



Portland Estates Elementary

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

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

September 2020

Hello Parents & Guardians!

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year! We had a wonderful first day of school! Thank you to all our wonderful parents, students and staff for making a smooth transition back to school.

Over the summer our custodial staff and HRCE Operations as well as Scotia Learning Centre staff have been working hard to ensure the school is cleaned and ready for the September start-up. Scotia Learning installed two portables for our Grade Three students. PEES staff have been very busy preparing their classrooms to be engaging learning spaces while maximizing distancing for our students to have a fantastic school year. We always appreciate their commitment to creating engaging learning environments where our students will reach their full potential. 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 fifth year and I look forward to working with the administrative team, Mrs. Ryan and Mrs. Haase MacLeod, and staff and parent community. 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 end of the last school year was very challenging due to Covid-19 so the start of this new school year is 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 to 8:50 am. This allows them an opportunity to enter the building safely and be present during announcements.

Louise Henman-Poirier

September to Do List

- `Send in \$8.00 for Agenda (Grades 3-6)
- Send in all your Registration forms by September 20, 2020
- `Sign the Provincial School Code of Conduct in Agenda
- Stand Up Against Bullying Day – Sept 10 – Wear Pink
- Orange Shirt Day – September 30

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 2020-2021

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

Grade Primary/One- Ms. Doane/Mrs. Clarke

Grade One – Ms. Casavechia, Ms. Farrell

Grade One/Two-Mrs. McInnis

Grade Two- Mrs. MacNeil

Grade Two/Three- Mrs. Mesheau

Grade Three- Ms. Johnson, Ms. Ahmad

Grade Three/Four – Mrs. Connors/Mrs. Clarke

Grade Four- Mrs. Jennings

Grade Four/Five- Mrs. Banks

Grade Five – Ms. Senn

Grade Five/Six – Ms. Smith

Grade Six- Ms. Davidson, Mrs. Mason-MacDonald

Core French – Mme Rodgers

Resource – Mrs. Connors, Mrs. Craig

Learning Centre- Mrs. Dagnall, Mrs. Cooper

Physical Education- Ms. MacDonald, Mrs. Goulden

Music – Ms. Corrigan

Band- Mr. Fraser

Strings – Ms. Yoon

Guidance – Mr. Armstrong

Reading Recovery – Ms. Doane

EAL- Ms. Brownell

ELS- Mrs. Clarke McAvoy

EPAs- Ms. Hartlin, Ms. Graham, Ms. Carmichael, Ms. Cranford, Ms. Bautista, Mrs. Fillmore – Snow, Ms. Buott, Ms. Keizer, Ms. Dann

Library – Mrs. Pedersen

Admin Assistant- Mrs. Ryan

Schools Plus Outreach worker – Ms. Spurr

Vice-Principal – Mrs. Haase MacLeod

Safety: Due to Covid-19, there will be no visitors/volunteers allowed in the school until restrictions are lifted.

Forgotten Items: 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. Please remember to send in water bottles, cutlery for lunches etc on a daily basis.

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 main door. Whenever possible, please notify teachers ahead of time of appointments as due to Covid-19, classes will be spending a lot of time outdoors. 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 and block the Special needs bus. As well space continues to be at a premium in our school as we are over capacity at 440 students this year and have increased our staff with the addition of an additional Learning Centre teacher, preprimary 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 at their own doors.

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. There will be a virtual meeting held in September – more details to follow.

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.

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.

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.

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** (utility bill from the last three months) 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.

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.

Lunch monitors needed: We require lunch monitors for our new longer lunch hours. Please contact the office at 902-433-7100 or email Mrs. Henman-Poirier at lhpoirier@hrce.ca

Helpful Resources

To learn more about Bullying and what you can do to help healing, contact the school or check out these resources:

Kid's Help Phone

1-800-668-6868

www.kidshelpphone.ca



Bully Hotline, Halifax Regional Police

Phone: 490-7283

Text: 233-SAVE

E-mail: bullyhotline@halifax.ca