



Hillside Park Elementary

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

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

Principal: Devin Ashley

Vice Principal: Erin Dunn

Administrative Assistant: Shelley Drake



Hillside Park Elementary

NEWSLETTER | October 2026

PRINCIPAL UPDATE

September seemed to fly by in the blink of an eye! We've kicked things off with opening the new School Year, had our first SAC/PTG Meeting, Curriculum Night with a side of ice cream, our Terry Fox walk, and we practiced all of our emergency drills!!

October is shaping up to be just as busy with lots of fun learning opportunities as well as some great social events!

COMMUNITY WELLNESS PROGRAMS

Click the link below for information on a variety of programs offered through NSHealth. These programs are offered FREE and provide a variety of excellent resources to families! [Free Programs here!](#)

SAFE ARRIVAL

Safety is our top priority. Because of this, ensuring you record known absences by calling Safe Arrival at 1-833-582-6940 or report via [SchoolMessenger](#) is essential. If there is a same day change to your child's end of day plan, please **CALL** the office. E-mails are not checked regularly enough to ensure messages are relayed to classroom teachers. Your support is greatly appreciated!

CONTACT INFO

Tel: (902) 864-6873 |

hpe.hrce.ca



ITEMS FOR HALLOWEEN HOWL!!

Our PTG is looking for the following items to help create a spooky vibe for our Halloween Howl!

- Paper towel rolls
- toilet paper rolls
- rinsed large pop bottles (with caps)
- rinsed water bottles (with caps)
- rinsed large milk jugs (with caps)
- Amazon boxes

Please send in any of these items sooner rather than later to ensure we have what is needed to decorate!

IMPORTANT DATES

- **Oct 6** - SAC/PTG
- **Oct 12:** Thanksgiving day (no classes)
- **Oct 22:** Halloween Howl
- **Oct 23:** NSTU Conference Day (no classes)
- **Nov 2** - Picture Retake Day

****Please sign into the office before going elsewhere in the building****

Hillside Park Elementary

October 2026

HEAD LICE IN SCHOOLS



The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development's (EECD) focus on the treatment and prevention of head lice is an effort to support student attendance and full participation at school. In accordance with these principles and healthcare standards, students with head lice should be treated at home and continue to attend school as usual. The confidentiality, privacy, dignity, and best interests of students and their families will be respected at all times.

"No-nit" or "no head lice" policies that keep children away from school are not effective. Head lice are common among students: they do not spread disease and cases of head lice are often misdiagnosed.

Treatment and Prevention

Nova Scotia Public Health recommends two head lice treatments (visit the link at the end of these guidelines for more information) to completely break the head lice cycle. The second treatment should be used 7 to 10 days after the first or as directed by the product.

The first treatment kills live head lice. Some lice may hatch after it but they are adolescent nits and cannot lay eggs. Combing your child(ren)'s hair and removing nits is a daily requirement. The second treatment kills the adolescent nits and breaks the head lice cycle.

Please note, the following guidelines are helpful in preventing the spread of head lice:

- Notify your principal and your child(ren)'s classroom teacher if your child(ren) has or have head lice and keep the school informed about head lice issues as they arise.
- Check your child(ren)'s head(s) and hair regularly, including:
 - once a week as part of your routine
 - after every sleepover
 - any time they have had contact with someone with lice
- Keep long hair tied back or braided.



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLANS

We will continue to practice a variety of Emergency Drills throughout the year. These drills help students understand expectations, and allow for smooth movement in, out and around our school building. Please [click here](#) to review these drills. This was sent in one of the September alerts, and was also available in our September Newsletter!

ORANGE SHIRT DAY



One important day connected to this learning is Orange Shirt Day, held every year on September 30. The day was inspired by the story of Phyllis Webstad, whose new orange shirt was taken from her on her first day at residential school. Her story reminds us how Indigenous children were treated and how their identity and culture were often taken away. The message of Orange Shirt Day is "Every Child Matters." It reminds us that every child deserves to feel safe, valued, and proud of who they are.

From a Mi'kmaw perspective, remembering this history is also about honouring the strength and resilience of our people. Even though residential schools tried to erase Mi'kmaw language, culture, and ways of knowing, our communities have continued to carry forward our teachings, stories, and traditions. Elders, Knowledge Keepers, families, and youth help keep Mi'kmaw culture strong.

Reconciliation is about building better relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. When students learn, ask questions, and show respect for each other, they help create a future where everyone is valued and every child truly matters.

OCTOBER

2026

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
			1 TREATY DAY	2
5	6 SAC/PTG 6:00 PM	7	8	9
12 THANKSGIVING DAY (NO CLASSES)	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22 HALLOWEEN HOWL (PM)	23 NSTU CONFERENCE (NO CLASSES)
26	27	28	29	30