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15 Hillside Avenue • Lower Sackville, NS • B4C 1W6 • Tel # (902) 864-6873  
Website: [hpe.hrce.ca](http://hpe.hrce.ca) • Email: [hpes@hrce.ca](mailto:hpes@hrce.ca) • Twitter: @HillsidePark1

**Principal:** Jacquelyn Reid     **Vice Principal:** Emily Ripley-Davis     **Admin Assistant:** Carol Sheldon

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## The Hillside Park Press



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Dear Families,

Happy December! It is hard to believe we are here already! As I reflect on my first few months as principal of Hillside Park, I want to thank you all for such a warm welcome. This truly is a wonderful school with the best kids, staff and families and I feel fortunate to be a part of this community.

We are wishing the very best to Brooke Doucette who is finishing up her term in grade 3 this month. Thank you Ms. Doucette for your hard work and commitment to our students. Katie Cawthra is returning from parental leave and we are looking forward to welcoming her back to the Hillside Park family! We are also saying goodbye to Ms. Sonya who has accepted a full time caretaker position. We truly appreciate all her hard work in making our building safe, clean and beautiful!

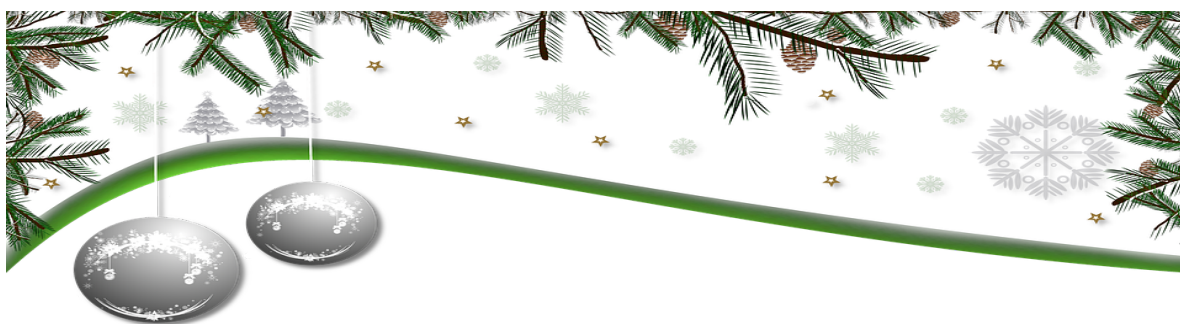
A huge shout-out goes to Ms. Ripley-Davis for her hard work in preparing our students for the holiday concert. If these past few years have taught us anything, it's that connection is everything. Bringing our school community together in music will be good for the soul indeed!

Please read the newsletter carefully. We have lots of fun and engaging learning experiences planned this month. We would like to extend holiday greetings to our families at Hillside Park. We hope the season is filled with joy and time spent with family and friends. Wishing you all good health and happiness in 2023!

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

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# What's Happening at Hillside in December?

## Important Dates

December 1	Professional Development AM (no school for students) Family/Teacher Interviews PM (no school for students)
December 2	Professional Development Day (no school for students)
December 6	Holiday Concert Afternoon- 12:30 pm in the Gym Evening- 6:00 pm in the Gym
December 7	Holiday Concert Snow Date
December 20	Last day of school for 2022 Choir to visit Sagewood (permission forms to follow)
January 3	First day back to school in 2023

## Spirit Days!

**Monday, December 19-** Festive Wear Day! Bring out your holiday sweaters, red/white/green, fun hats, antlers, you name it!

**Tuesday, December 20-** PJ Day! Who doesn't love a cozy jammy day to head into the holiday break?

# Plans for Inclement Weather

The Halifax Regional Centre for Education takes great care when making the decision to alter the normal operations of schools in the event of severe or inclement weather. Decisions on school closures and/or bus cancellations are posted on the board's website at [www.hrce.ns.ca](http://www.hrce.ns.ca), on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/HRCE\\_Official](https://www.twitter.com/HRCE_Official), recorded on 464- INFO (4636) and communicated to all local radio stations. You can also receive notice of school bus cancellations by email or text message by following the link on the front page (left side) of the HRCE website. If you are interested in learning more on how decisions regarding closures and cancellations are made, visit this [link](#).

## BusPlanner Text Messaging

**Does your child ride the bus? We are excited to introduce text messaging through BusPlanner!**

**To ensure compliance with Canadian Anti-Spam laws, you must opt-in to receive information by text message. You can opt-in by logging into [BusPlanner Parent Portal](#).**

**By opting in, you will receive texts from BusPlanner, including late notifications, general notices, and bus cancellations due to inclement weather.**

Click [here](#) for directions on how to opt-in.

**Don't have a BusPlanner Parent Portal account? Need help logging in? Please contact the HRCE Student Transportation Team at [transportation@hrce.ca](mailto:transportation@hrce.ca) or call 902-431-4723.**

**Guidelines for school and/or bus cancellations due to inclement weather**

Nova Scotia winter weather can change quickly and can be challenging to predict. This document outlines the steps we take when deciding whether to cancel school and/or bussing.

**A 6:00 am announcement could be:**

- All schools are closed for the day
- OR
- Some schools (either individually or by family) are closed for the day
- OR
- All schools are open, but some or all busses are not operating for the day
- OR
- All schools are delayed in opening by 2 hours

If weather deteriorates, or is forecast to worsen throughout the morning

**An 11:00 am announcement could be:**

- Bussed students will be picked up 2 hours earlier than their regular dismissal time
- AND
- Walking students will be dismissed at their regularly scheduled lunch hour

**Remember:** Parents/guardians always have the right to keep their child home from school if they believe that the travelling conditions are unsuitable.

**How does Halifax Regional Centre for Education (HRCE) decide on school and/or bus cancellations?**

By 4:30 am, HRCE staff begin to gather information from:

- A contracted weather service that provides radar and satellite imagery, real-time road conditions and weather warnings;
- A meteorologist who provides forecast details, level and type of precipitation and impact on road conditions;
- HRCE's three transportation service providers, who provide updates on road conditions in their area;
- Municipal and provincial transportation staff; and
- Other local weather services, including Environment Canada and the Weather Network.

By 5:30 am, HRCE staff make recommendations to the Regional Executive Director (or designate), who then makes the final decision.

This decision is communicated by 6:00 am.

**Halifax**  
Regional Centre for Education

Where can cancellation information be found?  
Website: [www.hrce.ca](http://www.hrce.ca) Twitter: @HRCE\_NS Phone: 902-464-INFO (4636) Local media outlets  
Subscribe to email/text notifications at [www.hrce.ca](http://www.hrce.ca)

## Author Visit!

We are looking forward to welcoming local author Jacqueline Halsey on December 8th. She will be sharing her historical fiction book *Explosion Newsie*, a school-aged picture book about a distracted news boy who becomes an everyday hero when he delivers the newspapers in the aftermath of the Halifax Explosion.

For our younger students, Jacqueline will share *The Terrible, Horrible, Smelly Pirate*, a book about a smelly pirate who, with the help of a tricky mermaid, changes his ways.



## Morning Start Time

We are seeing an increase in the number of students arriving late in the mornings. Our soft start/breakfast begins at 7:45 AM. Our instructional day begins at 8:00 AM. Students should all be in the building so they are in their class and ready to learn. Thanks for your support.

## Mad Science!

On December 15th, our students will be treated to a fabulous presentation from Mad Science! It is sure to be a great learning experience for all.



## Did you know? HRCE is growing!

More than 57,000 students are currently enrolled in the Halifax Regional Centre for Education (HRCE). In the last five years, enrollment has increased by 7,733 and that number continues to grow!

As our region's population expands (Nova Scotia's population reached one million last year), new families are registering all year round. This is an exciting time for our province, our city and for HRCE! You can learn more here: [www.hrce.ca/growth](http://www.hrce.ca/growth)



# A Message From SchoolsPlus

SchoolsPlus staff are here to support Hillside Park families.

## Did you know SchoolsPlus can help you find winter clothing for your family?

Our days are getting colder and snow will soon be arriving! If you are in need of winter clothing for your children, or yourself, reach out to SchoolsPlus and we can help you get what you need. Be good to yourself this busy, sometimes hard, season.



REMEMBER: SchoolsPlus services are confidential. Just give us a call! Contact us at 902-483-8367 (call or text) or [jfougere@hrce.ca](mailto:jfougere@hrce.ca)

Your Hillside Park SchoolsPlus Team is

- ★ Jen Fougere (Assistant Leader)
- ★ Michelle Boudreau (Community Outreach Worker)
- ★ Megan Shafi (Child and Youth Care Practitioner)

## Parent Café at Hillside Park!

Join us in the SchoolsPlus Family Room (room 103 – first floor right beside the pre-primary classrooms) for drop-in parent café on Wednesdays from 8:00-10:00am. We'll have the coffee ready, along with other hot drinks! Looking forward to seeing you!!

