



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

## The Hillside Park Press

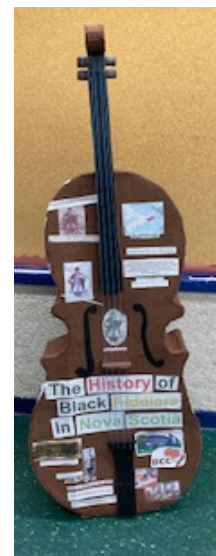


Dear Families,

Happy March! For a short month, February sure was jam-packed. We celebrated African Heritage Month by honouring the culture, legacy, achievements, and contributions of people of African descent, and it was wonderful to see our students so engaged in their learning! Our 4/5 classes submitted their projects to The Buddy Daye Learning Institute, featuring Jody Upshaw and the history of Black Fiddlers in Nova Scotia. We danced and sang with Dave Carroll, had a successful BINGO night, and many other awesome learning opportunities in between.

We wish all our families a safe and relaxing March Break. As always, reach out to us if you need anything at all. We appreciate your support.

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





March 6	Q-MACK School Performance
March 8	Author Camilla Thompson Visit
March 11-15	March Break- no classes
March 18	Assessment and Evaluation Day (no school for students)
March 28	Reports sent home via email
March 29	Good Friday (no school)
April 1	Easter Monday (no school)
April 4	Professional Development AM (no school for students) Family/Teacher Conferences afternoon and evening (no school for students)
April 25	Family Dance

Please note there is no school for students on **Monday, March 18** as it is an Assessment & Evaluation Day (this piggybacks off the March Break).

Teachers will be writing report cards on this day. A separate email about Family/Teacher Conferences will be sent out later in the month. Once again, we will use the new online booking system so you can easily schedule your appointments with teachers.



# TATTLETALES CAMPAIGN FOR BOOKS!!

Hillside Park! We can't even begin to thank you for your generosity and spirit during our Campaign for Books. After a month of friendly competition between classes, the grand total raised by the school is...

drumroll please... **\$2779.08**

The classes that raised the most money were 4/5 Cawthra and 2/3 MacNeil. Pizza Town was so blown away by their efforts that they are hosting 2 parties for us. This total, combined with the donations from Tattletales and their sponsors, will go a long way in helping us bring beautiful books to our students.

## Q-Mack Performance

NBA All-Star Entertainer Q-MACK is on a mission to transform students into "All-Stars" by spelling out what the term "ALL-STAR" really means! This high impact presentation outlines 7 vital character attributes that will benefit your students in every challenge they'll face in the classroom, the gym, or on the playground. So just what does it take to become an "All-Star student"? Well much like becoming an All-Star athlete, these 7 character traits will assist to build an amazing foundation for kids of all ages:

*A -Attitude (being positive/optimistic)*

*L - Leadership (by example)*

*L -Love (for learning new skills)*

*S -Self control (making positive choices)*

*T -Teamwork (being inclusive)*

*A -Accountable (being responsible for words and actions)*

*R -Respect (for others feelings and standing up against bullying)*



## Author Camilla Thompson Visits Hillside Park


Camilla Thompson is an author, educator and storyteller on a mission to improve mental health education and literacy across Canada. As the director of Sunnyside Self Wellness and author of Skating Late, Camilla introduces people of all ages and abilities to writing and wellness practices proven to increase peace, positivity, health and happiness, and shares inspiring stories of hope, determination and community involvement.





# Raise a Reader





## At-home reading tips for caregivers

 **Look at your child's books** with them. Discuss the pictures and build vocabulary by talking about new words.

 **Talk with your child about their books.** Ask questions about the story and encourage your child to ask their own questions.

 **Make reading aloud a regular part of your routine** – just 15 minutes each day can make a big difference in raising a reader.

 **Discuss examples that help them relate** to what they're reading. Connect the story to your child's world.

 **Connect with your child's teacher** for more suggestions on how to support reading at home.



## March is Nutrition Month

Did you know? March is Nutrition Month! This is a great time to explore and learn about food. An important part of this is food literacy, which includes having the knowledge and skills to grow, choose, prepare, and talk about food.

Some ways to engage your family during Nutrition Month:

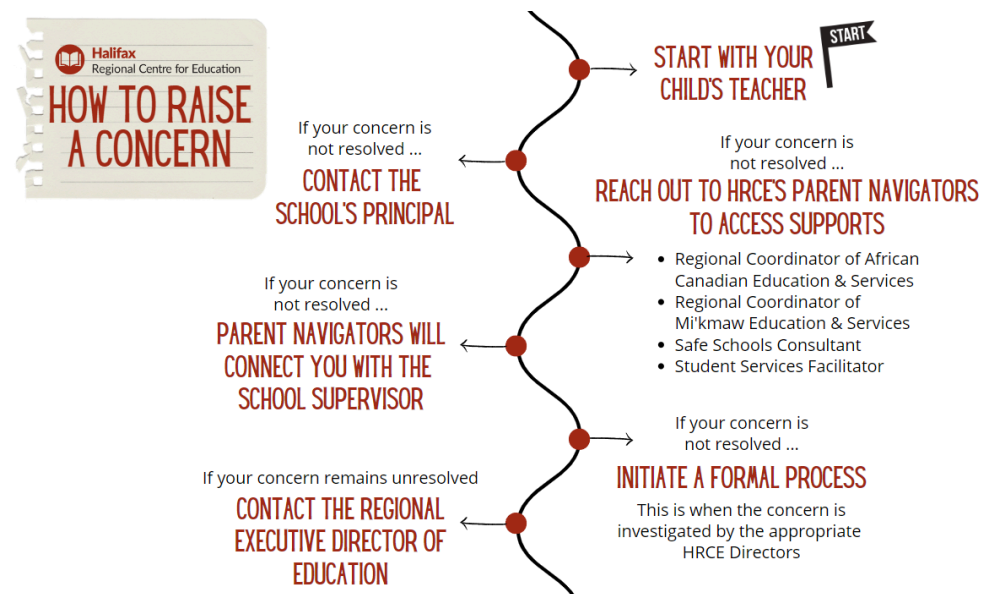
- ★ Get kids involved in meal planning. Ask them to help choose recipes, write out grocery lists and explore grocery store flyers.
- ★ Make cooking a family event! Kids can participate in age-appropriate tasks, such as measuring ingredients or setting the table.
- ★ Enjoy meals together when you are able. Mealtimes can be a great time to connect in conversation.
- ★ Start planning for an indoor or outdoor garden. This is a great way to explore where our food comes from.



# Do you know how to raise a concern?

Did you know that there's a protocol in place to help families contact schools, or HRCE Central Office, when you have concerns about your student's education or well-being?

- ★ All concerns should first be shared with your child's teacher.
- ★ If your concern is not resolved, you should then contact the principal.
- ★ If your concern remains unresolved, you can reach out to [HRCE's Parent Navigators](#) who can provide information about a wide range of supports and resources or connect you with the school supervisor.
- ★ If your matter continues to be unresolved, you can then initiate a formal review process in which the matter will be investigated by the appropriate HRCE Directors.
- ★ The final step is for your concern to be passed on to the Regional Executive Director.
- ★ Click here to view the [Parent/Guardian Concern Policy](#).



## From SchoolsPlus

We want to plant the seed early to let you know Michelle Boudreau (Community Outreach Worker) will be offering the "Home Alone" program for all grade 5 students and for grade 4 students who are 10 years of age for free this year. This will likely take place in May.



# Computational Fluency

This year as part of our Student Success Plan in Mathematics, students are immersed in fact fluency activities and practice every day. Read to find out more!



## What does it mean to be fluent with math facts?

Information for families and caregivers

### DID YOU KNOW? Children are fluent when they demonstrate:

#### Accuracy

- Correctly solving a problem

#### Flexibility

- The ability to think about a problem in more than one way and to adapt or adjust thinking as necessary

#### Efficiency

- Solving a problem in a reasonable amount of time



### MYTH: Math today is so different

FACT: While the math itself hasn't changed, the focus of math instruction has shifted to ensure students are actively engaged in developing an understanding of the skills and concepts. Representing concepts using models to develop strategies and exercising critical thinking is a much more effective way to build understanding.



### MYTH: Memorization is the best way to master basic facts.

FACT: Children may have memorized basic facts, however, they may not have a strategy to solve the particular fact. Memorized facts can be forgotten, but when a strategy is understood, children hang on to it forever.



### MYTH: Children who have memorized the facts won't be challenged.

FACT: The goal is not to memorize facts, but to develop a range of strategies to apply to more complex concepts such as multi-digit computations, decimals and fractions.

Developing strategies and an understanding of when to use these appropriately, asks children to think at higher levels.



### MYTH: Timed tests help children master facts.

FACT: Timed tests do not assess fluency, only accuracy and efficiency. As well, research tells us that timed tests can lead to the development of anxiety around mathematics.

### Questions to support fact fluency conversations with children

- How did you solve it?
- How do you know it is correct?
- Is there another way you could solve it?
- If someone didn't know the answer to \_\_\_\_\_, how would you help them to figure it out?
- What strategy can you use to find that fact?
- How is \_\_\_\_\_ like \_\_\_\_\_? How are they different? (example: How is  $2 \times 7$  like  $4 \times 7$ ?)