



October 2020

Portland Estates Elementary School

902-433-7100

September is now behind us and October is well under way. What a busy month- fire drills, Hold and Secure practice, World CP Day. I have to say that our students and staff have taken on all Covid-19 protocols with a serious attitude. We thank students, families, and staff for your patience and understanding while we all worked hard to adjust to new procedures. It feels great to have school back in session. Thank you for all keeping our shared health a shared responsibility so that we can remain in session.

It is our belief at Portland Estates School that school staff, volunteers and families must work together as a team to provide an inviting environment for our children to feel free to take risks, explore, challenge and learn. We welcome open communication between home and school at all times. As the old African adage says, 'it takes a village to raise a child'. It is our hope that our school community will continue to help the children at Portland Estates Elementary school become all they can be. Thank you all for your support as our students continue their journey as life long learners during these most unprecedented times.

Louise Henman-Poirier

Principal

Important Reminders

- **Monday October 12 – Thanksgiving – no school**
- **October 29 – Wear Orange & Black Day**

School Pictures – Due to Covid-19, only essential personnel are allowed into our public schools. This means we are unable to do school pictures at this time as photography companies are non-essential personnel. It is our hope that if restrictions ease later in the school year we will be able to provide this service to families.

CUSTODY & ACCESS- This is a reminder that Halifax Regional Centre for Education/Department of Education policy requires a copy of any written court order pertaining to custody and access to be on file at the school. In the absence of a court order, custody is assumed to be 50% with both parents able to have equal access to their child. Parents/Guardians who complete the registration form must ensure we have the most up-to-date contact information for both parents as per this legal requirement.

Registration Forms: Please complete the registration forms and return them to the school as soon as possible. We require the most up to date information for parents/guardians to take part in virtual sessions, receive notices, etc. As well the DEECD added a new section this year on Technology – we need to know if your child would be able to access technology to receive instruction throughout the school day if we move to On-Line learning (Plan C) – does your child have access to high speed internet, do they have access to a device to use for the school day for several hours at a time to take part in on-line learning?

Deliveries to the School – Lunches, Water bottles, etc: With restrictions in place at our school due to Covid-19 precautions, we are asking that parents/guardians send their child to school with a prepacked lunch, all necessary utensils and a water bottle. If a lunch is forgotten, please ensure it is labelled with your child's name and class and leave it on the table outside of the main entrance to the school (Door #1). **As well remember to have your child pack an extra mask in their school bag each day.**

SAFE ARRIVAL – Please contact the classroom teacher and the School office (902-433-7100) if your child will be absent from school.

Life Threatening Allergies/Epipens: The HRCE policy states that any students who require an Epipen must carry it on their person. Epipens are not allowed to be stored in desks, backpacks etc.

Safety First

Please help keep our students safe when dropping off and picking up your children. Here are some friendly reminders:

- Dogs are not permitted on the school property-. Please do not bring your dogs with you when picking up or dropping off your children.
- All student pickups take place outside. If you are picking up students from school at dismissal time, please meet them at their regular entrance/exit doors.
- If you are picking up students outside of dismissal time, please call the school on your way to the school to let us know you are picking up your child and what class they are in. Then ring the door bell so Mrs. Ryan can notify the student. Your child will be dismissed out their own entrance/exit door and meet you outside of the office door.(Door #1)
- Bikes, scooters and skateboards are not to be driven on school grounds. Please remind your children that they must walk these items while on school property.
- When parking to pick up or drop off your child, do not park in No Parking/No stopping areas in front of the school signified by the orange pylons.

Mi'kmaq Heritage Month: October is Mi'kmaq Heritage Month. The Mi'kmaq have always recognized the important role that plants play in their culture and livelihood. From harvesting plants for nourishment and healing to the gathering of plants to make art and for use in ceremony, plants are and have always been, an essential resource for the Mi'kmaq. This year's Mi'kmaq Heritage month poster draws on this knowledge and highlights the significance of plants, not just as a source of food but as an integral part of Netukulimk – their way of life. Students and teachers will be engaged in learning about and honouring the Mi'kmaq culture and way of life. Besides playing a Mi'kmaq version of O Canada, we will be finding out about the earliest inhabitants of our province through storytelling, art, fact learning, and research. Please ask your child what they are learning about as the month progresses. WI'KIPATMU'K MI'KMAWEY HONOURING OF THE MI'KMAW WAY

No Child Without Program – PEES is able to offer parents/guardians information about the No Child Without Program. This program helps provide Medic Alert bracelets for students who require them. <http://www.nochildwithout.ca>

Happy Thanksgiving!

