



Hillside Park Elementary

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

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Principal: Jacquelyn Reid Acting Vice Principal: Erin Dunn

Administrative Assistant: Shelley Drake



Dear Hillside Park Families,

April has arrived, and with it comes a busy and exciting stretch at school! We're looking forward to connecting with families to discuss your child's progress. If you haven't already, please be sure to sign up for a conference time through the online portal.

As we enter the final term, every day counts. Regular attendance is critical to student achievement. It helps students stay on track, feel connected, and finish the year strong. Our instructional day begins at 8:00 AM. Arriving a few minutes early helps students settle in and start their day feeling prepared and ready to learn.

With spring weather keeping us on our toes, we're seeing lots of muddy adventures and changing conditions throughout the day. We encourage families to pack a spare set of clothes (especially socks and pants) in your child's backpack.

A special thank you to Ms. Shelley in recognition of *Administrative Professionals Day* later this month. Ms. Shelley plays an important role in keeping our school running smoothly each day, always with kindness and a smile!

There are many great things ahead this spring!

Yours in Education,

Mrs. Reid, Ms. Dunn and the Hillside Park Team





Date	Event
April 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Family/Teacher Conferences (5:30-7:30 PM)
April 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Professional Practice AM & Family/Teacher Conferences (12:30-2:30 PM) ● No school for students
April 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Good Friday (no school)
April 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Easter Monday (no school)
April 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SAC/PTG Meeting (6:00 PM in the Library)
April 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● French Language Day (grades 4-5)
April 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● School Event (6:00-7:30 PM) More details to follow next week

We will practice our fourth of six fire drills during the week of April 7-10

April 2nd is World Autism Day

Autism Awareness Day is an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the many strengths and experiences of autistic children and youth in our school communities. For families, it's a moment to reflect on the importance of feeling seen, heard, and supported every day.

Awareness is only the beginning. True inclusion comes from acceptance, understanding, and a commitment to meeting each student where they are. When educators, students, and families work together to build empathy and reduce barriers, we create environments where every child can thrive.

Recognized globally on April 2, World Autism Awareness Day, led by the United Nations, highlights the importance of improving quality of life and upholding the rights of autistic individuals. This year's theme, "Autism and Humanity~ Every Life Has Value," reminds us that every person deserves dignity, respect, and the opportunity to thrive, both in school and beyond.



Today we celebrate
World Autism Awareness Day



Volunteering at Hillside Park

National Volunteer Week is April 12-18, and we want to take a moment to say thank you to all of our incredible volunteers! Our Hillside Huskies are better because of you. From helping in classrooms, being part of SAC/PTG, lending a hand in the library, or accompanying us on a field trip, we appreciate all the ways you share your time and talents. We love welcoming new volunteers into our school community.

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.



French Second Language Grant

For the fourth year in a row, we have been awarded the French Second Language Cultural Connections Grant. On April 17th, 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. A huge thank you to Mme. Purcell for all her hard work in organizing this wonderful day.



Try Carpool Conversations with your Kids

Looking for an easy way to talk with your child about their digital world? Carpool Conversations from Common Sense Media offers short, engaging prompts and mini podcasts designed to spark family discussions about technology, media use, and online behaviour. Many episodes are only a couple of minutes long, perfect for a car ride or while waiting for practice to start. Explore the conversation starters [here](#).

The “Amazing” Adventure Guide

[Unplugged Canada](#) encourages families to reclaim childhood by creating more opportunities for outdoor adventure, independence, and real-world responsibility. Research shows that children thrive when they spend more time exploring their neighbourhoods, solving problems with friends, and contributing meaningfully at home and in their communities. Simple steps like walking to a neighbour’s house, biking to a local park, helping plan a family meal or running small errands help kids build confidence, resilience and practical life skills.

Families can support this shift by intentionally creating space for free, unsupervised play and increasing responsibility over time. That might mean designating “no-adult” play zones, encouraging kids to gather in groups of three or more for creative play, or giving them meaningful household roles such as helping with groceries, cooking or caring for pets. For more ideas and practical steps, see the full guide: [The “Amazing” Adventure Guide](#) from Unplugged Canada.

Community Supports through SchoolsPlus

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. Please click [here](#) to learn about the variety of ways SchoolsPlus can support families.

