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

The Hillside Park Press



Dear Families,

Happy April! March was busy and fabulous. We danced with PERFORM, coded with SuperNOVA, and celebrated many other awesome learning opportunities in between. Term 2 report cards have been sent home, and we are so proud of all the growth and success each student has achieved! It was great to connect with many of our families during our conferences.

April marks the holy month of Ramadan, a time of reflection, observation, and gratitude. We extend Ramadan Mubarak to all our families who are observing, and wish you a festive Eid!

We are sending the very best to our caretaker, Mr. Steve Irvine as he is taking on a new role at Caudle Park. We were so fortunate to have Steve as part of our Hillside team the past few months, and he will certainly be missed! We welcome Mr. Mike Duquette as our new caretaker.

Breakfast & Books was a great time! We had an amazing morning sampling some healthy breakfast foods! Students were treated to muffins, fruit pizza, mini pancakes, fruit skewers, toast, parfaits, and smoothies. It was wonderful to enjoy a meal, and some students even received a book in our draw! A special thanks to our volunteers who came in to help with the morning. It was a great success.

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

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April 7	Good Friday (no school)
April 10	Easter Monday (no school)
April 13	Hillside Family Dance (6:00-7:15 PM)
April 21	Eid begins
April 22	Earth Day
April 26	SAC/PTG Meeting 6:00 in the library
May 4	Up With Gaelic school presentation
May 22	Victoria Day (no school)

Volunteering at Hillside Park

We are very excited to be able to welcome family and community members to volunteer at Hillside Park. We are hoping to do year-end field trips for classes, and will need family volunteers to meet our chaperone requirements.

Prior to volunteering with the Halifax Regional Centre for Education, all volunteers must provide:

1. A completed Child Abuse Register - Request for Search Form, which can be found [here](#)
2. A certified and true copy of a Criminal Records Check with Vulnerable Sector Check available [here](#), from your local Police or RCMP detachment or through online organizations endorsed by Nova Scotia law enforcement agencies



Please note: the Child Abuse Register Search and Criminal Records Check must be updated every three years.



HILLSIDE PARK FAMILY DANCE

\$5 ENTRY FEE PER FAMILY
\$1 CANTEEN ITEMS

Thursday,
April 13

6:00-7:15 PM
in the Gym

**STUDENTS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED
BY AN ADULT**

Halifax Public Libraries

April awaits at the Library! When you step through the doors of your local branch, a world of adventure opens in return. Here, you'll find rows of colourful books, plenty of drop-in activities, and moments sure to surprise.

Here's a sample of what you can expect this month at **Halifax Public Libraries**, and as always, there's even more to explore on our [website](#).



[Funny Pages Festival for Families](#)

[What's On For Easter](#)

[Squiggle Park Literacy Games for Kids](#)

Excel Registration

Early Registration (for Parents/Guardians with children currently enrolled in EXCEL and siblings who will be starting school in September 2023): April 24-28 and May 1-5, 2023

General Registration: May 8-12, 2023 and onward.

Registration will be completed online by accessing the EZChildTrack Parent Portal. If you have an existing account with EXCEL, access the Parent Portal by entering your email and password in the Returning Parents Sign In section. If you are new to the EXCEL Program, enter the Parent Portal using the "New Parents Open Account" section.



Specific details on the registration process and fees for 2023-24 will be posted on the HRCE website at https://www.hrce.ca/excel_registration in the coming weeks.

Welcome to our new Regional Executive Director

We are pleased to share the appointment of our new Regional Executive Director for HRCE, Steve Gallagher. Steve has been in the role on an acting basis since September and has officially accepted the role permanently. To learn more, [click here](#)

Meet the HRCE Parent Navigators

We know that navigating the school system can be overwhelming. The role of the Parent Navigator is to help parents and guardians of HRCE students find and access the right information, resources, tools and services.

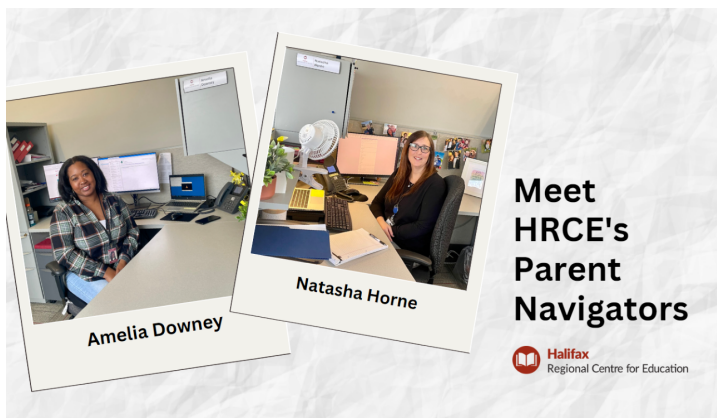
“I would say that I help parents ‘navigate’ the school systems, let them know what resources might be available within HRCE that they may not know about, and actively listen to families who call that may have a situation that needs diffusing, support or problem solving,” says Parent Navigator Natasha Horne.

“I would love for families to know we are here for them, and sometimes that’s just to listen and not solve anything. We are a non-judgemental ear for them. Sometimes just talking through something with someone that’s not involved with your situation is helpful to get some perspective.”

Parent Navigator Amelia Downey says the most common questions she receives include: How do I make a school transfer request? What age can my child attend school with HRCE? How do I speak with a school supervisor? Do I have to visit a school to register my child? How can I obtain my child’s school records/diploma/transcripts?

“What I love the most about my role the most is the moment when I know I have made a difference in a person’s day through the support I have provided to them during our call,” Amelia says.

Learn more and contact our Parent Navigators [here](#).



PERFORM Drama Club

We are excited to be hosting PERFORM to Hillside Park. They will be working with upper elementary learners to assist them in developing their performance skills. More information to come!

A Message From SchoolsPlus

SchoolsPlus staff are here to support Hillside Park families.

Did you know SchoolsPlus can help you with summer camp options for your student? Many summer camp registrations are now open. Need help? Contact your SchoolsPlus team. REMEMBER: SchoolsPlus services are confidential.

Your Hillside Park SchoolsPlus Team is:

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

Contact us at 902-483-8367 (call or text) or jfougere@hrce.ca



The Halifax Helpers offers virtual English as an Additional Language (EAL) conversation groups for all newcomer students grades Primary to 12. These virtual groups are a fun way for students to practice their English skills in an engaging, social setting.

Sessions are open to all primary and secondary school students. Availability is limited and students must register each week.

Please note that the session time is 7pm on Thursday. Visit <https://www.thehalifaxhelpers.com/conversation-group> to register.