



Hillside Park Elementary

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Principal: Jacquelyn Reid Vice Principal: Emily Ripley-Davis

Administrative Assistant: Carol Sheldon



Dear Hillside Park Families,

What a fabulous first month we had at Hillside! Our month was filled with meaningful events and learning opportunities: Pink Shirt Day, the Terry Fox Run, and our safety drills (fire, lockdown, and hold & secure). We closed out the month by recognizing Orange Shirt Day together, reaffirming our commitment to Truth & Reconciliation. Looking ahead, we are excited to celebrate Mi'kmaq Heritage Month, Diwali, Halloween, and more in the weeks to come!

Staying connected is important to us. Recently, you should have received an email from PowerSchool asking you to complete the annual Demographic Update. Even if your information hasn't changed, please be sure to log in and submit the form. This update also includes the *consent for publication* and dismissal plans for early closures. If you run into any issues, please don't hesitate to call the office; we're happy to help.

A reminder to please pack a water bottle every day for your child. It's also that time of year where the weather changes throughout the day. We like to get our students outside as much as possible, so layers are always a good idea. Thanks for all you do! We appreciate your support.

Yours in Education,

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



Date	Event
October 1	Mi'kmaq Heritage Month Begins Treaty Day
October 7	SAC/PTG Meeting 6:00 PM in the Library (all welcome!)
October 13	Thanksgiving Monday (no school)
October 16	Brilhante, Cawthra & Dunn to Milk Sports Fair
October 20	Diwali
October 22	Reed, Bond & Hausman to Willowbank U-Pick
October 23	Halloween Howl
October 24	Provincial Conference Day (no school for students)
October 31	Halloween
November 10	Remembrance Day ceremony (12:30 PM in the Gym)
November 11	Remembrance Day (no school)
November 21	Assessment & Evaluation Day (no school)

[Click here for the 2025-26 HRCE School Calendar](#)

October 5th is World Teachers' Day!

World Teachers' Day has been recognized globally since 1994 and is now honoured in more than 100 countries. At Hillside Park, we are so fortunate to have such an incredible team of educators. It truly takes a village, and ours is something special.



Mi'kmaq History Month

October is Mi'kmaq History Month, a time to celebrate and recognize the rich culture, history, and contributions of the Mi'kmaq people. In our schools, we can honour this month by incorporating Mi'kmaq stories, traditions and teachings into our curriculum.

Please join us in offering our respect, awareness and appreciation for the Mi'kmaq community and their enduring legacy. Learn more [here](#).



October 1 is Treaty Day

Celebrating and recognizing Treaty Day is an important way we can strengthen understanding and respect for Indigenous cultures and histories. It highlights the significance of treaties as living agreements that shape relationships between Indigenous peoples and the government. By educating students about Treaty Day, we promote awareness of Indigenous rights and contributions and encourage reconciliation.

This celebration helps build a more inclusive and respectful society, where students learn the importance of honouring commitments and working together for a better future.



HALLOWEEN

Our **Halloween Howl** will take place on Thursday, Oct. 23 from 6:00-7:30 PM. We will need volunteers to make this a great success. Please consider coming to our Parent/Teacher Group Meeting on Tuesday, October 7th (6:00 in the Library).

If you can volunteer for a 30 minute shift at the Halloween Howl, please email Ms. Ripley-Davis at emily.ripley@hrce.ca. We are also looking for donations of Halloween decorations- new or used! Please send them in as soon as possible.



October 20-24 is School Bus Safety Week

Student safety is a shared responsibility! During School Bus Safety Week, everyone can work together to ensure the safety of students on and around the school bus.

Did you know that HRCE has more than 33,000 students who ride the school bus every day? School Bus Safety Week is a great time to remind students, families and schools of a few daily safety tips that everyone can follow to ensure all students get to school safely. Remember: In Nova Scotia, it's illegal to pass a school bus when its red lights are flashing and the stop arm is extended. You can find out more information about riding the school bus in HRCE [here](#).

Bus Stop Safety

- Be on time for the bus and please don't run to/from the bus.
- Stand back off the road and don't push or shove when waiting at a stop.
- Always cross in front of the bus. Walk three metres (10 feet) in front of the bus to a point where you can see the driver and wait for the driver's signal to cross. Proceed to the centre of the road, STOP, LOOK & LISTEN and cross the road when it is safe.
- Never crawl under a school bus or cross the road behind the bus.
- Know the danger zones around the bus.

School Bus Safety

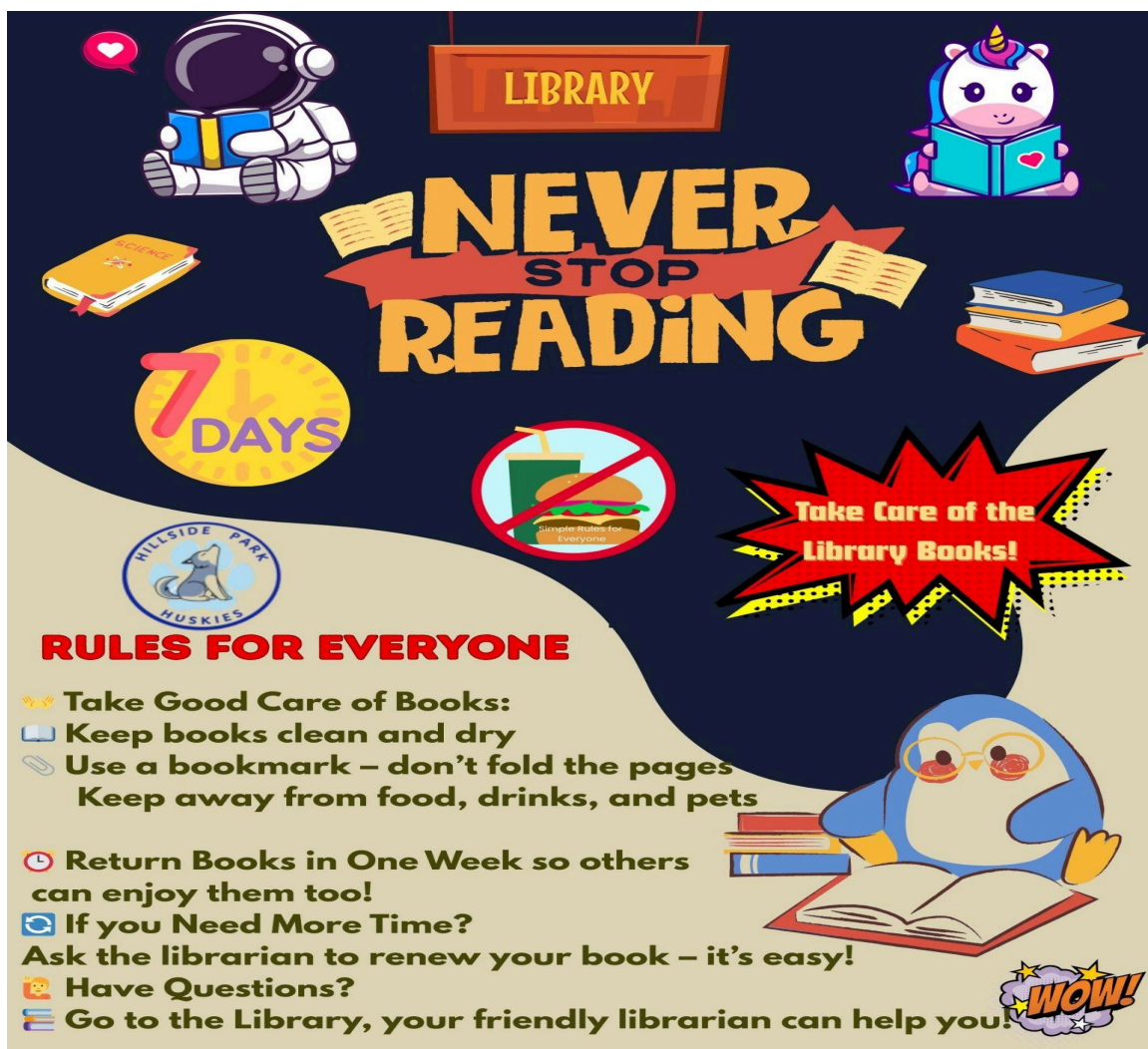
- Please respect and listen to the driver and avoid distracting them.
- Please keep noise levels to a minimum.
- Do not stand or move seats while the bus is in motion.
- Never put your hands, arms, feet or head out of the bus window.
- Ask the driver for permission before you open the bus windows.
- Do not throw anything inside the bus or out of the windows.
- Keep the aisle clear at all times when the bus is in motion



October is Canadian Library Month

October is Canadian Library Month, a time to celebrate our wonderful libraries and the Library Support Specialists who support our students. The third Friday of the month is Canadian Library Workers Day and the fourth Monday is Canadian School Library Day. Please join us in thanking our school library workers for all they do every day in creating safe and welcoming spaces, encouraging a love of reading, and helping students succeed in school and beyond.

At Hillside, we are also excited to celebrate receiving the Indigo Love of Reading Grant. Last year, we put \$10,000 worth of books into our library, and this year we'll be adding another \$10,000. Alongside these new books, we've transformed our library with beautiful new furniture, cozy seating, a vibrant mural, and stunning new shelving. These updates ensure our library continues to be a warm, inspiring place where students can discover the joy of reading. The poster below has been created by our wonderful Library Support Specialist, Virginia Tacain:









Provincial Safe School Strategy

As part of the provincial Safe Schools Strategy, we are pleased to share our school-wide Matrix of Expectations. Our matrix was created with input from staff, students, and families, and outlines the shared behaviours that help us build a safe, respectful, and caring school community. Our three guiding expectations are: *Huskies are Respectful, Responsible, and Safe*. The matrix breaks down what these behaviours look like in different areas of the school, helping everyone understand and practice them every day to support learning and well-being.

Our matrix can be found in all classrooms and shared spaces. Please see a (teeny!) version below, and you can also view it [here](#) on our website.

Hillside Park School: Matrix of Expectations

	Huskies are Respectful	Huskies are Responsible	Huskies are Safe
	We honour and respect others, ourselves, and the spaces we share. We listen to adults, and follow expectations to create a positive environment for everyone.	We do what's right, even when no one is watching. We build trust in our Husky pack by being honest and taking ownership of our words and actions.	We stay safe by following expectations so everyone feels comfortable and cared for at school. We do our best to contribute positively to our school community.
Learning Environments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I use a respectful voice and listen when others are speaking. I use polite words and kind manners. I stay in my own learning space and respect others' space. I let others learn and do my best to help. I listen to and follow directions from adults in our school. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I try my best and keep going, even when it's hard. I use and care for learning materials responsibly. I stay engaged and take part in my learning. I clean up my space and help keep our classroom tidy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I move carefully and pay attention to others around me. I put learning materials away properly when I'm done. I use materials safely and for their intended purpose. I use a voice level that fits the space and activity.
Transitions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I use a quiet voice and walk calmly so I don't disturb others. I walk in a single line and stay to the right. I respect personal space by keeping my hands and body to myself. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I pay attention to what's happening around me. I keep my hallway space neat and organized. I ask to leave the room and go straight to where I need to be. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I walk facing forward and stay on my path. I use friendly feet — no running or jumping in the hallways. I keep my hands to myself to keep everyone safe. I keep hallways clear so everyone can move safely.
Shared Spaces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I help keep shared spaces clean and ready for others. I wait my turn patiently and kindly. I give others personal space and keep my hands to myself. I respect others' privacy and boundaries. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I use spaces the right way and return to class promptly. I use only the supplies I need and use them respectfully. I tell an adult if something is wrong or broken. I clean up after myself and leave the space better than I found it. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I respect others' privacy. I tell an adult if something is broken or unsafe. I wash my hands with soap and water to stay healthy.
Mealtime 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I clean up my eating space when I'm finished. I use kind words and table manners. I listen to lunchtime helpers and adults. I keep my hands, feet, and food to myself. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I clean up after myself. I stay seated while eating. I only eat the food that was made for me. I use the right bins for organics, garbage, and recyclables. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I listen carefully to lunch monitors' instructions. I use a respectful voice during lunch. I keep my food and drinks in my own space. I tell an adult if there's a spill or a problem.
Playground 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I put equipment back where it belongs. I stop playing when the bell rings and line up quickly. I use kind words and friendly actions. I follow game rules and play fairly by taking turns. I listen to adults and my peers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I use equipment the right way and take care of it. I clean up and return equipment when I'm done. I solve small problems with kind words or ask an adult for help. I stay in my assigned area to help everyone stay safe. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If someone is hurt, I find an adult to help. I keep my hands, feet, and body to myself. I stay aware of what's happening around me. I use equipment safely and the way it was meant to be used.
When I Feel Upset	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I use respectful words and tone. I use "I" statements, like "I need" or "I feel" I allow adults to help me. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I ask for a break when I need one. I take deep breaths to help my body and brain feel calm. I use calming strategies that help me feel better and ready to learn. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I ask an adult for help when I need it. I walk to my safe space to calm down. I use kind hands, feet, and words to keep myself and others safe.