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The Hillside Husky Howl

Dear Families,

Happy May! We are very excited to unveil our Hillside Park Huskies school mascot and logo. A huge thanks to our talented Visual Art Teacher, Stacey Allan, for her hard work in coming up with the final design. Students were involved throughout the process and their ideas about colour and design are reflected in Stacey's work. We will also be working on an upcoming school clothing order. Stay tuned!



April was another busy month at Hillside as we welcomed 3 authors, and were delighted with a phenomenal Domino Topple! Thank you to Ms. Somers for running a wonderful Scholastic Book Fair and to Mme Purcell for organizing a fabulous cultural experience for our grades 4 and 5 students on French Language Day. Our first Hillside Trivia Night was so much fun. Thanks to all who were able to join in the fun.

Of all the schools that participated in the *Tattletales Coins for Books Campaign*, Hillside Park raised the highest total of any school. We can't wait to spend this money on more glorious books for our classrooms. A heartfelt thank you to our school community for supporting this initiative.

We are busy planning our upcoming Spring Fling on May 29th. Once again, we will be asking families for contributions to class themed Raffle Baskets. This was a huge success last year! Please continue to check for updates in the coming days.

Yours in Education,

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



Date	Event
May 1	Author Heidi Rushton visits grade 4 and 5
May 13	SAC/PTG Meeting 6:00 in the Library
May 13-14 May 15-16	Grade 3 Provincial Assessment- Literacy Grade 3 Provincial Assessment- Mathematics
May 15	Black Excellence Day
May 19	Victoria Day (no school)
May 29	Spring Fling 6:00-7:30 PM
June 10	Grade 5 Orientation to AJ Smeltzer (more info to follow) Grade 5 Family Meeting at AJ Smeltzer (5:30 PM)
June 19	Field Day and Variety Show (Rain Date June 20)
June 27	Assessment & Evaluation Day (no school)
June 30	Last Day of School

Spring Fling

Mark your calendars for Thursday, May 29! Our Spring Fling will take place in the Gym from 6:00-7:30 PM. It is shaping up to be a fabulous night.

More information to follow in a separate email. We look forward to seeing you all there!



Black Excellence Day is May 15

Black Excellence Day acknowledges, **celebrates**, and **uplifts Black contributions** while fostering an inclusive and equitable environment. The following are ways you celebrate the fourth annual **Black Excellence Day**:

Celebrating Achievements: Black Excellence Day provides an opportunity to celebrate the achievements, contributions, and successes of Black individuals within the community. It highlights the talent and accomplishments within the Black community, ensuring that Black students have an opportunity to highlight all their positive contributions within the education system.

Promoting Equity and Inclusion: Recognizing Black Excellence fosters a culture of equity and inclusion within schools. It sends a message that all students, regardless of their background, have the potential to excel and make valuable contributions to society. By celebrating diversity and promoting inclusivity, schools create a more welcoming and supportive environment for all students.

Education and Awareness: Black Excellence Day serves as an educational opportunity to raise awareness about the rich history, culture, and achievements of Black people. It provides a platform to share stories of resilience, innovation, and leadership, helping to combat stereotypes and promote understanding and appreciation of Black heritage.

Empowerment and Inspiration: By celebrating Black Excellence, students are inspired and empowered to pursue their own goals and dreams. Seeing examples of successful Black individuals from various fields, such as science, arts, politics and sports, can motivate students to strive for their own excellence.

Community Engagement: Black Excellence Day can serve as a platform for community engagement and collaboration. It provides an opportunity for schools to partner with local organizations, leaders, and activists within the Black community to organize events, workshops, and discussions that promote dialogue and understanding.

Black Excellence Day provides a specific opportunity to create a supportive environment that values and uplifts **all students**!



Grade 3 Provincial Literacy & Mathematics Assessment

Students in grade 3 will participate in the Nova Scotia Provincial Assessment in Literacy and Mathematics this month. A detailed brochure has been sent to all families with students in grade 3. It is important that students are **present** on the mornings the assessment is being administered, and that they arrive **on time** so they are ready to start with the class. This will help set them up for success!

The assessment will be administered on the mornings of:

- May 13 and 14- Literacy
- May 15 and 16- Mathematics

Education Week 2025

Nova Scotia's annual Education Week will take place from May 11-17. This year's theme is *Empowering Futures: Innovation in Education*. This year's week salutes educators, school staff, and partners who embrace innovation in meeting the evolving needs of students in preparing them for a rapidly changing future.

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank our Hillside staff for the impact they have on our students and the outstanding work they do in our school every day.



Asian Heritage Month

Asian Heritage Month is an opportunity for us to learn more about the diverse culture and history of Asian communities in Canada, as well as to acknowledge the many achievements and contributions of people of Asia.

The theme for Asian Heritage Month 2025 is: "Unity in Diversity: The Impact of Asian Communities in Shaping Canadian Identity". This theme acknowledges the abundance of diversity present among Asian Canadian communities, and how this richness has contributed to building a unifying Canadian identity.



Gaelic Nova Scotia Month

May is Mìos nan Gàidheal/Gaelic Nova Scotia Month which is a time to celebrate and create awareness of the history, culture, language, contributions, and achievements of Gaels across the province.



2025-26 EXCEL Registration

The EXCEL Before and After Program is a recreation based, fee-for-service before and after school program run by Halifax Regional Centre for Education. At each school site where EXCEL is offered, the dedicated staffing teams plan games and activities that suit the needs and interests of all registered students. Since EXCEL began more than 25 years ago, staff have continually enhanced the program based on experiences and feedback. Today, with more than 4,000 participating students, EXCEL is one of the largest programs of its kind in the Maritimes, providing inclusive and engaging programming for participants.



For more information about registration, fees and programming, please [click here](#).

If you have additional questions, please contact the EXCEL Before and After Program Registrar's Office: Kimberly Lozon at 902-464-2000 ext. 2787 or excelregistrar@hrce.ca and Gail Hartling at 902-464-2000 ext. 2236 or excel@hrce.ca.



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