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The Hillside Park Press



Dear Families,

Happy February! It is hard to believe that this month marks the halfway point in our school year. In February we celebrate African Heritage Month! We look forward to honouring the culture, legacy, achievements, and contributions of people of African descent – past and present. Our students will engage in learning that highlights art, experience, dance, and literature.

Our Family Movie Night was a huge success! Thanks to everyone who came out for a wonderful community evening.

We have opened a Hillside Park School account at O'Connell's Recycling, 15 Sackville Cross Rd. If you are returning your refundables, you could ask them to be credited to our account. This goes directly back into our classrooms!

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

FEBRUARY

February 2	Pajama Day! (Coins for Books)
February 9	Bring Your Favourite Book & Stuffy (Coins for Books)
February 13	SAC/PTG Meeting 6:00 PM in the Library
February 14	Valentine's Day- Wear pink, red & white (Coins for Books)
February 16	4/5 Cawthra and Dunn to Discovery Centre
February 19	Nova Scotia Heritage Day (William Hall Day) no school
February 22	Hillside Park BINGO Night! 6:00 PM in the Gym
February 23	Hawaiian Beach Party Day (Coins for Books)
February 29	Dave Carroll- Whole School Presentation
March 11-15	March Break- no classes
March 18	Assessment and Evaluation Day- no classes

♥ HAPPY Valentine's DAY ♥

Students are welcome to exchange Valentine's Day cards and teachers will provide their classes with some treats in the afternoon! It's also Red, White and Pink Day. Dress in style as we celebrate kindness and friendship here at Hillside Park !

Lunar New Year!

We extend Happy Lunar New Year greetings to our families who celebrate! Lunar New Year is typically celebrated for 16 days starting on the eve of the celebration- this year falling on February 10, 2024. This year, we usher in the Year of the Dragon, which is said to bring ambition, energy, and charisma to the new year.



Celebrate African Heritage Month!

The theme for African Heritage Month 2024 is "Our Smiles, Our Joy, Our Resilience as African Nova Scotians." This month-long celebration is dedicated to recognizing and honoring the history and culture of people of African descent. The theme coincides with the final year of the United Nations' International Decade for People of African Descent (DPAD) 2015-2024, which aims to promote global cooperation in support of people of African descent, raise awareness, and acknowledge their full and equal participation in all aspects of society.



Nova Scotia is home to more than 50 historic African Nova Scotian communities with a rich, deep, and complex history that spans more than 400 years. African Heritage Month is an excellent opportunity to celebrate and showcase the culture, accomplishments, and contributions of African Nova Scotians, both past and present.

Tattletales Coins for Books!

We are excited to be participating in the Tattletales Annual Campaign for Books! Tattletales is a locally owned bookstore in Dartmouth, and for the past 17 years they have run this awesome campaign to help schools raise money for classroom and library books. The process is quite simple: schools find creative ways to raise coins during the month of February and then Tattletales matches the donations! This is a fabulous opportunity for Hillside Park.

Each classroom will have a 'Coins for Books' bin. Students are encouraged to bring in coins throughout the month of February as we celebrate all things books! To add some excitement to the campaign, we thought we would brighten our month with some February Spirit Days-

- Friday, February 2- Pajama Day
- Friday, February 9- Bring Your Favourite Book and Stuffy
- Wednesday, February 14- Red, Pink & White Day to celebrate Valentine's Day!
- Friday, February 23- Hawaiian Beach Party (think bright colours, sunglasses, anything that puts you in the Aloha spirit!)

Hillside Park PTG BINGO Night



Hillside Park School

BINGO

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22
HILLSIDE GYM

Doors Open at 5:45 PM
Games Begin at 6:00 PM

\$5 Entry Per Family (includes all games)
Extra BINGO cards \$2 each
Great prizes for every round!
Canteen~ All items \$1

Bring your own BINGO Daubers or Marker

**Students Must Be Accompanied
by an Adult**

Lightbulb icons with question marks are positioned at the top left and top right. The word 'BINGO' is written in large, colorful, bubbly letters. Numbers 42, 26, 15, 83, and 7 are scattered around the letters. At the bottom, there are circular icons with numbers: a green circle with '30', a yellow circle with '12', and a red circle with '44'. The background is a solid orange color with a white starburst pattern behind the 'BINGO' text.

February 19 is Heritage Day

Observing Nova Scotia Heritage Day on the third Monday of February is an annual occasion to reflect on our province's rich history. It's a chance to recognize the remarkable people, places, and events that have shaped our unique heritage.

Please take time to learn about William Hall, the 2024 honoree, [here](#).



February is Registration Month!

Do you have a child who will be starting pre-primary or primary this fall? It's time to register!

Registration for the 2024-25 school year begins on February 1. To ensure we have the right staff and supports in place for September, it's important that we gather enrollment numbers now.

Tip: Before you begin, make sure you have the following documents in electronic form (image, PDF or Word document):

- Proof of identity/age with one of the following: birth certificate, passport, immigration papers, or legal adoption papers if you are new to the HRCE;
- Proof of home address (a recently dated official government or utility document with your current address that includes your name and date, such as water bill, power bill, internet bill, home fuel bill, a tax receipt, property assessment or a mortgage contract); and
- Nova Scotia Health Card or Canadian Province Health Card or, for non-citizens while in Canada, proof of Medical Insurance Information.

Visit the [HRCE website](#) for more information and to enroll your child today through PowerSchool Enrollment!

Don't have a child to register? Maybe you know someone who does! Please help us spread the word and pass this information on to friends, neighbours or relatives who will be looking to register for the fall.

School Websites: We Want Your Feedback!

Now that HRCE's main [website](#) has been upgraded, we're ready to update our school websites to meet accessibility standards and to improve navigation.

As we begin this work, we're looking for your input.

Please take a few minutes to share your thoughts. We appreciate your time and effort!

To get started, [click here](#).

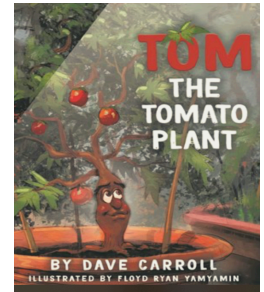


Dave Carroll Comes to Hillside Park

Dave Carroll, is a singer-songwriter, author, and social media innovator from Halifax. He will be bringing his musical and literary talents to Hillside Park!



A STORY OF COMPASSION Tom The Tomato plant is the journey of a smaller-than-average tomato plant named Tom. When all the other plants at the farmers market were claimed, Tom remained alone, dejected and lost until, one day, a little girl persuades her family to give Tom a forever home. The story evolves into an inspiring tale of self-actualization, gratitude, resilience and living on purpose. Tom The Tomato Plant is a story of compassion and the transformative ripples that are created with small acts of caring-on-purpose.



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. 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.

We practice these drills to ensure our school remains a safe place for teaching and learning. Our next lockdown drill will be during the week of February 13-17.

Keeping Healthy

As winter hits, so does the cold and flu season. We practice regular hand washing and sanitizing at school, but inevitably, there will be some bugs and germs in the building. Families are encouraged to keep students home if they are ill. If you are unsure whether your child should attend school or not, please call Mrs. Reid. There are certain communicable illnesses that require students to stay home for a period of time until they are better. Thanks for your support in keeping our school safe and healthy.

Red Means Stop! School Bus Safety Reminder

HRCE has recorded 691 school bus stop-arm violations in Halifax Regional Municipality since the beginning of the school year. This means that motorists have failed to stop for a bus when its red lights were flashing and the stop sign was extended. This poses a serious risk to children and families who may be crossing the road to enter or exit the bus. Drivers may also face a fine and demerit points if caught by police.



Help us spread the word to remind drivers (including cyclists) that it is illegal to drive past a school bus when they see its red lights flashing and stop-arm extended.

Drivers must slow down and prepare to stop in all directions when they see flashing lights – either amber or red in colour – on a school bus. This means the bus is planning to stop or may have already.

Here are some safety tips from Safety Services Nova Scotia to keep in mind when waiting for or exiting the bus:

- Stand back from the edge of the road.
- Line up in single file when you see the bus coming.
- Wait for the bus to come to a complete stop.
- Walk, never run.
- Make sure the bus driver sees you if you are crossing the road. Take 10 giant steps in front of the bus before crossing.
- Wait for the bus driver to signal that it is okay to cross.
- Always look both ways before crossing the road and listen for traffic.
- Never cross the road from behind the bus.