



Hillside Park Elementary

15 Hillside Ave, Lower Sackville, NS B4C 1W6,

www.hpe.hrce.ca (902) 864 6873



WELCOME

I wanted to say a big “Welcome Back” to all of the families at Hillside! For those of you who do not know me my name is Kelly Joy and I am the returning principal of Hillside Park Elementary along with my Vice Principal Courtney Smith and our office administration assistant Carol Sheldon. Together we welcome you with the staff at Hillside for another exciting new start to school.

This year’s opening was a lot about the new normal while still following and adapting to our Covid19 rules and routines surrounding school. We all have a role to play to keep our families, our schools and our communities safe.

While the expectation is this school year will look and feel more familiar, Nova Scotia has a Back to School Plan that provides Public Health guidance to keep everyone safe.

If you haven't already, please take the time to review the plan and its core public health measures.

Like last year, there are steps we can all take to keep each other healthy and safe. These include:

- Reviewing the [COVID-19 Daily Checklist](#) each day to closely monitor your health and the health of those you care for.
- Understanding what to expect if your child develops symptoms while at school by reviewing the [Preventing COVID-19 Spread in Child and Youth Settings](#) fact sheet.

Nova Scotia Health has also updated its [Contact Tracing in Child and Youth Settings](#) fact sheet which outlines the steps Public Health will take if a case of COVID-19 is reported in a school.

As everyone settles back into the school year routine, it's important to remember that getting vaccinated is our best defense against COVID-19. The more people in a community who are vaccinated and protected

September 16

Class photo day

September 24

Professional Development Day- No classes for students

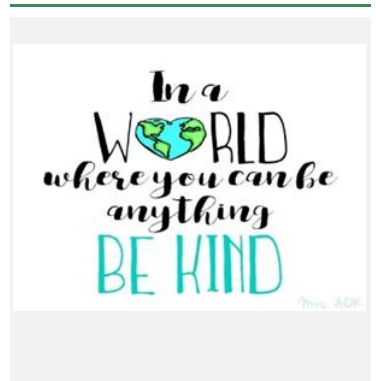
September 30

Truth and Reconciliation Day

No Classes for students

October 11

Thanksgiving Day No school for students



from COVID-19, the harder it is for the virus to spread. All Nova Scotians aged 12+ have access to safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines free-of-charge. You can learn more about COVID-19 vaccines, including how to book an appointment, at <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/vaccine>.

Electronic communication via email is the schools number one way to communicate with families. Lower elementary teachers are using an App called SeeSaw and Upper elementary is using email and google classroom. Please check the website and your email inbox frequently for updates.

We have been sanitizing our hands and high touch surfaces. The students are doing a great job wearing their masks on the bus and in their classrooms. We give them daily reminders that they do not have to wear their masks outside and encourage students to take the mask breaks. Some students are choosing not to remove their masks. I would suggest that families talk to your children about taking a break from the mask to smell the fresh air outside if they feel comfortable.

The beginning of the year is always so exciting with all the hope that a new year brings. This year, especially, my hope is that every student has success at Hillside Park and that students know that anything is possible!

It's the little things, the hard work and the dedication of the staff that make Hillside a great place to come to work. The families are truly lucky to have such a dedicated staff. I appreciate all of it!

Daily Before School Check:

- Fill your child's water bottle, snacks and lunch
- Use the Covid19 checklist for back to school. If they have any symptoms keep them home and call 811.
- Practice social distancing at drop off and pick up.
- Drop off is between 7:45am-8:00am If you are late (after 8am) please ensure that your child enters the door by the blue wall and rings the bell to gain entry. They will receive a 'Ticket" (late slip) to get into class
- At dismissal bus students will leave the building first. Once buses are loaded and leave the remaining students will exit the building and walk to the driveway/hill/ grass by the sign with their class of walkers. We ask that once you have your child/children you exit the area to reduce congestion.



Safety Reminder

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. RCMP have already been by and since it is an ongoing issue they will be giving out tickets in the coming days.

Students and families should only walk up the hill to our school via the second driveway. This means that when facing the school from Hillside drive families would walk up the driveway on the left of the building. This is not the driveway closest to the blue wall or main entry door. This is the driveway that Mrs. Joy and/or her helpers monitor to ensure that students and busses are not a safety risk.

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 busses to get in and out safely.



LOCKDOWN DRILL

The safety and security of our students and staff is a top priority for **Hillside Park Elementary School** and the Halifax Regional Center 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.

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 son/daughter about this procedure and reinforce its importance. We practice these drills to

ensure our school remains a safe place for teaching and learning. **We will have a fire drill this week and a lockdown drill the week of the 20th!**



Safe Arrival

Please call the 24 hour **Safe Arrival Line: 864-6877** if your child will be absent from school. This is another way for the school to ensure your child's safety. For this reason, as well as children getting sick during the school day, it is **very important** that we have current phone numbers and emergency contacts.



Life Threatening Allergies

We have students at Hillside with severe life threatening allergies to peanuts and tree nuts as well as 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.

Just a reminder to check the labels of food if you are unsure... the most common infraction is Nutella...it contains hazlenuts and is one of our tree nuts that students are allergic to.



Important Confirmation of Contact Information:

Tomorrow you will receive a hard copy of your child's registration form. It is **very important** that all families review the information on this form

carefully and update it. Please send this form back to school asap. Up to date information helps us ensure that we are able to contact you quickly in an emergency, and that your child's school records are regularly updated and accurate.

You will also receive a document called "Consent for Publication of Student Personal Information and Student Work". This form lets us know if we have permission to share your child's work or photo on our sharing platforms used in school (twitter, school webpage). Please be sure to check the appropriate box and sign this form as well. If you have any questions please be sure to reach out and ask.

Breakfast Program

Our breakfast Program is open to all students and will be up and running on Wednesday, **September 15th**. Students will be offered breakfast program within their classrooms as they enter school in the morning. Breakfast program is open to every student and for some it is their first breakfast of the day and others it is their second snack. We will encourage every student to partake in the breakfast program if they wish!



School Photos – **September 16th**

A message from Nova Scotia School Pictures....

Nova Scotia School Pictures is honoured to be the 2021-2022 school photography provider for Hillside Park Elementary.

Individual photos will be taken on **September 16th**.

In an effort to help schools limit the number of physical items being handed to students, we will not be printing instant proofs this year. We are asking parents and students to simply log onto our website to view their school photos.

This is a more environmentally friendly method than traditional paper envelopes and will also help with faster production of your finished packages.

In preparation for viewing your proofs online, please Pre-Register for the Hillside Park Elementary photo gallery by following these steps:

Please visit: www.nssp.ca

1. Click the **Order Online** button.
2. Log in, or create an account.
3. Click the **School Photos - Fall** button.
4. Find your school in the alphabetical listing and click on it.
5. Your name and email address should fill in automatically.
6. Click the **Submit** button.

When the students' photos have been uploaded to the gallery, you will receive an email letting you know your photos are ready to view.

To view and order your photos:

Please visit: www.nssp.ca

1. Click: **CLIENTS**.
2. Click: **FIND MY PHOTOS**.
3. Enter the password: **(Your 10-Digit Student Number)**. Found in the PowerSchool Portal
4. Log in, or create an account.

We will gladly print traditional proof envelopes for families with limited internet access.

Payments may be made online using: Credit, VISA debit, or eCheque.

If you choose to place your order online but wish to pay offline, you may call us and we can take the following payments over the phone: Credit, Debit, eTransfer.

If you have any questions, please do not call the school, unless you require personal information of a student. Our office is open Monday to Friday from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm for any inquiries. Our number is (902) 423-8840. Our email is studio@calnenphotography.com

For those who are returning "Welcome back" and for those who are new "Welcome to Hillside! A reminder there is no school for students on Friday September 24th as it is a PD day.

If you have specific questions, please feel free to contact us directly at the school by phone or by email hpes@hrce.ca **Our school website - hpe.hrce.ca and twitter - @HillsidePark1.**

Kelly Joy, Principal and Courtney Smith, Vice Principal