



Portland Estates Elementary

45 Portland Hills Drive, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, B2W 6L5

Tel: 902-433-7100 Fax 902-433-7103

Email – portland@hrce.ca

Mrs. L. Henman-Poirier, Principal/Directrice
Ms. D. Haase MacLeod, Vice Principal /Directrice Adjointe
Mrs. D. Ryan, Secretary/Secrtaire

September 2019

Hello Parents & Guardians!

Welcome to the 20th Year of Learning at

Portland Estates Elementary School!

Welcome to the 2019-2020 school year! Over the summer our custodial staff have been working hard to ensure the school is cleaned and ready for the September start-up. Teachers have been preparing for new and innovative learning experiences, and our office staff have been working hard to ensure course timetables are ready for students to return!

I am proud and honoured to be the Principal of Portland Estates Elementary School for a fourth year and I look forward to working with the administrative team, Mrs. Ryan and Mrs. Haase MacLeod, and staff and parent community. Mrs. Haase MacLeod is looking forward to getting to know the students and their families at Portland Estates Elementary School. We extend a warm welcome back to our PEES students who will be returning to our school fueled with summer rest and with excitement to begin a new year! We also graciously welcome students who will be new to our Portland Estates School family. This is an exciting time of the year as old friends reunite and new friendships are made!

The start of a new school year is always exciting and it has been wonderful to see so many smiles and happy students. The staff at Portland Estates wants to ensure this is a positive year for all of the students and they look forward to working with our young learners. Communication between home and school is vitally important to your child's education. We encourage open communication and welcome your participation along our learning journey. If you have a question or concern, please feel free to contact your child's teacher. You can find lots of valuable school information on our website at pes.hrce.ca. The staff and I are pleased to be working with you and your children this year and look forward to a great school year!

Don't Be Late: During the first few weeks of school we establish routines that will foster student success. For parents, ensuring that your children arrive at school on time is a crucial part of our partnership in building that success. Students should be on the school grounds by 8:40am. This allows them an opportunity to socialize with friends, enter the building with peers and be present during announcements.

Louise Henman-Poirier

September to Do List

- Send in \$6.00 for Agenda (Grades 3-6)
- Send in all your Registration forms by September 20, 2019
- Sign the Provincial School Code of Conduct in Agenda
- PTO Meeting Sept 12 7pm in the Library
- Stand Up Against Bullying Day – Sept 12 – Wear Pink
- Attend Curriculum/Meet the Teacher night – Sept 19
- Terry Fox Run- Sept. 20 – 1:45 pm – Parents Welcome!
- Attend the Ice Cream Social on September 26
- Orange Shirt Day – September 30
- Photo Day – October 18

Meet the Teacher/Curriculum Night

Meet the teacher night is scheduled for **Thursday, September 19 from 6:30 – 7:30 pm**. This is a night where teachers will present the curriculum to parents/guardians. It is not a time for discussing individual student progress. There will be two presentations in each classroom on this evening – 6:30 pm and 7:00 pm.

Life Threatening Allergies

We are a nut sensitive school so please remember that any NUT products (this includes sesame seeds) are not to be brought to Portland Estates Elementary School as a number of our students have life threatening allergies. Please help us to provide a safe school environment for all our students.



Scent Smart

A reminder that Portland Estates Elementary is a scent smart school. Staff, students and parents are asked not to use scented products including shampoo, hairsprays, perfume, gels, etc. when they are coming to Portland Estates Elementary. We have staff and students who are sensitive to scented products. **Also please refrain from bringing any pets into the school building/school grounds as many of our students have allergies/fears.**

Portland Estates Staff 2019-2020

Grade Primary – Mrs. Sibley, Mrs. Page- White

Grade Primary/One- Mrs. McLennan

Grade One – Ms. Casavechia, Mrs. Conrod/Mrs. Negus

Grade Two- Mrs. MacNeil, Mrs. McInnis, Mrs. Mesheau

Grade Three- Ms. Barkhouse, Mrs. Connors/Mrs. Jarrett-McKillop

Grade Three/Four – Mrs. Ahmad

Grade Four- Mrs. Jennings

Grade Four/Five- Mrs. Banks

Grade Five – Ms. Davidson

Grade Five/Six – Ms. Senn

Grade Six- Mrs. Haase MacLeod/Mrs. Clarke, Mrs. Mason-MacDonald

Core French – Mrs. Rodger

Resource – Mrs. Connors, Mrs. Boyd

Learning Centre- Mrs. Dagnall, Mr. Bakker

Physical Education- Ms. MacDonald, Mrs. Goulden

Music – Ms. Corrigan

Band- Mr. Fraser

Strings – Ms. Yoon

Guidance – Mr. Armstrong

Reading Recovery – Mrs. S Conrod

EAL- Ms. Brownell

ELS- Mrs. Connors

EPAs- Ms. Walton, Ms. Graham, Ms. Carmichael, Ms. Cranford, Ms. Bautista, Mrs.

Fillmore – Snow, Mr. MacKenzie, Ms. Dann

Library – Mrs. Pedersen

Cafeteria- Ms. D. Anderson

Safety

All visitors are required to report to the main office to sign in and obtain a visitors badge and sign-out when returning the badge. This is a legal requirement covering the custodial responsibility we have for the students in our schools. If you are visiting the school and wish to speak to your child in the school yard, please report to the office first. Every effort is made not to interrupt when classes are in session and we are happy to accept items in the office you may need to drop off to students during the school day.

Pickup/Drop Off

When parents/guardians come to the school to pick up your child, you will be asked to sign them out at the office. Whenever possible, please notify teachers ahead of time of appointments. Thank you for your cooperation in trying to schedule appointments outside of instructional time to limit the disruption of learning of our students.

Reminder that all students are being dismissed at the same time and we do not have a visitor parking lot so please do not park in the No Stopping area so that you will block the Special needs bus. As well space continues to be at a premium in our school as we are over capacity at 410 students this year and have increased our staff with the addition of a Guidance Counselor, additional Learning Centre teachers and more Educational Program assistants. Excel before and after school staff has increased, therefore parking is at a premium. Students will be dismissed through their own entrance and exit doors. Older

siblings who are meeting younger siblings will exit through their door and then walk around the building to meet younger siblings.

Absences and Late Arrivals

Attendance at school is very important. If your child is to be absent, parents are asked to call the school at 902-433-7100 Ext 1 for Safe Arrival. Please leave your child's full name and grade as well as Homeroom class and the reason for the absence or late arrival. Children arriving late to school must report to the office.

Parent –Teacher Organization PTO

Portland Estates is fortunate to have a very active PTO who engages in many fundraising efforts as well as special events to support our children in a variety of ways. We are looking for new members, so please join us. First meeting – September 12 at 7 pm.

Combined Classes

Elementary Schools commonly include combined grade classes consisting of two groups of students from two grade levels. Each group of students is working towards the achievement of its own set of grade level outcomes. Even though there is a greater age range in a combined class, there is much diversity and a variety of ability levels in any classroom. It is important that all classes be considered a unified community of learners, where the individual needs and qualities of each student are honoured and nurtured.

Student Leadership Program

We are hoping to have some of our Grade Six students take on Leadership roles in the school this year. Some of the jobs include Primary lunch helpers, telephone helpers at lunch, ECO team and much more. They will be helping to enhance our school day by providing supports in several areas on their recess and lunch and before school time.

Custody and Access Policy

The HRCE supports the documented decisions of courts in matters relating to custody and access. The HRCE is committed to ensuring the legal custody and access rights of parents. **Parents/guardians have a responsibility to share all court decisions related to custody and access.** This should be provided with your registration. Generally, there will be one parent-teacher interview per child scheduled during the reporting period to which parents/guardians are invited. Requests for parent-teacher interviews by a non-custodial parent will be accommodated by contacting the principal at 433-7100 at least one day before the Parent-Teacher interviews begin.

School Advisory Council (SAC)

We have a wonderful School Advisory committee who is in need of a community member. If you know anyone who lives in the community or owns a business in the community who might be interested in being on our committee, please contact the office. **These positions are not open to parents or grandparents of our students.**

Terry Fox Walk

The Portland Estates Terry Fox walk will take place on Friday, September 20, 2019. We are asking that students bring in **\$2 to donate**. We would love to have all the extra company we can get! So any parent, grandparent, guardian, or volunteer who would like to come – please let your child's homeroom teacher know.

Medication

The Regional Centre's policy states that all medication taken at school **MUST** be accompanied by a signed medical form (available from the office) and the pharmacist's instruction papers. This includes all inhalants (puffers). All students who have life-threatening allergies must carry an EpiPen on their person.

Health Forms

All students with diagnosed medical conditions are required to provide the school with up-to-date health forms/health plans.

Student Protection Policy and School Volunteers – Volunteers Needed!!

Volunteers are needed at Portland Estates. To volunteer you must have an up-to-date Criminal Records Check and Child Abuse Registry Check. We need classroom volunteers, library volunteers. If you are interested, please contact the office.

Student Success Planning

During the 2019-2020 school year, Portland Estates completed their fourth year of another accreditation cycle. Our School goals:

Literacy Goal

To improve active reading comprehension, with a focus on higher level thinking and providing text-based evidence.

Mathematics Goal

To improve number sense and computation with a focus on communication.

Self-Identification

At this time of the year, we ask families to complete registration forms to provide us with up to date information. Part of the form asks families to voluntarily take part in the self-identification survey. This survey helps us, the HRCE and The DEECD to have a better understanding of what our school communities are comprised of. We would like to strongly encourage families to respond. If you choose not to participate and self-identify, please write this on the form and return it to the school. Your attention to this important matter is appreciated.

Cafeteria News

As the cafeteria is now used as the Music room, students can order lunch between 8:40-9:00 am and from 10:45-11:00 am.

Dogs on the Playground

Please refrain from bringing dogs onto the school property.

Registration Forms

Please complete your registration forms in its entirety. Throughout the year, phone numbers and email addresses change as well as Emergency contacts. It is important that we have the most up to date information in case of an Emergency. A copy of an up to date proof of address is needed as well as schools are asked to generate letters for Revenue Canada and Family Court therefore we need verification of addresses before we can provide this information.