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

The Hillside Park Press



Dear Families,

Happy New Year! We hope you had a relaxing, peaceful holiday season. We are very excited to welcome our students to school and get right back into the swing of things.

Just a reminder that our soft start and breakfast begins at 7:45 AM. There is no supervision prior to this time. Our instructional day begins at 8:00 and it is important for students to be in their classrooms ready for learning when the bell rings.

As a school, we are constantly monitoring the achievement and well-being of our students. Our Student Success Plan is a living, breathing document and we continue to focus our priority work around reading in P-2, and mathematical fact fluency in 3-5. Our well-being goal centres around school connectedness through strong relationships, and social emotional learning to promote positive self-talk and coping strategies. The beginning of a new year is a perfect time to reflect on goals, celebrate our successes, and plan for new opportunities.

Welcome back! Wishing you all good health and happiness in 2023!

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



What's Happening at Hillside in January?

Important Dates

January 3	First day back to school in 2023
January 24	SAC/PTG Meeting 6:00 PM in the library
January 27	Family Literacy Day

Clothing and Winter Attire

Bundle up! With the cold weather upon us, we would like to remind families and students of the importance of dressing appropriately for the weather including hats, mittens, and snowpants. As the weather changes we ask that all students pack a change of clothes in the event that their clothing gets wet or dirty/muddy while going outside during recess or lunch.



Local Voices Survey

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development has launched a public engagement on strengthening local voice in our education system. This is a great opportunity to enhance our connection with communities and ensure we are putting students in the best position to be successful. The survey and virtual town hall (ThoughtExchange) can be found at: <https://www.ednet.ns.ca/consultations>

Family Literacy Day 2023 Theme: Celebrate your Heritage

Family Literacy Day takes place every January 27th to raise awareness about the importance of reading and engaging in other literacy-related activities as a family. Since 1999, thousands of schools, libraries, literacy organizations and other community groups have taken part in the initiative.

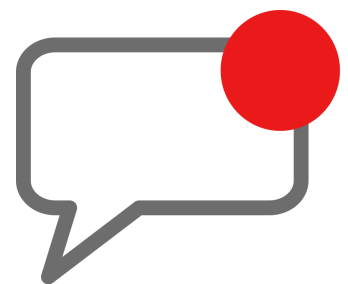


Take time to explore and learn about your heritage. Celebrate what you've found and share your culture with others. There's no better way to learn about your family, than together as a family. Click [here](#) for the official Family Literacy Day web page which contains many great links for families to enjoy!

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. If you need any help, please contact the HRCE Student Transportation Team at transportation@hrce.ca or call 902-431-4723.



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, on Twitter at 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](#).

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 Twitter: @HRCE_NS Phone: 902-464-INFO (4636) Local media outlets
Subscribe to email/text notifications at www.hrce.ca

Parking at School

A reminder to follow street signage for both 'no stopping' and 'no parking' around the school. For safety reasons, we ask that you do not park too close to the foot of the driveway. This is to ensure the buses can make the turn when they leave the school.

Please do not turn around in the neighbours' driveways when dropping off. This is especially important as snow banks develop along the sidewalks, making it harder to see people walking and crossing streets. We ask that you do not park in the staff parking lot for drop-off. Thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation.



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



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!!

