



Hillside Park Elementary

15 Hillside Avenue - Lower Sackville, NS - B4C 1W6

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Principal: Jacquelyn Reid Vice Principal: Emily Ripley-Davis

Administrative Assistant: Carol Sheldon

DECEMBER

Dear Hillside Park Families,

December has arrived, and it's amazing how much has been accomplished already this year. As we look back on the past few months at Hillside Park, we want to express our heartfelt gratitude to our families for your ongoing support, kindness, and partnership.

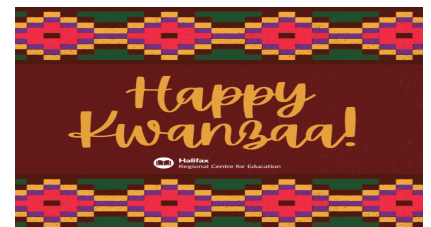
We are so proud of the progress our learners have made this term. Report cards will be sent electronically tomorrow, and we invite you to book your Family/Teacher conference for December 4th [here](#). These conversations are an important opportunity to celebrate successes and plan next steps together.

We'd also like to extend our appreciation to Ms. Ripley-Davis. She has been working tirelessly with students as they prepare for our Holiday Concert on December 10. We're looking forward to a wonderful evening of music and community spirit. Tickets will be sent home on December 2, along with information about requesting additional seats.

As we move into this festive season, we wish all of our Hillside Park families moments of rest and connection. May the weeks ahead bring joy and good health as we look toward 2026.

Yours in Education,




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



December

December 2	Report Cards sent home electronically
December 4	Professional Learning Day for staff (AM) Family/Teacher Conferences (afternoon and evening) <i>No school for students</i>
December 10	Holiday Concert (12:30 PM and 6:00 PM performances)
December 11	Holiday Concert Snow Date
December 14	First Day of Hanukkah!
December 17-19	Spirit Days (see below)
December 19	Last Day of School for 2025
December 25	Merry Christmas!
December 26	Happy Kwanzaa!
January 5	First Day Back to School in 2026

Holiday Spirit Days

Wednesday, December 17 	Dress Like a Candy Cane! Deck yourself out in red, green, white, stripes, etc. Anything goes!
Thursday, December 18 	Festive Wear Day! Bring out your holiday sweaters, fun hats, antlers, you name it!
Friday, December 19 	PJ Day! Who doesn't love a cozy jammy day to head into the holiday break?

Mrs. Sheldon is Retiring!

As we approach the holiday break, we want to share that our wonderful administrative assistant, Carol Sheldon, will be retiring at the end of December. Carol has been the heart of our front office for many years, greeting families, and supporting staff and students each day. Carol will be greatly missed, and we wish her every happiness in this next chapter.



In January, we will welcome Shelley Drake as our new administrative assistant. Shelley brings a wealth of experience, and we look forward to her joining our Hillside Park team after the holiday break.

Inclement Weather

Did you know? HRCE takes great care when making the decision to alter the regular operations of schools and school buses in the event of severe or inclement weather.

It is HRCE's goal to communicate any changes to the regular operations of schools and/or buses as close to 6:00 a.m. as possible. A 6:00 a.m. announcement could be:

- All schools are delayed in opening by two hours and bus pickups are delayed by two hours; or
- All schools are open, but some or all buses are not operating for the day; or
- Some schools (either individually or by family) are closed for the day; or
- All schools are closed for the day.



Visit hrce.ca/weather for everything you need to know about how weather could impact the operation of our school.

 Halifax
Regional Centre for Education

If weather deteriorates, or is forecasted to worsen throughout the morning, an 11:00 a.m. announcement could be:

- Bused students will be picked up two hours earlier than their regular dismissal time; and
- Walking students will be dismissed at their regularly scheduled lunch hour.

How will I find out?

- By email to the addresses in PowerSchool
- By text message, if you have opted-in. If you aren't sure if you have opted-in, text Y to the following number: 978338
- On our website www.hrce.ca
- On Instagram at www.instagram.com/hrce_ns/

It's important to always have a plan in place for childcare in the event of any cancellation.

For more information on how HRCE manages during inclement weather, visit hrce.ca/weather.

SchoolsPlus is Here to Support You

SchoolsPlus is a confidential, free service available in every school in Nova Scotia. Our goal is to build positive relationships between families, schools, and communities. Parents, guardians and students (12+) can self-refer to SchoolsPlus 12 months a year! Just contact the SchoolsPlus Facilitator at your school.

Call 902-464-2000, ext. 2331 or email schoolsplus@hrce.ca. Learn more about SchoolsPlus [here](#).



SchoolsPlus is a confidential, free service available in every school in Nova Scotia. Our goal is to build positive relationships between families, schools, and communities. We can help families navigate complicated situations when they are involved with many different services.

Phone: 902-464-2041
Email: schoolsplus@hrce.ca

We're ALWAYS hiring!

Did you know that HRCE has more than 10,000 employees serving more than 60,000 students? Our job postings are updated every Wednesday at noon and feature a wide variety of career opportunities! As HRCE grows, so does our staff. Check out new opportunities weekly at www.myhrce.ca/jobs.



Discovery Centre Science on the Road

Hillside Park is excited to welcome the Discovery Centre's Science on the Road program. Every class will have the chance to participate in hands-on science workshops right in their classrooms, exploring real-world concepts through creativity, curiosity, and problem-solving.

One of the highlights will be the portable planetarium, which will transform our gym into a star-filled dome. Students will be amazed as they learn about constellations, planets, and the wonders of our night sky.

We're grateful for opportunities like these that spark imagination, deepen learning, and make science come alive for our Huskies!



Resources for Parents from Unplugged Canada

If you're concerned about your kids' screen time, smartphone use, or social media pressure, there are some wonderful resources below to help parents and caregivers navigate the challenges of raising kids in a digital world.

For parents: *The Anxious Generation* by Jonathan Haidt highlights the research and evidence behind how early smartphone and social media exposure have shaped a generation over the last 10–15 years. *Ten Rules for Raising Kids in a High-Tech World* by Jean Twenge offers practical, actionable guidance to help parents set healthy boundaries and support their kids' digital wellbeing.

For kids: *The Amazing Generation*, written for pre-teens and teens and co-authored by Jonathan Haidt, will be released on December 30. It explains the impact of today's digital environment in an engaging, age-appropriate way.

All of these books are available at your local library or bookstore.

Unplugged Canada is a parent-led, national movement advocating for healthier childhoods by delaying smartphones and social media until kids are more developmentally ready. Join thousands of Canadian families choosing to delay by taking the Unplugged Canada Pledge at unpluggedcanada.com/sign-pledge.

