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The Hillside Park Press

September Newsletter 2023

Dear Families,

What a fabulous first week we had here at Hillside Park. The students are settling into their routines, and it is wonderful to see them engaged in their learning, working collaboratively, and building caring classroom communities. The joy in this building is undeniable! A huge thank you to our amazing staff, students, and families for your support. Can you believe that this week our enrollment reached over 200 students? Please note that we continue to register new students daily, and class configurations may change up until Sept. 30.

Next week I will send out a separate email regarding Curriculum Night and the Ice Cream Social, so look for that in your inbox. Please hold the date of Thursday, September 21 at 6:00 PM.

We are actively seeking membership for our SAC (School Advisory Council) and our PTG (Parent Teacher Group). Our first meeting will be in the library on Tuesday, September 19 at 6:00 PM. This year our meetings will be in-person and we will also have a Google Meet link for anyone who would like to join virtually. Please let me know if you are interested in attending (jacquelyn.reid@hrce.ca) and I will send you the link. All are welcome to join!

There are many exciting things happening at Hillside. This year we are going to pilot a hot lunch program a few days a week. Once we get the details ironed out with vendors and pricing, we will send them your way.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend.

Yours in Education,

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

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September

September 14	Stand Up Against Bullying Day- wear pink
September 18 and 21	School Picture Day (see info below)
September 19	First SAC/PTG Meeting 6:00 PM in the Library- all welcome!!
September 20	Terry Fox Run
September 21	Curriculum Night & Ice Cream Social 6:00 PM
September 29	Orange Shirt Day
September 30	Truth & Reconciliation Day

Upcoming Dates

October 2	Truth & Reconciliation Day Observed (no school)
October 9	Thanksgiving Day (no school)
October 27	Provincial Conference Day (no school)



Stand Up Against Bullying Day is recognized on the second Thursday in September across Nova Scotia. Recognizing this day early in the school year allows us to set a positive tone by engaging students in activities that focus on the importance of building healthy relationships.

Please join us in taking a stance against bullying by wearing pink on **Thursday, September 14!**

School Picture Day!

This year we are having our school photos taken by Pineapple Studios. We are going to spread the photo shoots out over two mornings to make sure students' look fresh and ready for their pic! Ordering details to follow.

September 18:

- ★ 2/3 MacNeil
- ★ 3/4 Stanton
- ★ 4/5 Cawthra
- ★ 4/5 Dunn
- ★ Pre-Primary (both classes)



September 21:

- ★ Primary Brann
- ★ Primary/1 Ball
- ★ 1/2 Hausman
- ★ 1/2 Kelloway & Davis

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

The day honours the children who never returned home and the survivors of residential schools, as well as their families and communities. Public commemoration of the tragic and painful history and ongoing impacts of residential schools is a vital component of the reconciliation process.

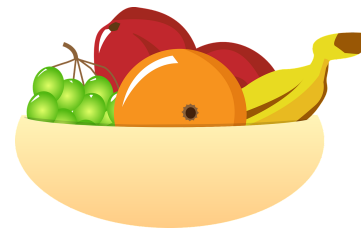
Orange Shirt Day is an Indigenous-led, grassroots commemorative day intended to raise awareness of the individual, family and community intergenerational impacts of residential schools, and support the "Every Child Matters" movement. The orange shirt is a symbol of the stripping away of culture, freedom and self-esteem experienced by Indigenous children over generations.



As September 30 falls on a Saturday this year, we welcome staff and students to wear orange on **Friday, September 29**. There will be no classes on Monday, October 2 as we observe the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

Breakfast Baskets

We are happy to offer breakfast foods for students at our school. Students can enjoy breakfast items including granola bars, yogurt tubes and cheese strings directly from their class baskets first thing in the morning.



Breakfast baskets will begin on **September 12**. A healthy breakfast gives our students the fuel necessary for learning.

Celebrating Learning

We look forward to sharing what our Hillside Park students are learning with families and the community. Please follow us on X (formerly known as Twitter: @HillsidePark1



Life Threatening Allergies

We have students at Hillside Park with severe life threatening allergies to peanuts, tree nuts, kiwi, and eggs. Please do not send foods containing peanuts/tree nuts to school. If your child has an allergy that we should know about, please drop into the office to fill out the required forms. Please check the labels of food if you are unsure.



Fantastic Friday Phone Calls!

We love celebrating our students at Hillside Park. On Fridays, Mrs. Reid and Ms. Ripley-Davis will make calls home to share some of the fantastic things our students have done throughout the week (both inside the classroom and out!).

If you get a call from the school on a Friday, there is a good chance it is Mrs. Reid or Ms. Ripley-Davis calling to tell you your child has been recognized by one of our staff members for doing something “fantastic” that week.



We will leave a message if the call goes to voicemail.



We will be holding our annual **Terry Fox Run** on September 20. Our students will learn about Terry and his incredible journey during the Marathon of Hope.

If you wish to donate online, go to www.terryfox.org. We will also be making a donation on behalf of Hillside Park School.

Volunteering at Hillside Park

We would love to welcome volunteers into our school this year! We are specifically looking for help with our Breakfast Program and our Library (Thursdays). If you are interested, please reach out to Ms. Ripley-Davis (emily.ripley@hrce.ca)

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. If you completed yours last year, we still have them on file!

Reminders

- ★ **Water Bottles**
- ★ **Cutlery in Lunch Bags**
- ★ **Change of clothes is always helpful in case of spills or mud puddles**

Head Lice

Please continue to regularly check family members for head lice. Please let the school administration know if we can help. A child with head lice may return to school after the first treatment. Please know that head lice is a common occurrence and we can all work together to minimize the effects.

Safe Arrival

One of our greatest priorities is ensuring that all our students arrive safely at school each day. You are able to report future absences using an app, website, or toll-free phone number.

If a student is going to be absent from school for any reason, you have 3 options to report the absence:

- 1) Call Safe Arrival toll free at: 1-833-582-6940
- 2) Report via SchoolMessenger
- 3) Download the SchoolMessenger app for Android and iOS devices and use your username and password for the PowerSchool Portal.

All three methods are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Up to five consecutive absences can be recorded at once. If your student is absent and the absence has not been reported in advance, you will receive notifications via email, text, and phone calls from School Messenger.

If SchoolMessenger cannot reach you, office staff will follow up. Please make sure you contact Safe Arrival before 8:00 am as teachers will be completing their attendance at that time.

Children arriving late must sign in at the office.

Arrival and Departure Safety Reminder

As we begin our school year, we'd like to remind you of how you can help keep our students safe as they arrive and leave our school grounds:

- ★ PLEASE do not park in the no stopping zone at drop off/pick up. This creates a safety issue for the buses and for the walkers as the bus cannot make the turn. Please drop off on the **school side of the street**.
- ★ Students and families should only walk up the hill to our school via the second driveway. When facing the school from Hillside Drive families would walk up the driveway on the left of the building (not the driveway closest to the blue wall or main entry door).
- ★ For the safety of students, please remember to park on the street and DO NOT drive up into the parking lot. Please keep the driveway and areas near the driveway clear for the buses to get in and out safely.



Fire Drill & Lockdown Drill

The safety and security of our students and staff is a top priority for Hillside Park Elementary School and the Halifax Regional Centre for Education. We have been implementing a number of measures as part of a comprehensive plan aimed at ensuring our school remains a safe place for our students to learn. Our first fire drill will take place next week.

One of the procedures our school will be practicing is a lockdown drill. During a lockdown drill, classroom doors are secured and the students remain inside the room until instructed by the teacher to resume their activities. All exterior doors are locked and no one is permitted to enter or leave the building. Students are kept inside the school and classrooms when circumstances make it safer to stay in the classroom rather than evacuate.

Just as we prepare our students to properly respond to a fire drill, they also need to be aware of the proper response during a lockdown drill. These drills should be treated with the same level of importance as fire drills. Please be assured that staff at our school will spend time discussing the importance of this procedure with students prior to running a drill. We will also take time after the drill to remind them that it was only a practice and there was no danger. When possible, our School Liaison Officer may assist us in conducting the lockdown drills just as the Fire Department assists with evacuation drills. Please take the time to speak with your child about this procedure and reinforce its importance. Our first lockdown drill will be during the week of September 18-22.

Dogs on Property

We are reminding families NOT to bring dogs onto school property. We realize that combining a dog walk with your child's trip to and from school is convenient and environmentally responsible. Although these pets are usually playful and harmless, the presence of dogs on the school grounds represents a potential health and safety issue for several reasons.

- their presence strikes fear in some children
- a number of children have allergies
- we have no way to monitor any individual dog's training or behaviour and even the tamest pet may react unexpectedly when surrounded by curious children or when inadvertently startled

Thank you for helping us to maintain a safe environment by not bringing your dog onto school property. As a suggestion, you could make arrangements with your child(ren) to meet you on the sidewalk if you are walking the dog to and from the school.