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The Hillside Park Press

Mid-January Info



Dear Families,

We hope everyone has had a great few weeks. This is a quick mid-January newsletter to outline a few things. More to follow in our February newsletter :)

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 January 21, 2023. It is followed by 15 days of the New Year from January 22 to February 9. This year, we usher in the Year of the Rabbit, which is said to bring peace, harmony, and tranquility to the new year.

We hope our students enjoy the first official blast of winter, and time to play in the snow!

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

Literacy Day at Hillside Park

On Friday, January 27th we will celebrate all things literacy! Our staff is busy planning a day for our students that will focus on instilling a love of reading, writing, and sharing literature. It's sure to be a great time. **We invite all students to wear their cozy jammies, bring a small stuffy and a cherished book to enjoy.**



Family Literacy Day 2023

Family Literacy Day takes place every January 27th to raise awareness about the importance of reading and engaging in other literacy-related activities as a family.



Building a love of reading with your child:

- ♥ Create a reading routine
- ♥ Get a library card
- ♥ Show an interest in what your child is reading
- ♥ Read e-books or listen to audio books
- ♥ Create a reading nook
- ♥ Read with friends - start a book club!
- ♥ Swap/trade books with friends
- ♥ Give books as gifts

Tips for supporting your child with writing:

- ✍ Create a recipe together and write it down
- ✍ Have your child write down a grocery list
- ✍ Write a story or a song together
- ✍ Design a birthday or holiday card
- ✍ Write a letter to a friend or loved one

Tips for supporting your child with reading:

- 📖 Read aloud to model fluent reading
- 📖 Talk about the story together. Ask questions like, "What do you think will happen next?"
- 📖 Find a favourite author and read their books
- 📖 Read signs or billboards while driving
- 📖 Read a variety of books - lots of choice!

Tips for supporting your child with oral language development:

- 🗨 Spend time doing everyday activities - actively talk, play and listen together.
- 🗨 Play games!
- 🗨 Share in everyday activities such as setting the table, preparing meals and grocery shopping.
- 🗨 Ask open-ended questions about stories that will encourage conversation and connections to your child's life experiences.
- 🗨 Talk about the messages and ideas that they are writing, drawing and creating.
- 🗨 Talk about a book, favorite characters, or how the book could have ended differently.

ABC LifeLiteracyCanada

Reading Rockets

Halifax Public Libraries

Raz-Kids

Click on the links for more info!

Clothing and Winter Attire

Bundle up! With the cold weather upon us, we would like to remind families and students of the importance of dressing appropriately for the weather including hats, mittens, and snowpants. As the weather changes we ask that all students pack a change of clothes in the event that their clothing gets wet or dirty/muddy while going outside during recess or lunch.



February is Registration Month

Primaries and Pre-Primaries Wanted!

Early Registration for primary aged children will take place in the month of February in the Halifax Regional Centre for Education. If you have children starting school in September 2023 or know of children in your neighbourhood who will be ready for school in September, early registration will take place during the month of February. A child must be 5 years old on or before December 31, 2023 in order to register for primary and 4 years old on or before December 31, 2023 to register for pre-primary.

It is important to register early as staffing allocations (number of classroom teachers) are based on the projected enrollment.

Current Pre Primary students are not required to re-register for Primary. More information to follow in the February newsletter.