



PORTLAND ESTATES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

45 Portland Hills Drive

Dartmouth, NS

B2W 6L5

(902) 433-7100



Principal: Mrs. Louise Henman-Poirier
Vice Principal- Ms. Broussard
Secretary: Ms. Myers

May 2025

Hello Portland Estates Families,

Well May has arrived and so has the warmer weather. Classes will soon be taking advantage of our outdoor classroom and playground spaces daily.

Thanks to our wonderful PTO volunteers, Grade Five students and students from Woodlawn High who helped make the Consignment Sale and Bake Sale a success. Our classes marked Earth Day with a number of school yard cleanups. Yearbook orders are now open.

Believe it or not, plans for the 2025 – 2026 school year are well underway! Over the next few weeks, we will be going through the class placement process. This planning is always considered to be flexible until the end of September, as so many things can change between now and then. The assignment of students to classes is decided by a team, which includes our Resource and Learning Centre teachers, classroom teachers, School Counsellor and administrators. Our goal is to ensure an optimal learning environment, taking into consideration academic needs and strengths; social and emotional needs and abilities; physical needs; leadership abilities and friendships.

It is hard to believe that there are only two months left in this school year. I encourage students to continue to work hard as we push through these last few weeks of learning. Please continue to feel welcome to contact staff with any questions or concerns.

May is a beautiful month in Nova Scotia, so we hope that everyone gets a chance to get outside to enjoy the wonderful places in your own community. It is great to see students biking or scootering to and from school! A friendly reminder to walk your bike/scooter once on school grounds and lock up both items!

Mrs. Henman-Poirier

Important Dates to Remember:

May 5- Red Dress Day

May 5-11- Mental Health Week

May 11 – Hats on for Mental Health

May 11-17 – Education Week

May 13-28 – Grade Three Assessments *

May 15- Black Excellence Day -Wear Black

May 15 – Grade Five Parent meeting at Ellenvale 6 pm

May 15- Moose Hide Day

May 17- International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia

May 19- Victoria Day – no School for students

May 28 – Track & Field Meet

Ellenvale Play Field Trip - Shrek

May28- New Primary Students Open House 6:30-7:30pm

May 29- Domino Topple

May 30 - Stuffy Day – Bring your favourite stuffy

Volunteer Assembly – 2 pm

June 6 – PTO BBQ & Dance

June 9 - Grade 5 trip to Ellenvale (am

June 18- Field Day (June 19 Rain Date)

June 25- Grade Five Fun Day

June 26- Tattoo Field Trip

June 27- Assessment & Evaluation Day – no school for students

June 30- Last Day of School

***Please make sure your Grade Three child is on time and has had a good breakfast and start to their day.**



Mark these important HRCE dates on your calendar!

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY 19	NO CLASSES Victoria Day
JUNE 26	NO CLASSES High school students only for assessment and evaluation
JUNE 27	NO CLASSES PP-12 for assessment and evaluation
JUNE 30	LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

Halifax
Regional Centre for Education

May 15 is Black Excellence Day

What is Black Excellence Day? In essence Black Excellence Day is about acknowledging, celebrating, and uplifting Black contributions while fostering a more inclusive and equitable environment. The following are ways you celebrate the fourth annual Black Excellence Day:

Celebrating achievements: Black Excellence Day provides an opportunity to celebrate the achievements, contributions, and successes of Black individuals within the community. It highlights the talent and accomplishments within the Black community, ensuring that Black students have an opportunity to highlight all their positive contributions within the education system.

Promoting equity and inclusion: Recognizing Black Excellence fosters a culture of equity and inclusion within schools. It sends a message that all students, regardless of their background, have the potential to excel and make valuable contributions to society. By celebrating diversity and promoting inclusivity, schools create a more welcoming and supportive environment for all students.

Education and awareness: Black Excellence Day serves as an educational opportunity to raise awareness about the rich history, culture, and achievements of Black people. It provides a platform to share stories of resilience, innovation, and leadership, helping to combat stereotypes and promote understanding and appreciation of Black heritage.

Empowerment and inspiration: By celebrating Black Excellence, students are inspired and empowered to pursue their own goals and dreams. Seeing examples of successful Black individuals from various fields, such as science, arts, politics and sports, can motivate students to strive for their own excellence.

Community engagement: Black Excellence Day can serve as a platform for community engagement and collaboration. It provides an opportunity for schools to partner with local organizations, leaders, and activists within the Black community to organize events, workshops, and discussions that promote dialogue and understanding.

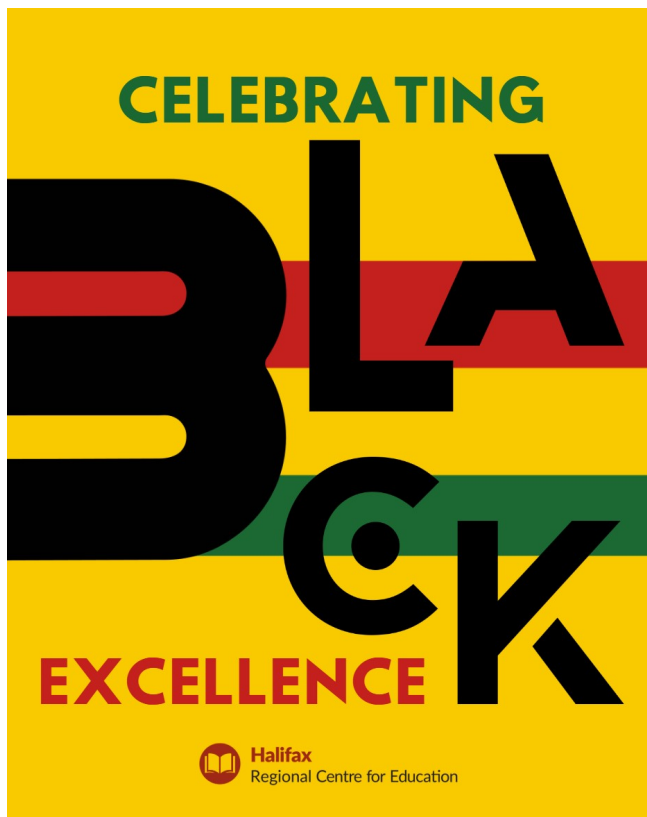
Overall, celebrating Black Excellence Day within HRCE schools is important for fostering a culture of inclusivity, empowerment, and appreciation for the diverse talents and contributions of Black individuals.

2025-26 EXCEL registration

The EXCEL Before and After Program is a recreation based, fee-for-service before and after school program run by Halifax Regional Centre for Education. At each school site where EXCEL is offered, the dedicated staffing teams plan games and activities that suit the needs and interests of all registered students. Since EXCEL began more than 25 years ago, staff have continually enhanced the program based on experiences and feedback. Today, with more than 4,000 participating students, EXCEL is one of the largest programs of its kind in the Maritimes, providing inclusive and engaging programming for participants.

For more information about registration, fees and programming, please [click here](#).

If you have additional questions, please contact the EXCEL Before and After Program Registrar's Office: Kimberly Lozon at 902-464-2000 ext. 2787 or excelregistrar@hrce.ca and Gail Hartling at 902-464-2000 ext. 2236 or excel@hrce.ca.



Celebrating Education Week 2025

Education Week 2025, May 11 to 17, is a special opportunity to acknowledge educators, school support staff and partners for their outstanding work. This year's theme, *Empowering Futures: Innovation in Education*, celebrates educators who have gone above and beyond in their efforts to infuse innovation into their classrooms and schools.

We applaud educators, school staff, and partners who embrace innovation in meeting the evolving needs of students in preparing them for a rapidly changing future.

Congratulations to HRCE's winners:

- **Alicia Hennessey** | Teacher | Lockview High
- **Rhonda McLean** | School Counsellor | St. Agnes Junior High
- **Diana Hatchette** | Teacher | John Martin Junior High
- **Rosaline "Rosie" Bona** | Principal | Rockingham Elementary
- **Peta-Gay Clarke** | Lead Early Childhood Educator | Central Spryfield Elementary
- **Kristin Welbourn** | Library Support Specialist | Bay View High
- **Phillip Jackson** | African Nova Scotian Student Support Worker | Duc d'Anville Elementary & Clayton Park Junior High
- **Matthew Hughson** | Mi'kmaw/Indigenous Student Support Worker | Sackville High & Leslie Thomas Junior High

Please take a moment, if you feel inspired, to send a note of appreciation to an educator in your child's life who is having a positive impact!




Homework Hub: Finish the year off strong!

Did you know your student has access to Homework Hub? Finish the year off strong with the help of experienced tutors!

- **GNSPES Access:** Easy access to online resources and tutoring through your GNSPES account (gnspes.ca) by clicking on the Nova Scotia Homework Hub icon.
- **24/7 Access:** Anytime access to video tutorials, practice questions and vocabulary review.
- **Bilingual tutors available for students in:**
 - Grade 4-6 Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
 - Grade 7-12 on school nights 5:30 to 9:30 p.m.



Watch this video to learn more about Homework Hub!



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Find the Homework Hub at gnspes.ca or call 1-888-444-6607

Access Awareness Week

Access Awareness Week takes place annually during the last week of May to raise awareness about disability, access and inclusion. This year, Access Awareness Week runs from May 25-31, and the provincial theme is "Our Voices, Our Votes: Disability Rights in Action."

The provincial Accessibility Directorate is providing all HRCE schools with posters to help bring attention to the importance of removing barriers for people with disabilities. The posters are being mailed directly to schools from the directorate and should arrive in the coming days.

For 38 years, Nova Scotians have organized community events, flag raising, forums, and concerts during Access Awareness Week to bring attention to the importance of removing barriers for people with disabilities. More information can be found [here](#).

Dogs on the School Grounds- Reminder that there is a Bylaw that prohibits dogs from being on school property. We have several students who are fearful of dogs. Please ensure that you follow the rules.

Primary Open House – We will be holding a Primary Open House for parents and students who will be attending Portland Estates in September 2025 for Grade Primary. It will be held on Wednesday, May 28 from 6:30- 7:30pm. We hope to see you there!

Moose Hide Day

May 15 is Moose Hide Campaign Day, on which we are reminded that no one should suffer violence, no matter their gender. We must all stand up against violence and act for our shared journey of reconciliation.

PTO Family Dance & BBQ- Volunteers Needed! The PEES PTO will host our Family Dance & BBQ on Friday, June 6. The PTO is looking for volunteers to help run stations to help make our event a success! If you are interested in helping, please contact peesvolunteers@gmail.com

Registration:

I know that it is difficult to believe that we are already looking at our student enrollment and staffing for next year. We have registered many new Pre-Primaries, Primaries and new to the area students as well. It is very important that we have accurate numbers so that we hire the correct number of teachers. If you have not yet registered your child for Pre-Primary or Primary, or if you know that your child or children will not be attending Portland Estates Elementary school in the Fall of 2025, please contact Mrs. Henman-Poirier at 902-433-7100.

Playground: During the school day we ask families not to arrive too early to school. Students should arrive between 8:40 and 8:50 am to be ready for instruction to start promptly at 9:00am. Excel has the use of the playground afterschool in an agreement between the HRCE and the HRM. Please be cognizant of this fact.

Volunteers: We recognize our responsibility to ensure that all students attending our schools are protected by taking reasonable precautions to screen volunteers who may be working or supervising students. In accordance with the HRCE's Student Protection Policy, prior to volunteering with the HRCE, all volunteers will provide:

1. Completed Child Abuse Registry check
2. A certified and true copy of a Criminal Records Check with Vulnerable Sector check.

Child Abuse Registry Search and Criminal Records Check with Vulnerable Sector must be issued within the three months preceding being given to the school and must be updated every three years.

SafeArrival by SchoolMessenger

A Way for Families to Report Student Absences

One of our greatest priorities is ensuring all students arrive to school safely each day.

Parents/guardians of students who attend our school have the option to report their child's absence in advance using a toll-free number, the PowerSchool Parent Portal or an app!

SchoolMessenger SafeArrival – an absence management system that improves student safety and makes it easy for families to inform their child's school if they will be away – powers all three of these options.

If your child will be absent, please let us know by using one of the following methods:

Toll-Free Number

Call 1-833-582-6940 to report an absence using an automated system.

PowerSchool Parent Portal

Log into <https://sishrsb.ednet.ns.ca/public/> and access the SchoolMessenger website to report an absence.

SchoolMessenger App

Download the SchoolMessenger app for Android and iOS devices and sign up using your PowerSchool username (full email address).

For more information about reporting your child's absence and a list of frequently asked questions, visit: <https://www.hrce.ca/safearrival>

Assessment:

Assessment is a critical component of teaching and learning. Ongoing assessment guides the teacher's next steps in instruction and helps learners know how they are doing in relation to the outcomes taught. One aspect of assessment is providing feedback. This helps to inform students and families on how the student is progressing and allows teachers to define student strengths, needs, and next steps in instruction. Assessment may take the form of a running record with your child or a math assessment – it might be a Google form or it may be an interview.

Communication with staff: Communication is key to a smooth-running operation. Regular communication is a great way to make sure that you are aware of the successes and challenges your child may be facing. Please feel free to reach out to the teacher if you have any questions.

Did you know? Introducing TILT!

Did you know that our Technology Integration Leadership Team (TILT) works with teachers and students in Grades P-12 to support technology integration within the curriculum?

Did you know that all schools have access to different technologies used to increase student engagement and achievement, such as coding robots, 3D printers, podcasting equipment, and more?

Whether it be helping students write their own digital books, film a stop motion video, code their own virtual reality environment, or build a circuit-based interactive poster, the TILT team provides support for teachers to help students find alternative ways to demonstrating their knowledge and skills. So far this year, the TILT team has visited more than 400 classrooms!

Curious to see more of what the TILT team has been up to? Check them out on Twitter at [@TILTHRCE](https://twitter.com/TILTHRCE) (no account needed to view).

Save the Date! Friday, May 30 at 2 pm.

Attention Volunteers!!

Our students and staff are inviting you to an Assembly where they will say Thank you by sharing their talents. We hope to see you there! Please RSVP to Mrs. Myers at 902-433-7100.

Measles prevention in Nova Scotia

We are sharing the following on behalf of Nova Scotia Public Health:

Measles cases are rising in Canada. Measles is a virus that spreads easily and can cause serious complications. **The best way to prevent measles is vaccination.**

Nova Scotia offers free vaccines to eligible people. These can be given by primary care providers, pharmacists and Public Health.

Parents are encouraged to check their family's vaccine records and get the measles vaccine if missing doses. Check your vaccine records at vaxrecordns.nshealth.ca.

Who should get vaccinated?

- Anyone born in or after 1970 should get **two doses** of vaccine, typically given at 12 and 18 months. If missed, children and adults can catch up for free.
- Adults born before 1970 are generally considered immune but can get a single dose if travelling.
- Infants 6-12 months old can get a single dose if travelling but still require two doses after their first birthday to complete the series.

Find out more about measles vaccination: www.nshealth.ca/measles.