

# Portland Estates Elementary School

45 Portland Hill Drive, Dartmouth, B2W 6L5

## June 2026 Newsletter

Happy June Everyone!

Oh, my goodness, it is almost mid-June! Our year has almost come to an end. 2025-2026 was a wonderful year here in Portland Estates with lots of great things happening. We are so proud of our students and all the academic progress that they have 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 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 less than 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 experienced. It is great to have these learning experiences happening. We have Field Day coming up as well on June 16- we still need volunteers! Don't forget to come and watch the Talent Show on the afternoon of June 24<sup>th</sup>! Also, we will present the Max Thomas award on the last day of school during our final goodbye to the Grade Five students just before our summer dismissal. We had some exciting school-wide activities in May like the Bill Oakey Domino Topple and the Ellenvale Junior High Band performance as well as a fantastic performance from a band from Ontario. Thank you to everyone who came to our ADHD presentation.

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 and SAC parents and community members, as well as all the parents of the Grade Five students who have helped with all the events. We 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 and 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: Ms. Moser, Ms. Urquhart, Ms. Saadat, Ms. Chatrazar, Ms. Riaz, Ms. Renshaw, Mr. Jennings, Ms. Swales, Mr. Bihis, Ms. Asha Wright, Ms. Ganes. To our staff who are retiring: Ms. Healy Vihant and Ms. Murray-Jennings – we sincerely wish you all the best in the next adventures in your lives and teaching careers.

As June ends 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 3rd!

*Louise Henman-Poirier*

### **Important Dates –**

All books need to be returned to the school library

June 16 – Field Day (June 17 – rain date)

June 18 – Grade PPW/PMac/P/1W Field Trip

June 21 – National Indigenous Peoples Day

June 23- Grade Three Nature Walk

June 24- Talent Show (pm)- Our school community is invited to watch!

June 26- Grade Five Fun Frolic /Grade 2/3J Field Trip

June 29- Assessment & Evaluation Day (no school for students)

June 30 – Last Day of School

September 3- First Day of School for the 2026-2027 school year!

**Registration for 2026-2027-** Do you have a child who will be starting pre-primary or primary this fall? It's time to register! To ensure we have the right staff and support in place for September, it's important that we gather enrolment numbers now.

**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

Visit the [HRCE website](#) for more information and to enrol your child today through PowerSchool Enrollment!

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.

## 2026-27 Bus Information



Information about student transportation for the 2026-27 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

**Supply Lists-** Supply lists can be found on the school website after June 30.

**Agendas for Grades 3-5** can be purchased on School Cash from June 15 until September 11.

### **Nova Scotia Loyal Farmers' Market Voucher Program**

Once again this year, students across the province will receive a \$10 Nova Scotia Loyal voucher to use at participating farmers' markets. The program encourages young people and families to explore local markets, support Nova Scotian growers and producers, and learn more about where their food comes from. From fresh produce and baked goods to locally made products, the initiative helps connect students with their communities while supporting small businesses and strengthening the local economy. Families are encouraged to visit participating markets over the summer months and discover all that Nova Scotia has to offer through the [Nova Scotia Loyal program](#). These vouchers were sent home!

**PTO-** The Parent-Teacher organization organizes many great school community events throughout the school year and funds a lot of extras for the school, students and the classrooms. They organize the Ice Cream Social, Fall Family Dance, Holiday Event, Consignment Sale, Staff Appreciation lunch and the Spring BBQ & Dance. They are always looking for new members and volunteers to help with events or new ideas for events. Please reach out to your PTO if you would like to join or have questions. For the email/contact:

[Peesvolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:Peesvolunteers@gmail.com)

Or they can join our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/share/g/1BWUzF4Khr/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

### **Be tick aware in Nova Scotia**



After a long and snow-filled winter, we're finally headed toward summer – a season when many people spend time at Nova Scotia's beautiful beaches, parks, and wooded areas. However, we need to be mindful of the presence of ticks and how we can protect ourselves. Nova Scotia is home to several kinds of ticks, but only blacklegged tick bites can cause illnesses like Lyme disease, Anaplasmosis, Babesiosis and Powassan virus. Tick-borne diseases can lead to serious illness, especially if they are not noticed and treated quickly.

It's important that we all know what to do about ticks, so if you've asked yourself any of these questions lately:

- What does a tick look like?
- What do I do if I find a tick on me or my child?
- What symptoms should I be aware of?
- How can I prevent ticks?

Visit [NovaScotia.ca/TickSafety](https://NovaScotia.ca/TickSafety) to learn more.

## Operation Landline by Unplugged Canada

[Unplugged Canada](#) has launched a new resource called [Operation Landline](#), designed to help families reconnect kids with safe, healthy communication, without the pressures and distractions of smartphones. The initiative encourages families to bring back the family landline as a simple way for children to build independence, strengthen social skills and stay connected with friends and neighbours in a safer, more intentional way.

Created in partnership with the Institute of Child Psychology, the [complete guide](#) includes practical tips for setting up modern landline options, teaching phone safety and etiquette, and even creating a family phonebook together. Families are also invited to sign the [Unplugged Canada](#) pledge to help create a new community norm around delaying smartphones and supporting connected childhoods.



# Happy Pride Month



**Halifax**  
Regional Centre for Education