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

The Hillside Park Press



Dear Families,

Happy April! We are looking forward to connecting with you about your child's progress this Thursday, April 3rd. Please sign up for your appointments in the online portal [here](#). As we enter third term, we want to remind you that the instructional day begins at 8:00 AM. We are noticing an increase in students coming to school late in the morning. Please ensure your child arrives a few minutes beforehand so they can begin their day on time.

Our Spring weather is in full force and with it comes lots of mud and changes in temperature. We are asking families to send a spare outfit in your child's backpack. Each day we have students coming to the office looking for a change of pants, socks, etc.

Lots of exciting things are coming up in Spring, including the unveiling of our new logo and mascot. Stay tuned!

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



Date	Event
March 31-April 4	Scholastic Book Fair
April 2	World Autism Day
April 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Professional Development AM (no school for students) ★ Family/Teacher Conferences afternoon and evening (no school for students)
April 8	Author Heidi Rushton visits grade 4 and 5
April 16	Dominos whole school presentation
April 15	SAC/PTG Meeting 6:00 in the Library
April 18	Good Friday (no school)
April 21	Easter Monday (no school)
April 22	Earth Day
April 24	Family Trivia Night 6:00 PM in the Gym
April 25	French Language Day for grades 4 and 5
April 30	Professional Learning Day (no school)

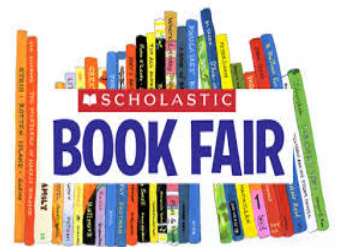
Scholastic Book Fair

DATES: March 31-April 4 in the Hillside Library

TIMES: Each day from 8:30 to 2:30

FAMILY/TEACHER CONFERENCES:

You can make purchases in-school during both Family/Teacher conferences (April 3rd from 12:30 - 2:30 and 5:30 - 7:30)



World Autism Day

Recognizing and celebrating World Autism Awareness Day in our schools fosters inclusion, understanding, and support for those with autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

On April 2 and every day, we strive to raise autism awareness among peers and educators, celebrate accomplishments and promote acceptance for those with ASD. Join us in creating a positive community where all students can thrive and learn about each other's diverse experiences.



Volunteering at Hillside Park

We love welcoming volunteers into our school community. Whether you can lend a hand in the library, read with students, or accompany us on a field trip, we appreciate all the ways you share your time and talents. The Child Abuse Register Search and Criminal Records Check must be updated every three years.

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



Family Trivia Night!

Mark your calendar for **Thursday, April 24th** for the Hillside Family Trivia Night. More details to follow soon.



French Second Language Grant

For the third year in a row, we have been awarded the French Second Language Cultural Connections Grant. On April 25th, students in grades four and five will participate in a whole school Tintamarre, traveling class to class. They will also rotate through stations that include language and culture games/activities, books, button making, Acadian dancing, and baking traditional French foods.



Supporting Literacy at Home

Did you know? Teachers use the [Six Pillars of Effective Reading Instruction](#) to support students' learning.

Reading is best learned when children get clear and structured support in key skills: listening, recognizing sounds in words, learning letter sounds, building vocabulary, reading smoothly and understanding what they read. These skills work together and when you strengthen one, it helps improve the others.

Good reading instruction includes learning how letters and words work and practicing reading in books. The goal is for children to understand what they read, enjoy reading and learn new things from books.

The links below may help you support your children with reading at home:

- ★ [Ideas for parents to help children to practice their reading and writing skills](#)
- ★ [10 Ideas to Raise A Reader](#)

Purple Tag Reminder

Just a friendly reminder that children in Pre-Primary to Grade 2 who use school transportation must have a purple tag on the left side of their backpack. This is to ensure they are not left alone at a bus stop. If your child doesn't have a purple tag or needs a new one, please reach out to the main office. Children who use special needs transportation do not require a purple tag.

April Author Visits!

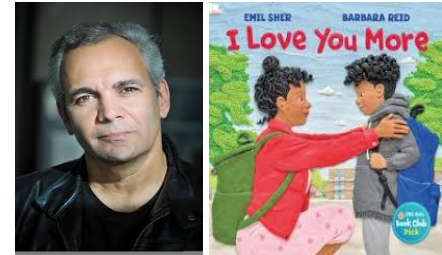
Jessica Scott Kerrin is the author of over a dozen books for kids—but she didn't always want to be a writer. She wanted to be an astronaut. Then she had to get glasses when she was grade two, and that put an end to her starry dreams. So instead, she started writing stories, and when she grew up, she had an astronaut sign her book about rockets!



Like many writers, **Heidi Tattrie Rushton** has followed a winding career path, including roles such as a freelance reporter, animal care technician, international spy, er, university recruiter, and preschool teacher. Heidi's debut middle-grade novel, *Pet Tales*, was published by Trap Door Books (an imprint of Nevermore Press) in 2024. *Pet Tales* is a heartwarming tale following eleven-year-old Penny, a budding writer and dedicated animal shelter volunteer.



Emil Sher is a beloved children's author. He covers all the steps that went into the making of *I Love You More*, from his first drafts to Barbara Reid's rough sketches, to a last-minute change before it was published. All you need is a few words, and a lot of love. How much does Emil love author visits? More than cherries love sundaes. More than boots love rain puddles. More than seek loves hide



Measles Prevention

We are sharing the following on behalf of Nova Scotia Public Health: Measles cases are rising in Canada. Measles is a virus that spreads easily and can cause serious complications. **The best way to prevent measles is vaccination.** Nova Scotia offers free vaccines to eligible people. These can be given by primary care providers, pharmacists and Public Health. Parents are encouraged to check their family's vaccine records and get the measles vaccine if missing doses. Check your vaccine records at vaxrecordns.nshealth.ca. **Find out more about measles vaccination: www.nshealth.ca/measles.**

Who should get vaccinated?

- ★ Anyone born in or after 1970 should get **two doses** of vaccine, typically given at 12 and 18 months. If missed, children and adults can catch up for free.
- ★ Adults born before 1970 are generally considered immune but can get a single dose if travelling.
- ★ Infants 6-12 months old can get a single dose if travelling but still require two doses after their first birthday to complete the series.