



Hillside Park Elementary

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

Tel # (902) 864-6873 Website: hpe.hrce.ca Email: hpes@hrce.ca

Principal: Jacquelyn Reid Acting Vice Principal: Erin Dunn

Administrative Assistant: Shelley Drake



Dear Hillside Families,

June has arrived, and with it comes the excitement, reflection, and celebration that always accompanies the final month of the school year. We are incredibly proud of all that our students have accomplished. They have embraced challenges, supported one another, demonstrated resilience, and continued to grow as learners and leaders within our school community.

This month, we look forward to celebrating many memorable moments together, including recognizing our Grade 5 students as they prepare for their next adventure in junior high. Their unique gifts have helped shape the spirit of Hillside Park, and we are excited to celebrate this important milestone with them!

We would like to extend our thanks to Ms. Noor, Ms. Achala, and Ms. Nicole for leading our Multicultural Day. We are also grateful to the many families who generously shared their customs, traditions, and cultural experiences, helping us learn from one another and celebrate the diversity that makes our school community so special.

A special thank you goes to Ms. Dunn, Ms. Christa, Mr. MacNeil, Ms. Roxanne, Ms. Parsons, Ms. Daley, and Ms. Cawthra for their dedication to Run Club. They graciously gave their time to prepare students for the Bluenose Marathon and accompanied them on Race Day. Congratulations to all of our runners for demonstrating true Husky spirit and perseverance.

As we head into these final weeks together, we look forward to making memories and celebrating another successful school year. A mid-June update with staffing updates, supply lists, and final-day dismissal procedures will be shared later.

Yours in Education,

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



Date	Event
June 2	Primary Orientation ★ Pre-Primary students to visit Primary classes (8:15-9:00 AM) ★ Family Meeting in the Library (8:15-9:00 AM)
June 5	SuperNOVA Stem Workshops
June 11	Grade 5 Orientation to AJ Smeltzer Grade 5 Family Meeting at AJ Smeltzer (5:30 PM)
June 12	Gordon & Brillhante to Shubenacadie Wildlife Park
June 15	SunSense class presentations
June 19	Reed, Bond & Hausman to Shubenacadie Wildlife Park
June 22	Grade 5 Closing Ceremony 12:30 PM
June 23	MacNeil, Kelloway, Cawthra & Dunn to Cineplex
June 24	Field Day & Variety Show (raindate June 25)
June 29	Assessment & Evaluation Day (no school)
June 30	Last Day of School Reports sent home electronically

Spring Fling Thank You!

Our Spring Fling was a tremendous success! We are so fortunate to be part of such a supportive community that knows how to have a good time.

Our Raffle Baskets were fantastic and we truly thank you for your contributions. Thank you to all who contributed delicious cupcakes!

A huge thank you to our PTG members, staff, families, and community partners for making our event a great success.



Thank You to Our Spring Fling Corporate Supporters!

- ★ Giant Tiger (Lower Sackville)
- ★ Mind Hack- Room Escape
- ★ Scentsy- Courtney MacKay
- ★ Great Roads Brewery (Lower Sackville)
- ★ Sobeys (First Lake)
- ★ Superstore (Sackville Dr)
- ★ Sackville Sports Stadium
- ★ Mediterra
- ★ Sportwheels
- ★ Fun Zone

- ★ Tim Hortons Cobequid Rd.
- ★ East Hants Aquatic Centre
- ★ Cineplex
- ★ Avery's- Cobequid Road
- ★ Bowlarama
- ★ Beyond! Indoor Play
- ★ St. Louis Bar & Grill (Sackville Drive)
- ★ The Brace Space
- ★ Billy Gillis Councillor (District 15 Sackville Beaver Bank)

Field Day & Variety Show

Ms. Daley has planned a Field Day of outdoor activities for our students on the morning of Wednesday, June 24th (rain date Thursday, June 25th). Please ensure that your child has comfortable sneakers, a water bottle, a hat and sunscreen.

Ms. Boutilier is organizing a Talent Show on the afternoon of Wednesday, June 24th where students will showcase their talent and skills! This day will coincide with Field Day, so if that gets rained out, we will move the show to the rain date of Thursday, June 25th. Students who are participating will need to ensure they bring any equipment or materials for their act.



Nova Scotia Loyal Farmers' Market Voucher Program


Students across the province will receive a \$10 Nova Scotia Loyal voucher to use at participating farmers' markets. The program encourages young people and families to explore local markets, support Nova Scotian growers and producers, and learn more about where their food comes from. From fresh produce and baked goods to locally made products, the initiative helps connect students with their communities while supporting small businesses and strengthening the local economy. Families are encouraged to visit participating markets over the summer months and discover all that Nova Scotia has to offer through the [Nova Scotia Loyal program](#).






2026-27 Bus Information

Information about student transportation for the 2026-27 school year will be available to view online through the BusPlanner Parent Portal later in July. Families eligible for transportation will receive an email to access the Parent Portal to view their child's bus information once it is available. Once you receive the email, you must follow the instructions to activate your new Parent Portal account and create a password. Using previous Parent Portal login information will not work. If you can't find the email, please contact transportation@hrce.ca or 902-431-4723 for assistance. Over the summer, the HRCE Student Transportation team will also reach out to new HRCE families and those families who may require special needs transportation for their children with more information about busing.

The Student Transportation team is available to assist you and answer questions about busing all summer at transportation@hrce.ca or 902-431-4723. When contacting the team, please ensure you have your child's name, grade, school name and student ID number ready. Your child's student ID number can be found in PowerSchool or on the top of your child's report card.

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION INFO FOR 2026-27 AVAILABLE IN JULY



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-  Once you receive the email, you must follow the instructions to **activate your new Parent Portal account** and create a password. Using previous Parent Portal login information will not work.
-  If you can't find the email, please contact transportation@hrce.ca or **902-431-4723** for assistance.
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 **Halifax**
Regional Centre for Education

Be Tick Aware in Nova Scotia

After a long and snow-filled winter, we're finally headed toward summer – a season when many people spend time at Nova Scotia's beautiful beaches, parks, and wooded areas. However, we need to be mindful of the presence of ticks and how we can protect ourselves. Nova Scotia is home to several kinds of ticks, but only blacklegged tick bites can cause illnesses like Lyme disease, Anaplasmosis, Babesiosis and Powassan virus. Tick-borne diseases can lead to serious illness, especially if they are not noticed and treated quickly. It's important that we all know what to do about ticks, so if you've asked yourself any of these questions lately: Visit NovaScotia.ca/TickSafety to learn more.



Operation Landline by Unplugged Canada

Unplugged Canada has launched a new resource called Operation Landline, designed to help families reconnect kids with safe, healthy communication, without the pressures and distractions of smartphones. The initiative encourages families to bring back the family landline as a simple way for children to build independence, strengthen social skills and stay connected with friends and neighbours in a safer, more intentional way.

Created in partnership with the Institute of Child Psychology, the complete guide includes practical tips for setting up modern landline options, teaching phone safety and etiquette, and even creating a family phonebook together. Families are also invited to sign the Unplugged Canada pledge to help create a new community norm around delaying smartphones and supporting connected childhoods.

Listen to Lead~ Year 2:

Listen to Lead, HRCE's annual consultation, is more than just a survey. It is an ongoing commitment to partnership, continuous improvement, and ensuring our schools reflect the voices and experiences of the communities they serve. Please take the opportunity to share your thoughts, feedback and vision for HRCE anonymously through ThoughtExchange available until June 4: [Participate here](#).

SchoolsPlus Supports for Summer

SchoolsPlus operates 12 months of the year! SchoolsPlus is a confidential, free service available to every school in Nova Scotia. Families and students (12+) can self-refer to SchoolsPlus by contacting the SchoolsPlus facilitator for our school, April Peckham (april.peckham@hrce.ca). Learn more [here](#).



Tips to Support Reading and Writing at Home



As parents and caregivers, you play one of the most important roles in helping your child become a strong, confident reader and writer. What you do at home can make a big difference in your child's success in school and beyond. When reading and writing become part of family routines — like bedtime stories, writing notes to each other, or making shopping lists together — children see them as enjoyable and meaningful activities.

Here are some ideas and tips:

1. Create a dedicated writing space

Set up a quiet, well-lit area where your child can focus. Stock your writing center with essentials like paper, pencils, crayons, and even fun extras like family photos and old magazines to spark creativity.

2. Read often

Reading is one of the best ways to become a better writer. When children read a variety of books, they naturally absorb vocabulary, grammar, and different writing styles. Encourage daily reading to build their language skills and inspire their own writing.

3. Encourage reflective journaling

A journal is a great outlet for expressing thoughts and feelings. Prompt your child to write about everyday events at home and school. Suggest using sensory details — what they saw, heard, or felt. This helps develop descriptive writing. Provide real-life experiences that they can later write about. Remember, only read their journal if invited.

4. Offer real-world writing opportunities

Help your child see writing as a practical skill. Let them write thank-you notes, grocery lists, birthday invitations or letters to family. Consider finding a pen pal to make writing feel more authentic and fun.

5. Be a writing role model

Let your child see you writing too! Whether it's a grocery list, an email or a note to a friend, show how writing fits into everyday life. Talk about the purpose of different types of writing and their audiences. Try having a "family writing night" where everyone writes and shares together.

6. Start a vocabulary notebook

Introduce a few new words each week and encourage your child to use them in writing and conversation. Turn it into a game for using words creatively.