



# Hillside Park Elementary

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Principal: Jacquelyn Reid Vice Principal: Emily Ripley-Davis

Administrative Assistant: Carol Sheldon



Dear Hillside Park Families,

We're off to a fantastic start at Hillside! It has been wonderful seeing students settle in, reconnect with friends, and dive into their classroom routines. The excitement and positive energy throughout the school is contagious! A heartfelt thank-you goes out to our staff, students, and families; your support makes all the difference. As we continue to welcome new Huskies to our school, please note that class groupings may be adjusted up until September 30.

We're also looking for family members who would like to be part of our School Advisory Council (SAC) and Parent Teacher Group (PTG). Our first meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 9 at 6:00 PM in the library. If you're interested in attending, I'd love to hear from you at [jacquelyn.reid@hrce.ca](mailto:jacquelyn.reid@hrce.ca). Your voice is important, and we'd be glad to have you join us!

A few quick reminders:

- Please send your child to school each day with a filled water bottle.
- Don't forget to pack cutlery in lunch bags.
- A spare set of clothes is always helpful for unexpected spills or outdoor play.

Here's to another amazing month ahead at Hillside!

Yours in Education,

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



Date	Event
September 9	SAC/PTG Meeting in the Library 6:00 PM- all are welcome!
September 11	Stand Up Against Bullying Day- wear pink
September 16	School Picture Day
September 18	Curriculum Night & Ice Cream Social 6:00 PM
September 26	Orange Shirt Day
September 29	Professional Learning Day (no school for students)
September 30	National Day for Truth & Reconciliation (no school)
October 13	Thanksgiving Day (no school)
October 24	Provincial Conference Day (no school for students)

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

## Stand Up Against Bullying Day

On the second Thursday of September, we recognize Stand Up Against Bullying Day. This day is an opportunity for us to start the school year off right – by celebrating inclusivity, kindness and friendship.

All schools in HRCE are focused on ensuring all students have a safe and welcoming environment in which to learn and thrive. Please join us and wear pink if you're able on Thursday, September 11 to take a stand against bullying.



# Curriculum Night



## Breakfast Baskets

We are happy to offer breakfast foods for students at our school. Students can enjoy breakfast items including yogurt tubes, cheese, and fruit directly from their class baskets first thing in the morning. A healthy breakfast snack gives our students the fuel necessary for learning!

## Provincial School Lunch Program

The provincial school lunch begins on September 15. You can learn more by visiting the [provincial site](#), view the menu, and place your orders online.

## Fantastic Friday Phone Calls!

We love celebrating our students at Hillside Park. If you get a call from the school on a Friday, there is a good chance it is Mrs. Reid or Ms. Ripley-Davis calling to tell you your child has been recognized by one of our staff members for doing something “fantastic” that week. We will leave a message if the call goes to voicemail.



# Demographic Form Update

On September 9, the *Demographic Updates Form* will be available to families in the PowerSchool Parent Portal. This form should be updated by every family to ensure all information about your child is current, including contacts, medical information, consents and demographics. Even if there are no anticipated changes, please still review this information and submit the form. This information will then be reviewed by the school before updates are finalized. The deadline to submit the form is October 6, 2025.

## National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

Each year on September 30, National Day for Truth and Reconciliation honours the children who didn't return from residential schools, as well as survivors, their families, and communities.

Orange Shirt Day, led by Indigenous communities, aims to raise awareness about the inter-generational impacts of residential schools and allows us all to show our support for the Every Child Matters movement. As there are no classes on Monday, September 29 and Tuesday, September 30, we welcome staff and students to wear orange on Friday, September 26.

## Life Threatening Allergies

We have students and staff at Hillside Park with severe life threatening allergies to peanuts, tree nuts, kiwi, and eggs. Please do not send foods containing peanuts/tree nuts to school. This includes Nutella.



If your child has an allergy, please drop into the office to fill out the required forms. Please check the labels of food if you are unsure.

## Medication at School

Students requiring medications at school must have proper documentation on file in the school office. Forms must be completed on a yearly basis so we have current information in the office. Over the counter drugs must also follow this procedure. All medication is kept in a secure location in the office and is given to the student by appropriate school personnel when required. Please contact Mrs. Reid if your child requires medication during school hours.

# Volunteering at Hillside Park

We would love to welcome volunteers into our school this year! If you are interested, please reach out to Ms. Ripley-Davis ([emily.ripley@hrce.ca](mailto:emily.ripley@hrce.ca)). We can provide you with a letter that states you are volunteering with us which reduces the cost of the checks.

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.



Please note: the Child Abuse Register Search and Criminal Records Check must be updated every three years. If you completed yours last year, we still have them on file!



We will be holding our annual **Terry Fox Run** on Monday, September 18. Our students will learn about Terry and his incredible journey during the Marathon of Hope.

If you wish to donate online, go to [www.terryfox.org](http://www.terryfox.org). We will also be making a donation on behalf of Hillside Park School.

## Head Lice

Please continue to regularly check family members for head lice. Please let the school administration know if we can help. A child with head lice may return to school after the first treatment. Please know that head lice is a common occurrence and we can all work together to minimize the effects.

# Arrival and Departure Safety Reminder

As we begin our school year, we'd like to remind you of how you can help keep our students safe as they arrive and leave our school grounds:

- ★ PLEASE do not park in the no stopping zone at drop off/pick up. This creates a safety issue for the buses and for the walkers as the bus cannot make the turn. There are signs to indicate where you can park. Please drop off on the **school side of the street**.
- ★ Students and families should only walk up the hill to our school via the **second** driveway. When facing the school from Hillside Drive families would walk up the driveway on the left of the building (not the driveway closest to the blue wall or main entry door).
- ★ For the safety of students, please remember to park on the street and **DO NOT drive up into the parking lot**. Please keep the driveway and areas near the driveway clear for the buses to get in and out safely.



## Fire Drill & 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. We have been implementing a number of measures as part of a comprehensive plan aimed at ensuring our school remains a safe place for our students to learn. *Our first fire drill will take place the week of Sept 8-12.*

One of the procedures our school will be practicing is a lockdown drill. 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.

Just as we prepare our students to properly respond to a fire drill, they also need to be aware of the proper response during a lockdown drill. These drills should be treated with the same level of importance as fire drills. Please be assured that staff at our school will spend time discussing the importance of this procedure with students prior to running a drill. We will also take time after the drill to remind them that it was only a practice and there was no danger. When possible, our School Liaison Officer may assist us in conducting the lockdown drills just as the Fire Department assists with evacuation drills. Please take the time to speak with your child about this procedure and reinforce its importance. *Our first lockdown drill will be during the week of September 15-19.*



# Safe Arrival

One of our greatest priorities is ensuring that all our students arrive safely at school each day. You are able to report future absences using an app, website, or toll-free phone number.

If a student is going to be absent from school for any reason, you have 3 options to report the absence:

- 1) Call Safe Arrival toll free at: 1-833-582-6940
- 2) Report via SchoolMessenger
- 3) Download the SchoolMessenger app for Android and iOS devices and use your username and password for the PowerSchool Portal.

All three methods are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Up to five consecutive absences can be recorded at once. If your student is absent and the absence has not been reported in advance, you will receive notifications via email, text, and phone calls from School Messenger.

If SchoolMessenger cannot reach you, office staff will follow up. Please make sure you contact Safe Arrival before 8:00 am as teachers will be completing their attendance at that time.

*Children arriving late must sign in at the office.*

## Dogs on Property

We are reminding families NOT to bring dogs onto school property. We realize that combining a dog walk with your child's trip to and from school is convenient. Although these pets are usually playful and harmless, the presence of dogs on the school grounds represents a potential health and safety issue for several reasons.

Thank you for helping us to maintain a safe environment by not bringing your dog onto school property. As a suggestion, you could make arrangements with your child(ren) to meet you on the sidewalk if you are walking your dog to and from the school.

## Provincial Student Attendance and Engagement Policy

Regular school attendance plays a key role in setting students up for success. We understand that sometimes special circumstances arise and we work collaboratively with our families to navigate these challenges. Please let us know if there is anything we can do to support regular, consistent attendance for your child. You can also read more about the provincial policy [here](#).





# **Hillside Park Elementary**

## **Vision & Values Statement**

As part of our ongoing commitment to creating a safe and inclusive learning environment, and in conjunction with the release of the revised Provincial School Code of Conduct for the 2025-26 school year, our school staff has been collaboratively working to develop a Values and Vision statement for Hillside Park.

### **Our Vision**

At Hillside Park, we believe every member of our school community deserves a safe, inclusive, and joyful place to learn and grow. We embrace high expectations and a growth mindset, knowing that learning takes courage, curiosity, and care. We value strong relationships and the unique contributions of our students, staff, and families. We are building a culture of respect, responsibility, and safety~ because Hillside Park Huskies stick together!

### **Our Core Values**

*Equity & Belonging:* We nurture a safe and welcoming environment where we honour and uplift everyone's identity, voice, and lived experience. We are stronger together—students, staff, families, and community members.

*Joyful Learning:* We embrace learning through a growth mindset, perseverance, and creativity. We celebrate the progress of everyone's unique learning journey and believe that all students can experience academic excellence.

*Responsibility, Respect, & Safety:* We model and teach these values through our words, actions, and relationships, creating a community where everyone can grow and thrive.