



October 2020

Principal: K.Joy

VP: C. Smith

Admin Assistant: C. Sheldon

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www.hillside.ednet.ns.ca

From the Office

We had a fantastic September at Hillside Park. With all the Covid19 changes and protocols your children have demonstrated that they are resilient and have become accustomed to many of the new policies and protocols surrounding health and safety. Thank you for being an incredibly supportive community. Our student's safety is always our primary concern.

Thanks to everyone who parks on the street for drop off. It is important to adhere to the No Parking signs. I also would like to remind families that supervision begins at 7:45. **Please DO NOT drop off your child before the 7:45 bell as we cannot be responsible for students before that time.**

We have also been busy practicing safety measures at school. We've had our first Fire drill, first Lock Down drill, and first Hold and Secure drill. Students have been very respectful as we practice these important safety measures. October will be another busy month at HPES. Picture day is on Thursday, October 22nd. I know that I have heard from many parents about the new ways we are trying to make school safe. Please know that we are following public health guidelines and are doing our best to keep things consistent. As always, please be sure to contact us if you have any concerns or questions. Have a Happy Thanksgiving,

Mrs. Joy



Pre Primary

The children have settled into our daily routine. They are becoming more independent and responsible for their own belongings. We are very proud of their efforts.

We have been spending most of our time outside including lunch. The children love to learn from one another and enjoy playing games that involve running and tagging.

The students that take the bus have been doing a great job keeping their masks on. The children also like to buckle themselves into the seats. All seatbelts are checked before staff leaves the bus.

Thank you to all our families for your support. We are looking forward to October and enjoying the fresh fall air outdoors!

Dates to remember

October 8 - Curriculum Night Documents go home. There is no formal curriculum night this year due to Covid-19 restrictions.

October 12 - Thanksgiving (No classes)

October 22- Photo Day





Water Bottles

It is important that each student arrive daily with a pre-filled water bottle. We at the office do not have water bottles to give to students.



Covid Screening

Please ensure you are doing the Covid-19 daily screening before sending your child to school.

COVID-19 Daily Checklist

It is important to closely monitor your health and the health of those you care for. Please consider these questions each day before leaving home and entering public spaces.

If you are feeling unwell, you should stay home or go home immediately, and follow the instructions below.

- 1** Are you feeling unwell?
If yes, stay home and avoid public spaces, including work, school/child care, and shopping.
- 2** Do you have any of these symptoms?

 Fever OR Cough (new or worsening)
 OR two or more of the following symptoms (new or worsening):

 Sore Throat Runny nose Headache Shortness of breath
 If yes, stay home and contact 811 to be screened for testing for COVID-19.
 If you are unsure whether you should be tested complete the 811 online assessment: <https://web-to-call-about-covid19.nesac.ca/en>, or if unable to access the online tool, call 811.
- 3** In the last 14 days, have you travelled outside Atlantic Canada?
If yes, you must stay home. You are required by law to self-isolate for 14 days upon return to Atlantic Canada.
- 4** In the last 14 days, have you had close contact (within 2 metres / 6 feet) with someone confirmed to have COVID-19?
If yes, you must stay home. You are required by law to self-isolate if you have been identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19. If you haven't spoken with Public Health or been tested, you should contact 811 to be screened for testing for COVID-19.
- 5** Are you waiting for results from a COVID-19 test?
If yes, stay home. You are required by law to self-isolate while awaiting COVID-19 test results. Please follow instructions given by Public Health.

Revised September 8, 2020



Halloween

We will be celebrating Halloween on October 30th. Teachers will be providing pre packaged snacks for their class. No outside snacks will be permitted this year. Students must be able to wear their "Covid mask" with their costume on the bus or in the afternoon. Each class will have their own party there will be no parade this year. Reminder to always please choose costumes without imitation weapons, if your costume has one, please leave it at home. Upper elementary students can change into their costume at lunch P-2 can come dressed in their costume.

From the Library

Library will look different this year. We will be bringing the library books to the classroom and children will be hand sanitizing before selecting from the bins. Books at this time will not be going home. Students will browse the library books throughout the week in their classrooms.

Guidance Update

Hello Hillside Park Elementary Community,

My name is Dan O'Leary and I'm the School Counsellor here at Hillside. I have worked at AJ Smeltzer for the past 7 years and love working in the Sackville community. I will continue to work at AJ Smeltzer on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, and I will

be at Hillside on Mondays and Wednesdays. I feel that working at Hillside and AJ is a great combination as I will be a familiar face for the students when they transition from Elementary to Junior High School. In what can be an anxiety provoking change, I hope to help ease the fears and dispel the rumours that students may hear about life in Junior High School. This year I will be working with students individually, as well as offering in-class support. If I meet with your child in my counselling office or alternative space, I will call you and will also send home a consent form for you to sign if on-going support is required. Should you ever want me to work with your child, please don't hesitate to reach out by calling the school or emailing me. I look forward to meeting many of you over the course of this year!

Dan O'Leary

doleary@hrce.ca (902) 864-6873



Arriving Late

Everyone has days they are running late and cannot make it to school before the bell rings and classes start. For your child, arriving late or extra tired occasionally is normal and won't cause major disruptions. However, chronic lateness will eventually take a toll on your child's educational experience and success.

I am concerned about the number of students who are presenting as chronically late for school, and we also have many who are missing significant chunks of time each week.

Being on time helps to set routines that are carried all through life, into the workplace, appointments, and even social events. Daily routines in classes are set first thing and students then have a frame of reference for the day. This prevents confusion, misunderstanding and stress. Being on time teaches responsibility and organizational skills that can help all through life. Coming in late disrupts everyone's learning - other students as well as their own.

If your child arrives late and the adults have entered the building, it is your responsibility to ensure that they ring the bell at the door with the blue wall to gain entrance.

School Advisory Council

Our first School Advisory Council (SAC) meeting will be held on October 27th. The SAC is a provincially-mandated group that acts in an advisory capacity to the school principal. Our SAC is made up of administration, Teaching and Support Staff representatives, Parents/Guardians and Community Members. The SAC meets 6 times a year and discusses a variety of topics. If you are interested in being part of our School Advisory Council, please contact (Mrs. Joy) at kjoy@hrce.ca