

Portland Estates Elementary School

45 Portland Hills Drive

Dartmouth, NS 902-433-7100

Mrs. L. Henman-Poirier, Principal/Directrice

**Ms. J. Broussard, Vice Principal /Directrice
Adjointe**

Mrs. Chelsey Myers, Administrative Assistant



Newsletter 2025

Happy June Everyone!

Oh my goodness, it is June! Our year has almost come to an end. 2024-2025 was a wonderful year here at Portland Estates with lots of great things happening. We are so proud of our students and all the academic progress that they made in all areas of the curriculum. Thanks so much to our incredible teachers, support staff and of course all our families for all that you do to make sure our students are successful at school.

We are still working through the staffing process for September. The administration and teachers are busy working on our class lists. As a staff we try hard to balance the classes. Class lists will not be finalized until after the school year begins. It is likely that the lists will change as we continue to see more students register over the summer and into September. We appreciate your patience as we work through all that is involved in starting our new year off on the right note.

I want to start by thanking everyone for their combined efforts to make this year successful. Even though there is only one month left, there are still a lot of exciting things happening here. Field trips and Fun days have started and will continue to the end of the year. For many of our students, this is the first one they have ever been on. It is great to have these learning experiences happening. We have a Field Day coming up as well. We had some exciting school-wide activities in May like the Bill Oakey Domino Topple and the entire school went to Ellenvale Junior High to see the Musical-Shrek.

Every year, we like to notify families about the dreaded “Summer Slide”. Reading should be a lifestyle, not a school activity. We strongly recommend you continue to have students reading 15 minutes a day. There’s nothing like a good book to make that road trip go a little faster and you may be able to avoid a couple of the, “Are we there yet’s?”

I encourage moments of reflection and celebration in June to notice growth and acknowledge the work we have done; and then, as we always do, look to the future for our individual and collective next journeys. The volunteers on our Parent Teacher organization (PTO) and School Advisory Council (SAC) played a supportive role in helping to sustain the ‘sense of community’ at our school. We especially want to thank our PTO parents who are leaving- Ms. Krista MacAllister for her leadership as PTO Co-chairperson and Suzanne MacIsaac, Volunteer Co-ordinator, and Scott Craig, SAC member, over the past few years as well as all the parents of the Grade Five students who have helped with all the events. I especially want to acknowledge and thank the Grade Five students for the positive leadership they provided during their years at Portland Estates Elementary School. We wish you all the best at Ellenvale or wherever your learning journey takes you next year. We will miss your smiling faces and know that you are going to go on and do great things. Enjoy all that June has to offer, have a wonderful summer.

Each year we say goodbye to several staff who are departing our school for different opportunities and experiences. We thank these dedicated educators for their commitment to Portland Estates Elementary School: Mrs. Ftees, Ms. Ryan, Ms. McNamara, Ms. Buott, Ms. Fung, Ms. Cox Harvey, Ms. Diggs, Mrs.

Sears, Ms. McLennan, Ms. Falkwin, Ms. Adams. We sincerely wish you all the best in the next adventures in your lives and teaching careers.

As June comes to a close and we reflect on the school year, we want to thank all our teachers, support workers, lunch monitors and Excel workers as well as our caretakers who helped us this year.

I wish all members of our extended school community a safe and enjoyable summer, and for our students, parents and staff members who are moving on, thank you and all the very best in the exciting road ahead. See you September 4!

Louise Henman-Poirier

Important Dates –

June 13- Strings concert – Grade Four Violin

June 17- Beach Day – Wear your summer gear!

June 18- All books need to be returned to the school library

June 18 – Field Day (June 19 – rain date)

June 21 – National Indigenous Peoples Day

June 23- Talent Show (pm)

June 25- Royal Nova Scotia Tattoo Trip

June 26- Grade Five Fun Frolic

June 27- Assessment & Evaluation Day (no school for students)

June 30 – Last Day of School

September 4- First Day of School

Last Day of School – The last day of school will be Monday, **June 30**. Students are usually dismissed four hours earlier on this day. This means that dismissal time at Portland Estates should be 11:00 am. Our Clap Out for the Grade 5's will take place at 11:00 am. All families are welcome to join us at the back playground door.

Friday, June 27 will be an Assessment and Evaluation Day (**no school for students**) and Thursday **June 26** will be the last day of school. Progress reports will be emailed to both parents and students' gnspe emails/eduportal on June 30. Please ensure your account information is UpToDate. The system will be upgraded for the month of July so please access the reports immediately as they will not be able to be accessed until later in August.

Registration/Moving: Reminder to let the office know if you are moving out of our school catchment area or if you know someone who has moved into your neighborhood – remind them to register for school as soon as possible. Registration will take place all summer online at the HRCE website. If you know of a new family who have or will be moving into the area, or a family who missed the primary open house, we would appreciate you passing this information along to them. Pre-primary usually holds an Open House in the fall. When the Pre-primary department notifies the school of this we will send it out to the Pre-primary parents. **If you are moving please complete the form at the end of this newsletter.**

Books It is that time of year again when we are trying to locate all of the books that belong to the school. We are asking that everyone check their homes carefully for books that may belong to Portland Estates and send them in ASAP. This includes classroom, resource and library books. All books are due back by June 20th.

School Calendar The school calendar for the **2025-2026** school year is out! It can be found at www.hrce.ca. We are also attaching a copy of our school calendar with the newsletter. It's always a good idea to print this off to put on the fridge as it contains information about important day and days school will be closed. School Supplies School Supply lists for September will be posted on our website by the end of June, www.kwe.hrce.ca. Class Lists for September 2025-2026 Class lists will be available for parents to see on PowerSchool prior to the start of the school year. It is important that you know that our lists for the first day of school will not be finalized later in September. Often new classes must be added if enrollment numbers increase over the summer. As we continue to register students we continue the work of balancing classes. . In some cases significant changes will need to be made.

Be prepared: A friendly reminder... students are outside for 15 minutes during recess and 30 minutes during lunch. We suggest your children have sunscreen, hats and water bottles to ward off the effects of heat and sunrays present during the month of June. Waterbottles are a must if your child wants to drink water throughout the school day. Our fountains do not have mouth spouts, only water refill spouts.

Lost & Found: Please remember to ask your child to regularly check our lost and found collection. The items build up quickly and the collection can get quite large. There are many items in the school Lost and Found collection which is conveniently located outside the main office just to the right of the main lobby area. All items remaining will be removed from the school and donated to a clothing charity after the last day of school.

Volunteers – We often have volunteers work in our school and we require up to date criminal records checks (with vulnerable sector checks) and Child Abuse Registry checks. You may want to get this done over the summer so you are ready to volunteer in the Fall. All paperwork can be applied for online and is returned to you.

Driveway – This is a reminder that we do not have a separate driveway from the Bus loop and the Bus loop takes priority over a driveway at Entrance and Dismissal times. Please follow regulations and do not pass the bus in the driveway. It is best to park on the road or in one of the HRM parking lots and walk your child to the school on the sidewalks. Do not park beside the orange pylons as well.

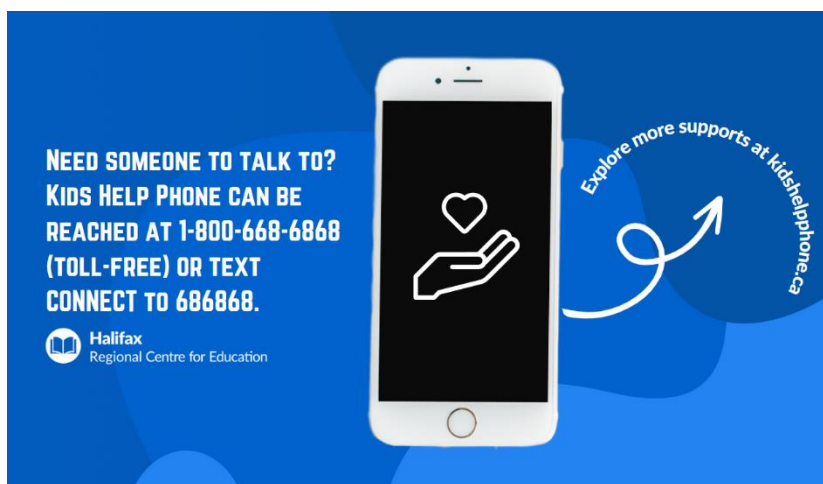
School Supply Lists for 2025-26 will be posted on the school website by the end of June.

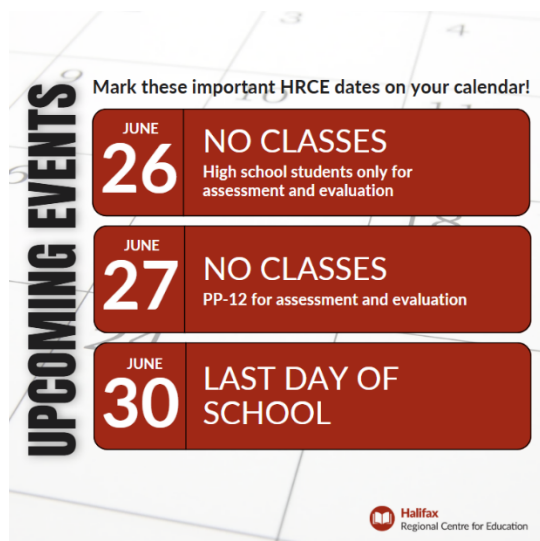
Student support

Kids Help Phone understands how fear and uncertainty can fuel anxiety and other feelings. They are available to support the young people in our community through this challenging time – and beyond. Please know Kids Help Phone is available 24/7, will never judge and always be confidential.

Kids Help Phone is here 24/7 for young people and adults across the province who are experiencing the impacts of wildfires. For e-mental health support, text 686868 (young people), text 741741 (all ages), call 1-800-668-6868 or visit kidshelpphone.ca. There is no issue too big or feeling too small.

For a guide for caregivers on how to talk to children and youth about an emergency or traumatic event from the IWK, [click here](#).





SchoolsPlus supports for summer

Did you know? SchoolsPlus operates 12 months of the year! SchoolsPlus is a confidential, free service available to every school in Nova Scotia. Families and students (12+) can self-refer to SchoolsPlus by contacting the SchoolsPlus facilitator for your school [Christine Riordan- Christine.riordan@hrce.ca]. Learn more [here](#).



2025-26 Bus Information

Information about student transportation for the 2025-26 school year will be available to view online through the BusPlanner Parent Portal later in July.

- Families eligible for transportation will receive an email to access the Parent Portal to view their child's bus information once it is available.
- Once you receive the email, you must follow the instructions to activate your new Parent Portal account and create a password. Using previous Parent Portal login information will not work.
- If you can't find the email, please contact transportation@hrce.ca or 902-431-4723 for assistance.

Over the summer, the HRCE Student Transportation team will also reach out to new HRCE families and those families who may require special needs transportation for their children with more information about busing.

Reminder: The Student Transportation team is available to assist you and answer questions about busing all summer at transportation@hrce.ca or 902-431-4723. When contacting the team, please ensure you have your child's name, grade, school name and student ID number ready. Your child's student ID number can be found in PowerSchool or on the top of your child's report card.

Be tick aware

Sharing on behalf of Nova Scotia Public Health

In summer and fall, people spend time at Nova Scotia's many beautiful beaches, parks, and wooded areas. However, we need to be mindful of the presence of ticks and how we can protect ourselves. These small insects are found across Nova Scotia and can cause tick-borne diseases (TBDs), including Lyme disease and anaplasmosis.

Ticks like moist and humid environments and can be found in or near woods, shrubs, leaf litter, long grass, urban parks and gardens. They can be very small, which makes them hard to spot and their bites don't hurt, which makes it difficult to know when you've been bitten.

Visit: Please use <https://novascotia.ca/ticksafety/> and learn more:

- How to protect yourself - especially in grassy, wooded, or shrub-covered areas
- What to do if you find a tick on yourself/your child
- The signs and symptoms of tick-borne illnesses



Tips to support reading and writing at home

As parents and caregivers, you play one of the most important roles in helping your child become a strong, confident reader and writer. What you do at home can make a big difference in your child's success in school and beyond. When reading and writing become part of family routines — like bedtime stories, writing notes to each other, or making shopping lists together — children see them as enjoyable and meaningful activities.

Here are some ideas and tips:

1. Create a dedicated writing space

Set up a quiet, well-lit area where your child can focus. Stock your writing center with essentials like paper, pencils, crayons, and even fun extras like family photos and old magazines to spark creativity.

2. Read often

Reading is one of the best ways to become a better writer. When children read a variety of books, they naturally absorb vocabulary, grammar, and different writing styles. Encourage daily reading to build their language skills and inspire their own writing.

3. Encourage reflective journaling

A journal is a great outlet for expressing thoughts and feelings. Prompt your child to write about everyday events at home and school. Suggest using sensory details — what they saw, heard, or felt. This helps develop descriptive writing. Provide real-life experiences that they can later write about.

Remember, only read their journal if invited — and always respond with encouragement and thoughtful feedback.

4. Offer real-world writing opportunities

Help your child see writing as a practical skill. Let them write thank-you notes, grocery lists, birthday invitations or letters to family. Consider finding a pen pal to make writing feel more authentic and fun.

5. Be a writing role model

Let your child see you writing too! Whether it's a grocery list, an email or a note to a friend, show how writing fits into everyday life. Talk about the purpose of different types of writing and their audiences. Try having a "family writing night" where everyone writes and shares together.

6. Start a vocabulary notebook

Introduce a few new words each week and encourage your child to use them in writing and conversation. Turn it into a game for using words creatively.

Portland Estates Elementary School Staff List 2025-26

Primary – Ms. MacDonald, Mrs. Page-White

Primary/One – Ms. Wadden

Grade One – Ms. Farrell, Ms. Casavechia

Grade Two – Mrs. Mesheau, Mrs. Dagnall

Grade Two/Three- Mrs. Johnson

Grade Three – Ms. Riley, Mrs. Smith

Grade Four – Mrs. Jennings, Mrs. Clarke

Grade Four/Five – Ms. Banks/Ms. Moser

Grade Five – Mrs. Mason-MacDonald, Ms. Davidson

Core French – Mrs. Parsons

Physical Education – Ms. MacDonald

Music – Ms. Corrigan

School Counsellors – Ms. Healy (65%) & Mr. Jennings (35%)

Resource- Mrs. Connors, Mrs. Banks (50%)

Learning Centre – Mrs. Chase, Mrs. Cooper

School Psychologist – TBA

Speech Language Pathologist – Ms. Devine

EAL- Ms. Burn

Elementary Literacy Specialist – Ms. Dafoe

Integrated Language Arts & Math Teacher P-3 – Ms. Moser(30%) & Mrs. Broussard (30%)

Librarian – Mrs. Pedersen

Strings – Ms. Chandler

Admin Assistant – Mrs. Myers

Vice Principal –Mrs. Jackie Broussard

Educational Program Assistants: Wendy Hartlin, Nancy Lafitte, Bernadette Cranford, Maria Bautista, Lori Fillmore-Snow, Rhonda Dann, Therese Romkey, Raheleh Farzeneh

ECE (Pre-Primary) – Rachel Whitlock (Lead). Elsay Lodge (Lead), Glenna Beauregard, Sarah George, Jenny Ganes, Raymund Bihis

**Portland Estates Elementary School
School Calendar
2025-2026**

SEPTEMBER

2: School Organization Day - no classes all schools
3: Professional Development Day - no classes all schools
4: First Day of School for Students
11- Parent-Teacher Organization meeting 7pm -Library – All welcome!
18- Curriculum Night- 6:30pm
24- School Picture Day
25- PTO Ice Cream Social
29: Professional Development Day - no classes all schools
30: National Day for Truth & Reconciliation - no classes all schools

OCTOBER

1: Treaty Day - Culturally Significant Day - schools open
13: Thanksgiving Day - no classes all schools
15- Picture Retakes
23- PTO Fall Family Dance
24: NSTU Provincial conference day - no classes all schools

NOVEMBER

6 – Parent Information Session
11: Remembrance Day - no classes all schools
21: Elem/Middle/Jr evaluation day - no classes elem/jr high only
29- PTO Cookies with Santa

DECEMBER

4: Progress Conferences & Teacher Professional Practice Day - no classes all schools
16 & 17 – Holiday Concerts
19: Last day of school before holiday break
22: Teacher Professional Practice Day - no classes all schools

JANUARY

5: First Day Back After Break

FEBRUARY

February is Registration Month!

16: Nova Scotia Heritage Day - no classes all schools

MARCH

13: Elem/Middle/Jr assessment & evaluation day - no classes elem/middle/jr only
16-20: Spring Break - no classes all schools

APRIL

2: Elem/Middle/Jr progress conferences & Teacher Professional Practice & high school professional development day - no classes all schools

3: Good Friday - no classes all schools
6: Easter Monday - no classes all schools
25- PTO Consignment Sale
29: Elem/Middle/Jr professional development day & high school progress conferences & Teacher Professional Practice Day - no classes all schools

MAY

15: Black Excellence Day - Culturally Significant Day - schools open
18: Victoria Day - no classes

JUNE

5- PTO Spring BBQ & Dance
21: National Indigenous Peoples Day - Culturally Significant Day - schools open
29: Assessment & evaluation day - no classes all schools
30: Last day of school

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IF you are moving out of the Portland Estates Elementary School Catchment area, please complete the following and return it to the school office:

Student name:_____

Homeroom:_____

Name of new school where student is registered:_____

Address of new school:_____