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**Principal:** Jacquelyn Reid

**Vice Principal:** Emily Ripley-Davis

**Admin Assistant:** Carol Sheldon

## The Hillside Park Press



Dear Families,

Happy December! It is hard to believe we are here already! As we reflect on our first few months of the school year at Hillside Park, we want to thank you all for your support, kindness and collaboration. Hillside truly is a wonderful school with the best kids, staff and families and we feel fortunate to be a part of this community each and every day.

A huge shout-out goes to Ms. Ripley-Davis for her hard work in preparing our students for the holiday concert. Bringing our school community together in music will be good for the soul indeed! As mentioned in an earlier email, tickets will be sent home on Dec. 5th with the opportunity to request additional tickets should you need them.

We have lots of fun and engaging learning experiences planned this month. On behalf of our entire team, we 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 health and happiness in 2024!

Yours in Education,

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








## Important Dates

December 4	Professional Development Day (no school for students)
December 12	Holiday Concert ★ Afternoon- 12:30 PM in the Gym ★ Evening- 6:00 PM in the Gym
December 13	Holiday Concert Snow Date
December 15	Choir to visit Sagewood (permission forms to follow)
December 20	Last day of school for 2023
January 2	First day back to school in 2024

## Spirit Days!

Monday, December 18	 <b>Dress Like a Candy Cane!</b> Deck yourself out in red, green, white, stripes, etc. Anything goes!
Tuesday, December 19	 <b>Festive Wear Day!</b> Bring out your holiday sweaters, fun hats, antlers, you name it!
Tuesday, December 20	 <b>PJ Day!</b> 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](#).

## 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

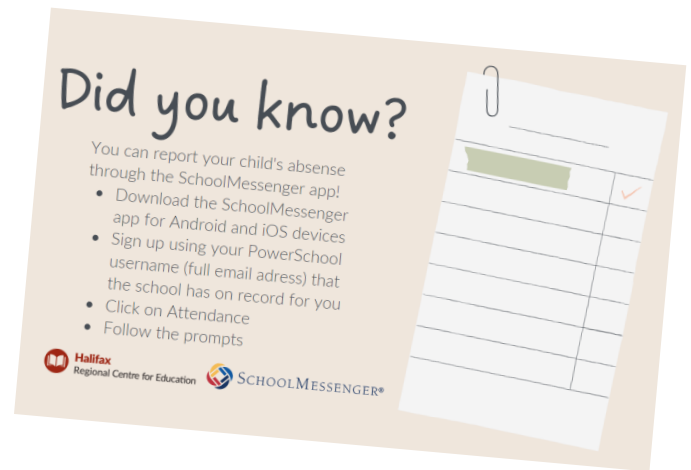
Where can cancellation information be found?  
Website: [www.hrce.ca](http://www.hrce.ca)    Twitter: [@HRCE\\_NS](https://twitter.com/HRCE_NS)    Phone: 902-464-INFO (4636)    Local media outlets  
Subscribe to email/text notifications at [www.hrce.ca](http://www.hrce.ca)

# SchoolMessenger App

Did you know you can report your child's absence through the SchoolMessenger app?

SchoolMessenger's SafeArrival is an absence-management system that improves student safety and makes it easy for you to let the school know about your child's absence.

- Download the SchoolMessenger app for Android and iOS devices
- Sign up using your PowerSchool username (full email address) that the school has on record for you
- Click on Attendance
- Follow the prompts



# 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 902-399-8320 (call or text) or [michelle.boudreau@hrce.ca](mailto:michelle.boudreau@hrce.ca)



Your Hillside Park SchoolsPlus Team is

- ★ Nicole MacFarlane (Interim Facilitator)
- ★ Michelle Boudreau (Community Outreach Worker)
- ★ Megan Shafi (Child and Youth Care Practitioner)