goes to show what Hillside Park is made of!

Students are encouraged to bring in coins throughout the month of February as we celebrate all things books! To add some excitement to the campaign, we thought we would brighten our month with some February Spirit Days:

- ★ Friday, February 7- Pajama Day
- ★ Friday, February 14- Red, Pink & White Day to celebrate Valentine's Day!
- ★ Friday, February 21- Bring Your Favourite Book and Stuff
- ★ Friday, February 28- Hawaiian Beach Party (think bright colours, sunglasses, anything that puts you in the Aloha spirit!)

Keonte Beals Comes to Hillside Park

Keonte Beals is an author, illustrator and musical artist from North Preston. He will be bringing his musical and literary talents to Hillside Park! Keonte is an inspiring author and motivational speaker, known for books like *I Am So Worthy*, *I Am Perfectly Me*, and *I Am King*.

Keonte will share his journey of self-love, resilience, and empowerment. Through his personal experiences and message of worthiness, he encourages students to embrace their inherent value and pursue their dreams unapologetically. We can't wait to welcome Keonte Beals to Hillside.



New Year, New Logo!!

Exciting news! We're adopting a brand new logo and mascot to represent our school! Our students are hard at work researching and contributing their ideas, ensuring that their voices help shape our school's identity. Stay tuned for more updates – we can't wait to share the reveal!



February is Registration Month!

Do you have a child who will be starting pre-primary or primary this fall? It's time to register!

Registration for the 2025-26 school year begins on February 3. To ensure we have the right staff and supports in place for September, it's important that we gather enrolment numbers now.

Tip: Before you begin, make sure you have the following documents in electronic form (image, PDF or Word document):

- Proof of identity/age with one of the following: birth certificate, passport, immigration papers, or legal adoption papers) if you are new to the HRCE;
- Proof of home address (a recently dated official government or utility document with your current address that includes your name and date, such as water bill, power bill, internet bill, home fuel bill, a tax receipt, property assessment or a mortgage contract)



Visit the [HRCE website](https://hrce.ca) for more information and to enrol your child today through PowerSchool Enrollment!

Don't have a child to register? Maybe you know someone who does! Please help us spread the word and pass this information on to friends, neighbours or relatives who will be looking to register for the fall.

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. 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.

We practice these drills to ensure our school remains a safe place for teaching and learning. Our next lockdown drill will be during the week of **February 10-14**.

Literacy Development for Your Child

Are you curious about your child's literacy development? A new page of information on HRCE.ca helps to break down development for children from grades Primary to 6 as they learn to read and write. Learn more [here](#).

