



# October 2021

Principal: Kelly Joy

VP: Courtney Smith

[@HillsidePark1](https://twitter.com/HillsidePark1)

[www.hillside.ednet.ns.ca](http://www.hillside.ednet.ns.ca)

Email: [hpes@hrsb.ca](mailto:hpes@hrsb.ca)

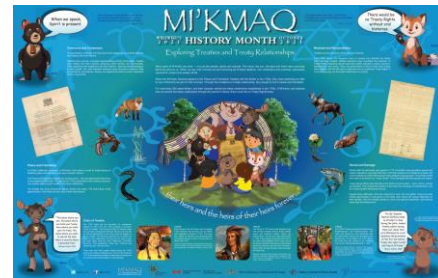
## From the Office

We had a fantastic September at Hillside Park. We have learned how to navigate the "new" normal while still being very aware that Covid19 is in our communities. 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 retake day is on Wednesday, October 20<sup>th</sup> 12pm. 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.

Mrs. Joy



## MI'KMAQ

October is Mi'kmaq Heritage Month- We have been learning about Mi'kmaq history and culture as well as exploring treaties and treaty relationships. We have been also playing O'Canada in the Mi'kmaq language and sharing a word of the day to learn some of the language. Ask your child what they have learned so far!



## 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 have been doing a great job keeping their masks on. Thank you to all our families for your support.

## Dates to remember

October 20 - Picture retakes at 12pm.

October 22 - Conference Day (No classes)

October 26- SAC/ PTG



## 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. Also we would ask that your child bring a fork or spoon from home if they need it to eat their recess snack or lunch.

## 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.

- Are you feeling unwell?  
If you, stay home and avoid public spaces, including work, school/child care, and shopping.
- 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, Loss of taste or smell
- If you, 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://nh.gov/health-services/covid19/newscastore.nh.gov>, or if unable to access the online tool, call 811.
- In the last 14 days, have you travelled outside Atlantic Canada?  
If yes, you must stay home. You are required to stay to self-isolate for 14 days upon return to Atlantic Canada.
- 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 to stay 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.
- Are you waiting for results from a COVID-19 test?  
If yes, stay home. You are required to stay 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 29th. 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 books are due on Wednesday. Please ensure that your child brings them back so that they can borrow a book on Thursday!



## 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 26th. 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](mailto:kjoy@hrce.ca)



### **Halifax Regional Arts**

Our Visual Arts Specialist Kate Broadbelt has been busy working with students from grade 2-5 to enhance our school environment. Students studied abstract art by Joan Miro' and then designed their own creations and designs which have been transferred to the sign out front and hallway murals. The new sign will be arriving

soon. See the newsletter header for a sneak peak!

### **Schools Plus**

We want to introduce ourselves as your SchoolsPlus team at Hillside Park Elementary!

#### **We have a few different roles in SchoolsPlus:**

Assistant Lead - Kaleigh McConnell

Community Outreach Worker - Michelle Boudreau

Child and Youth Care Practitioner - Megan Shafi

#### **What is SchoolsPlus?**

SchoolsPlus is a free, confidential service that is now available in every school in HRCE. You may have heard of us but didn't really know what we do.

#### **What can SchoolsPlus offer?**

Some of what the SchoolsPlus Assistant Lead and Community Outreach Worker do focus on 3 main areas:

1. **Help build and support good relationships** with families, schools, and the community.
2. **Connect parents, students, and families with programs, resources, and support.** Some examples are: help find social or recreation programs for kids/youth (and the funding, if needed), help connect to/apply for supports that can provide other assistance (i.e., access to tutoring, support with eyeglasses), and navigate systems to get the services you need.
3. **Programming for parents and students.** Some examples are: Handle with Care, The Incredible Years, Rainbows, Voices, Roots of Empathy, social skills groups, and more.

We can help support your student/family with connections to what they may need to succeed - from home, to school, and back again.

#### **How do I get connected with SchoolsPlus?**

You can get connected with SchoolsPlus by contacting Kaleigh McConnell (Assistant Lead) at 902-399-8321 (call or text) or by emailing her:

[kaleigh.mcconnell@hrce.ca](mailto:kaleigh.mcconnell@hrce.ca)