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15 Hillside Avenue • Lower Sackville, NS • B4C 1W6 • Tel # (902) 864-6873  
Website: [hpe.hrce.ca](http://hpe.hrce.ca) • Email: [hpes@hrce.ca](mailto:hpes@hrce.ca) • Twitter: @HillsidePark1

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

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## The Hillside Park Press



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Dear Families,

Happy February! It is hard to believe that this month marks the halfway point in our school year. We are asking families to please ensure students are dressed for the weather in the coming days. We are expecting severely cold temperatures at the end of the week. Students will need all their winter gear to ensure they are safe and warm.

In February we celebrate African Heritage Month! We look forward to honouring the culture, legacy, achievements, and contributions of people of African descent – past and present. Our students will engage in learning that highlights art, experience, dance, and literature. Be sure to check in with your child and ask them what they are learning about at school.

February is always a busy month. Please read the newsletter as there is quite a bit of information.

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

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# What's Happening at Hillside in February?

## Important Dates

February 1	African Heritage Month begins
February 3	Maritime Centre for African Dance presentation
February 9	Hillside Park BINGO Night! 6:00-7:15 in the Gym
February 14	Valentine's Day
February 15	Rocks 'n Rings Curling in PE class
February 20	Nova Scotia Heritage Day (Rita Joe Day) no school
February 21	SAC/PTG Meeting 6:00 in the library
March 13-17	March Break- no classes
March 20	Assessment and Evaluation Day- no classes

♥ **HAPPY**  
*Valentine's*  
**DAY** ♥

Our students will engage in cross-age, cross-curricular centres the morning of February 14th. We will focus on kindness, friendship, and well-being.

Students are welcome to exchange Valentine's Day cards and teachers will provide their classes with some treats in the afternoon!

# Celebrate African Heritage Month!

February is African Heritage Month! This year's theme, *Seas of Struggle – African Peoples from Shore to Shore*, recognizes the resiliency, strength, and determination of people of African descent from the shores of Africa to the shores of Nova Scotia – with the Atlantic Ocean being the everlasting connection. Learn more [here](#).

Looking for ways to recognize and celebrate African Heritage Month?

- Attend events happening throughout the month at your local [Halifax Public Library](#).
- While you're at the library, [borrow books](#) that will inspire the whole family to learn more about African heritage.
- Visit local heritage sites, such as the [Black Cultural Centre](#), [the Africville Museum](#), and the [Black Loyalist Heritage Centre](#).



**Hillside Park is in for a huge treat on Friday, February 3rd! We are excited to welcome the Maritime Centre for African Dance, a local organization dedicated to teaching, sharing, and promoting African culture through the art of dance. Our workshops will focus on African dance, drumming, afrobeats, and storytelling!**



The African Nova Scotian flag was designed in 2012 by local Halifax artist and educator, Wendie L. Wilson. Her hope for the flag was that it would inspire African Nova Scotians to develop unity, explore their history and cultural identity and share their experiences with others.

The flag's colours are widely used by people of African descent across the world.



The symbol at the flag's centre is Wilson's own interpretation of the West African Adinkra symbol, "Sankofa", meaning "go back and fetch it". The Sankofa bird represents the spirit of African Nova Scotians, a resilient people who have never forgotten their history and continue to build on the lessons of the past in order to create a new future.

Wilson's version incorporates a wave, representing the ocean and our ancestors' journey through the Middle Passage. The wave is also symbolic of our tie to the water here in Nova Scotia. There is also half of a heart representing "heartbreak balanced with awareness."

# Hillside Park PTG BINGO Night!

 **HILLSIDE PARK SCHOOL**

# **B**INGO NIGHT

**THURSDAY, FEB 9**

 **Hillside Park Gym**

Doors Open at: 5:45pm  
Game Starts at: 6:00pm

**GREAT PRIZES  
FOR EVERY  
ROUND!**

**\$5**

**ENTRY PER  
FAMILY**

Students must be accompanied by an adult

**CANTEEN ALL ITEMS \$1**



**Effective February 1, 2023, we will be accepting registrations for the 2023-2024 school year through our new online portal, PowerSchool Enrollment!**

**Tip:** Before you begin, make sure you have the following documents in electronic form (image, PDF or Word document):

- Proof of identity/age with one of the following: birth certificate, passport, immigration papers, or legal adoption papers) if you are new to the HRCE;
- Proof of home address (a recently dated official government or utility document with your current address that includes your name and date, such as water bill, power bill, internet bill, home fuel bill, a tax receipt, property assessment or a mortgage contract); and
- Nova Scotia Health Card or Canadian Province Health Card or, for non-citizens while in Canada, proof of Medical Insurance Information.

Visit the [HRCE website](#) for more information and to enroll your child today!

Don't have a child to register? Maybe you know someone who does! Please help us spread the word and pass this information on to friends, neighbours or relatives who will be looking to register for the fall. This information determines staffing in the fall.

## February 20 is Heritage Day

This year's Heritage Day honours Elder Rita (Bernard) Joe, a member of the We'koqma'q Mi'kmaq Community and published author, who was instrumental in paving the way for other Mi'kmaq authors. Her greatest wish was to see more writings come from her people and "that the children would read it." Learn more [here](#).



**Reminder that there are no classes on Monday, February 20th in honour of Heritage Day.**



## Weigh in on the HRCE Website

What do you like about the HRCE website? What needs improvement?  
We want to hear from you!

The Communications and Information Technology teams are currently planning a refresh and upgrade of the HRCE corporate website ([www.hrce.ca](http://www.hrce.ca)).

To ensure the new site reflects what's important to families, community and staff, we are inviting your input! Your thoughts, ideas and feedback will help us develop a website that will better serve those who use it most.

Please take five minutes to share your perspective. This survey closes on Tuesday, February 7. Click [here](#) to begin.



## 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. 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.

We practice these drills to ensure our school remains a safe place for teaching and learning. Our next lockdown drill will be during the week of February 13-17.



## Head Lice

**Please continue to regularly check family members for head lice. Please let the school administration know if we can help. A child with head lice may return to school after the first treatment. Please know that head lice is a common occurrence and we can all work together to minimize the effects.**

# A Message From SchoolsPlus

SchoolsPlus staff are here to support Hillside Park families.  
Did you know SchoolsPlus can:

## **Help you navigate support for heating costs?**

For many of us heating costs are higher this year than past winters. If you are struggling with heating costs reach out to SchoolsPlus and we can help you navigate supports available.

REMEMBER: SchoolsPlus services are confidential.

Just give us a call!

Your Hillside Park SchoolsPlus Team is Jen Fougere (Assistant Leader), Michelle Boudreau (Community Outreach Worker), & Megan Shafi (Child & Youth Care Practitioner)  
Contact us at 902-483-8367 (call/text) or [jfougere@hrce.ca](mailto:jfougere@hrce.ca)

