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Principal: Jacquelyn Reid **Vice Principal:** Emily Ripley-Davis **Admin Assistant:** Carol Sheldon

The Hillside Park Press

September Newsletter 2022

Dear Families,

What a fabulous first week we had here at Hillside Park. The students are settling into their routines, and it is wonderful to see them engaged in their learning, working collaboratively, and building caring classroom communities. A huge thank you to our amazing staff, students, and families for your support! Next week I will send out a separate email regarding Curriculum Night and the Ice Cream Social, so look for that in your inbox. Please hold the date of Thursday, September 22 at 6:00 pm.

We are actively seeking membership for our SAC (School Advisory Council) and our PTG (Parent Teacher Group). Since Covid changed the way we were able to connect and collaborate with families in the building, we are excited to welcome you back in. Our first meeting will be in the library on Tuesday, September 27 at 6:00 pm. Please let me know if you are interested in attending so we can get a sense of our numbers (jacquelyn.reid@hrce.ca). All are welcome to join!

Yours in Education,

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

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What's Happening at Hillside in September?



Important Dates

September 22	School Picture Day Curriculum Night and Ice Cream Social (6:00 pm- details to follow)
September 27	SAC and PTG Meeting (6:00 pm in the Library)
September 29	Orange Shirt Day
September 30	Truth & Reconciliation Day (no school)
October 10	Thanksgiving Day (no school)
October 28	Provincial Conference Day (no school)

BREAKFAST BASKETS

We are happy to offer breakfast foods for students at our school.

Students can enjoy breakfast items including granola bars, yogurt tubes and cheese strings directly from their class baskets first thing in the morning.

Breakfast baskets will begin on **September 12**. A special thank you to our staff members for organizing the baskets and shopping for our supplies. A healthy breakfast gives our students the fuel necessary for learning.



School Picture Day

Nova Scotia School Pictures is honoured to be the 2022-2023 school photography provider for Hillside Park Elementary.



Individual photos will be taken on **Thursday, September 22, 2022.**

Retakes will be on October 20, 2022.

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

We look forward to providing quality school photo packages for the Hillside Park Elementary Community!



Celebrating Learning

We look forward to sharing what our Hillside Park students are learning with families and the community. Please follow us on Twitter: @HillsidePark1

Life Threatening Allergies

We have students at Hillside Park with severe life threatening allergies to peanuts, tree nuts, kiwi, and 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. Please check the labels of food if you are unsure.



Fantastic Friday Phone Calls!

We love celebrating our students at Hillside Park. On Fridays, Mrs. Reid and Ms. Ripley-Davis will make calls home to share some of the fantastic things our students have done throughout the week (both inside the classroom and out!).

If you get a call from the school on a Friday, there is a good chance it is Mrs. Reid or Ms. Ripley-Davis calling to tell you your child has been recognized by one of our staff members for doing something “fantastic” that week.



We will leave a message if the call goes to voicemail.



We will be holding our annual Terry Fox Run on September 26 with a rain date of September 28. Our students will learn about Terry’s and his incredible journey during the Marathon of Hope.

If you wish to donate online, go to www.terryfox.org. We will also be making a donation on behalf of Hillside Park School.

Orange Shirt Day and Truth & Reconciliation



September 30th is Orange Shirt Day in Canada: a day in which we pause and reflect to recognize the harm of the residential school system. Orange Shirt Day is grounded in the story of Phyllis Webstad who attended residential schools in Williams Lake BC in the 1970s. Phyllis was only six years old. She recalls the excitement she felt while preparing to go to school, even though it meant being removed from her family home. Her grandmother bought Phyllis a new outfit for the occasion, which included a shiny orange shirt. In Phyllis's words, "the shirt was bright and exciting - just like I felt about going to school."

Upon arriving at St. Joseph Mission Residential School, her new clothes were taken from her and replaced by a school uniform. Phyllis never saw her orange shirt again. The loss of her shirt was the first of many losses for Phyllis.

As part of our commitment to Treaty Education and the path toward Truth and Reconciliation, we invite all students and staff to wear orange on **September 29th**.



One of our greatest priorities is ensuring that all our students arrive safely at school each day. You are able to report future absences using an app, website, or toll-free phone number.

If a student is going to be absent from school for any reason, you have 3 options to report the absence:

- 1) Call Safe Arrival toll free at: 1-833-582-6940
- 2) Report via [SchoolMessenger](#)
- 3) Download the SchoolMessenger app for Android and iOS devices and use your username and password for the PowerSchool Portal.

All three methods are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Up to five consecutive absences can be recorded at once. If your student is absent and the absence has not been reported in advance, you will receive notifications via email, text, and phone calls from School Messenger.

If SchoolMessenger cannot reach you, office staff will follow up. Please make sure you contact Safe Arrival before 8:00 am as teachers will be completing their attendance at that time.

Children arriving late must sign in at the office.

Arrival and Departure Safety Reminder

As we begin our school year, we'd like to remind you of how you can help keep our students safe as they arrive and leave our school grounds:

- ★ 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.
- ★ Students and families should only walk up the hill to our school via the second driveway. 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. Reid and/or her helpers monitor to ensure that students and buses 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 buses to get in and out safely.



Fire Drill & 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. 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. Our first fire drill will take place next week. Teachers will practice with their classes. 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. Our first lockdown drill will be during the week of September 20-24.

Dogs on Property

We are reminding families NOT to bring dogs onto school property. We realize that combining a dog walk with your child's trip to and from school is convenient and environmentally responsible. Although these pets are usually playful and harmless, the presence of dogs on the school grounds represents a potential health and safety issue for several reasons.

- their presence strikes fear in some children
- a number of children have allergies
- we have no way to monitor any individual dog's training or behaviour and even the tamest pet may react unexpectedly when surrounded by curious children or when inadvertently startled

Thank you for helping us to maintain a safe environment by not bringing your dog onto school property. As a suggestion, you could make arrangements with your child(ren) to meet you on the sidewalk if you are walking the dog to and from the school.