



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 was a full month at Hillside Park! We appreciated the opportunity to connect with so many of you during our Family/Teacher progress conferences. Our Grade 4 and 5 students celebrated French Language Day, and it was wonderful to see the energy and enthusiasm as Run Club got underway. Thank you for your incredible support of our School Bingo night~ it was a great success filled with friendly competition and lots of fun. A special thank you to our Visual Art Specialist, Stacey Allan, for the beautiful Hillside Park Huskies mural now brightening our gym wall.

As we head into May, we're looking forward to more opportunities for students to stay active and engaged. Soccer Club with Ms. Daley will be starting for our upper elementary students, and tennis will be part of our Physical Education program. In the classroom, students are building their writing skills by working through the full process, from drafting to publishing. We're especially excited to continue expanding these opportunities through our Digital Literacy Lab, where students can create, refine, and showcase their ideas in new and engaging ways.

In mathematics, our focus is on helping students approach problems with confidence, taking time to understand what is being asked, choosing strategies, and reflecting on their thinking. Across all areas of the school, we are continuing to support student well-being by teaching and reinforcing positive play and conflict resolution skills, using common language and expectations. We're proud of the growth we're seeing and look forward to a strong and positive finish to the school year.

There are many great things ahead this spring!

Yours in Education,

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



| Date | Event |
|------------------------|---|
| May 5 | SAC/PTG Meeting 6:00 in the Library |
| May 8 | Author Andy Tolson visits upper classes |
| May 12-13 May 14-15 | Grade 3 Provincial Assessment- Literacy Grade 3 Provincial Assessment- Mathematics |
| May 15 | Black Excellence Day |
| May 18 | Victoria Day (no school) |
| May 20 | Multicultural Day |
| May 28 | Spring Fling 6:00-7:30 PM |
| May 29 | Author Briana Scott Corr visits all classes |
| June 5 | SuperNOVA Stem Workshops |
| June 11 | Grade 5 Orientation to AJ Smeltzer (permission forms to come soon) Grade 5 Family Meeting at AJ Smeltzer (5:30 PM) |
| June 29 | Assessment & Evaluation Day (no school) |
| June 30 | Last Day of School |

We will practice our fifth of six fire drills during the week of May 11-15

Spring Fling

Mark your calendars for Thursday, May 28! Our Spring Fling will take place in the Gym from 6:00-7:30 PM. It is shaping up to be a fabulous night. We welcome families to contribute to class Raffle Baskets, volunteer for the evening and help with clean up afterwards.

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



May 15 is Black Excellence Day

Black Excellence Day 2026 in Nova Scotia is an opportunity for schools to reflect on the learning and exploration of Black people and culture over the past year. It recognizes, celebrates, and supports learning from the achievements, contributions, and leadership of Black individuals and communities. More than a single-day celebration, Black Excellence is the recognition of meaningful steps toward strengthening inclusive learning environments where all students see themselves reflected in curriculum materials, through the stories we tell and the histories we honour.



The purpose of celebrating Black Excellence in our schools and classrooms is to affirm student's identities, build confidence, and inspire futures by highlighting the role Black people have made in education, science, arts, leadership, and community advocacy. It reflects and celebrates thoughtful conversations in schools about equity, representation, and the ongoing work to remove systemic barriers.

This moment of reflection also invites educators and school communities to consider how Black Excellence is represented within their own classrooms and learning spaces. For some, this may affirm intentional work already underway; for others, it may serve as an opportunity to begin or deepen this practice. Black Excellence Day reminds us that this work is ongoing, and that there is always time to plan, reflect, and be deliberate in ensuring all students see themselves meaningfully reflected in our schools.

We welcome everyone to wear a black shirt, if you're able, on May 15 to show your support for Black Excellence 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 Asian origin who, throughout our history, have done so much to make Canada the country we know and love.

The theme for Asian Heritage Month 2026 is: "Honouring Asian Canadians: Stories that Built Canada". This theme recognizes the essential contributions Asian Canadians have made to Canada's social, cultural, and economic life across generations.



Gaelic Nova Scotia Month

May is Mios 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.



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

Multicultural Day

Multicultural Day will take place on May 20, and we would love to have you join us! Families are warmly invited to visit, volunteer, or participate in the event. It's a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the diversity of our school community together. Everyone is welcome to participate in any part of the day! We would love to see as many families involved as possible!

If you are interested in participating or volunteering, please make sure to complete the registration form (if applicable) or reach out for more details.

[Sign-Up](#) 🖱️

<https://forms.gle/u5XukkT6eDHEGiwv5>

Or email: Noor.humadi@hrce.ca

Education Week 2026

This year's theme is *Fostering Empathy: Learning and Leading with Kindness*. We celebrate teachers, school staff, and community partners who show how kindness can make a big difference in learning. When schools focus on fostering empathy, they create safe and welcoming spaces where everyone feels included. Empathy helps students build strong friendships, work well together, and grow into leaders who care about others. By learning and leading with kindness, we prepare students not just for success in school, but for making their communities better places.



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.

Toys at School

A reminder to please keep toys at home. While we know these items are special, they can sometimes take attention away from learning time or get misplaced. Keeping them at home ensures that important belongings stay safe. Thank you for your support!

Screen Free Summer: Digital Diet Guidance

As summer approaches, many families are thinking about screen time. This article introduces the idea of a “digital diet,” encouraging a focus on the quality and purpose of screen use rather than just limiting it. It offers practical ways to help children build healthier, more balanced habits with technology. Read more [here](#).

Unplugged Webinar on Smartphones, Social Media & More

Unplugged Canada is hosting a LIVE webinar on May 6 every parent and caregiver needs to hear. We're talking about smartphones, social media, the research, and most importantly, what we can do about it.

Hosted by Kirsten Sweet, educator and National Program Director with Unplugged Canada with Tania Johnson, Co-founder of the Institute of Child Psychology and Dr. Michele Locke, Clinical Psychologist, learn about the impact of smartphones and social media on youth and how the Unplugged Canada Pledge and our resources can spark meaningful conversations in your home, school, and community. Register [here](#).

Free Live Event

UNPLUGGED CANADA



A National Conversation

with Unplugged Canada Ambassadors

*Tania Johnson,
M.C.*

Co-founder of the Institute
of Child Psychology
Award-Winning Author

*Dr. Michele Locke,
Ph.D.*

Clinical Psychologist
Toronto Chapter
Co-founder

*Kirsten Sweet,
M.Ed.*

National Program Director
Alberta Chapter
Co-founder

- ✔ Explore the research: Smartphones and Social Media
- ✔ Review the Unplugged Pledge and Resources
- ✔ Join our National School Champion Program
- ✔ Check out our new resource: Operation Landline
- ✔ Invite all parents and caregivers in your school community

*Wednesday,
May 6th*
5pm PT | 8pm ET

Check Out this Community Event!



Sackville Waters Awareness Day Fish Release



The Sackville Lions Club would like to invite the public to join us on **Saturday May 23, 2026 at the Sackville Kinsmen Park, 71 First Lake Drive, Lower Sackville, 10:00am-2:00pm.**

Kids that attend will be able to release young trout into First Lake with parental supervision.

All proceeds support our local organizations protecting our waterways, parks and greenbelt areas.

Rain Date May 30, 2026 10:00am - 2:00pm

Draws and Prizes • Face Painting • BBQ • Raffles • 50/50 • Games of Chance • Guest Speakers • Gift Bags
Information Tables • Educational Booths • Music by the Sackville Cadet Band • Music by DJ ISM

Contact: Doug Gamble • 902-877-0951 • dwgamble11@gmail.com

A fundraiser in support of Sackville Lakes, Park & Trails Association Friends of First Lake Association Sackville Rivers Association

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