

Spring is here and the beginning of Spring is bringing an array of weather. Please remind your children to dress for all kinds of weather and maybe even bring a change of clothes in their back pack for those unexpected mud slides and puddles! We have had numerous children not dressed warmly enough to go out at recess and lunch and have had several children lose valuable class time having to go home to get a change of clothes. We thank you for your help with this.

Masks at school continue to be mandated by the provincial government. We appreciate your support with this. Reminder for those who booked in person parent teacher from 3-5 pm on April 7 – masks are required to be worn in the school building.

Students and staff enjoyed fresh, crunchy apples on Thursday, March 31 as part of the Big Crunch campaign. These apples were from local farms.

Dates to remember:

- [April 2- World Autism Awareness Day](#)
- April 4/5- Progress Reports sent home through Eduportal
- April 7 – Professional Development Day (am) Parent Teacher (pm) No school for students
- April 13 – Backwards Day
- April 14- SAC/PTO meeting
- April 15- Good Friday – No school
- April 18- Easter Monday – No school

### **Parent – Teacher Conferences –**

Our second term Parent-Teacher conferences will take place on the Thursday, April 7 in the afternoon. From 1:00-3:00pm will be virtual appointments and 3-5 pm will be for those who can only do in-person appointments. All visitors to the school must wear a mask as public health still requires these be worn in public schools. Remember that specialist teachers are available for interviews as well – Music, Physical Education, Resource, Learning Centre and Core French. There will be no school on April 7 for students as the morning is a professional development day for all staff.

**Volunteers Needed-** We are inviting parents/guardians/grandparents to come in and read with some of our students on a weekly basis. All volunteers must have a valid criminal records check including vulnerable sectors check and child abuse check on file at the school. These expire every three years and they must be completed within three months of the time you submit them to the school office.

### **Professional Learning Communities (PLC)**

When teachers learn, students learn. Teaching quality is improved through continuous professional learning. In order to remain effective in today's classroom, teachers must be continuously looking at strategies to improve their practice. The needs of society and our students continue to change from year to year. Professional development is very important; one way for continuous professional learning is the Professional Learning Community (PLC). Here at Portland Estates, staff members work together in PLCs on a weekly basis to provide the best for our students!

### **Valuables and Electronics**

Unless given special permission, students are not to have cell phones or electronic devices out during school hours. Portland Estates School is not responsible for lost or stolen valuables, including personal music devices, i-phones, personal gaming devices, etc. We would encourage students to leave these items at home where they are safe. This also holds true for toys. If your child has toys that are very special to them, please encourage them to leave them home where they can stay safe.



## Portland Estates Elementary School

### HEAD LICE: PLEASE CHECK YOUR CHILD'S HAIR REGULARLY

Reminder to parents to check your child's head regularly for head lice. Please report any discoveries of head lice to the main office (433-7100). A pamphlet has been posted on the school's website as a resource for parents. We invite you to have a look.

The **HRSB Head Lice Policy** asks parents to:

- Check their child for nits and head lice on a regular basis;
- Notify the school if their child has head lice;
- Check other family members or others spending time in the house of children identified as having head lice;
- Provide recommended head lice treatment to a child identified as having head lice as outlined by *Public Health How to Prevent, Find and Treat Head Lice*, and complete first treatment prior to their child returning to school;
- Call 8-1-1 at any time to speak with a Registered Nurse for more information and guidance if head lice are still present after the second treatment

### Parking

Visitors to the school are reminded not to park cars in the No Parking area in the front of the school. This is a Fire Lane and as such no parking/no stopping is allowed.

### Safe Arrival

Please remember to call the Safe Arrival Line if your child is absent or going to be late. The Safe Arrival Line can be accessed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. If you know the day before that your child will be absent from school, please telephone the school office at 902-433-7100. If you e-mail the teacher please also e-mail [portland@hrce.ca](mailto:portland@hrce.ca) as teachers could be absent from the building or unable to check e-mails first thing in the morning. Thank you for your continued cooperation in keeping our students safe. Starting at the end of April, the HRCE will be using computerized phone calls to do safe arrival. These calls will start shortly after 9:30 am.

### Dismissal Times

This is a reminder to parents and guardians that there is no supervision on the playground after dismissal. Students are asked to go directly home, to Excel or to their caregivers. If caregivers allow students to play afterschool on the school grounds, we ask that they be supervised at all times.

### Visitors to the School

Visitors to the school are reminded to stop at the office to sign our visitor/guest book and obtain a pass before proceeding throughout the school. Please remember that you may be a parent to your own child, but in many instances a stranger to others. Thank you, your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

### Substitute Teachers Needed!!!

HRCE has immediate openings for Substitute Teachers and hundreds of substitute assignments daily in our 134 schools. Choose where you work and how often you work. Full-time hours are a possibility with many schools within a close commute. The turnaround time from application to beginning work is very quick. Job postings are updated every Wednesday at 4:00 pm, so be sure to check it on a regular basis. View Postings at [www.myhrce.ca/jobs](http://www.myhrce.ca/jobs)

### Schools Plus

The Schools Plus team for Prince Andrew High School Family of Schools consists of the Assistant Leader, Nicole McFarlane and the Community Outreach Worker, Jessica Bailey. Schools Plus works to build good relationships between families, schools, and communities. They are a confidential, free service available in every school in Nova Scotia. They can:

1. Help build relationships between families, schools and communities.
2. Help parents and families find the programs, resources and support that they need. Some examples include: help finding recreation programs, help finding support to pay for things like eyeglasses and other important things like bills, and help applying for other community programs that can support families.
3. Offer group programming for parents and for students. Some examples are Options to Anger, Handle with Care, The Incredible Years, Rainbows, Social Skills Groups and more.
4. Help families manage complex situations. Some students and families are already connected to many services, but still need help managing it all. They can make sure everyone is communicating clearly so that you can get the best support possible.

Schools Plus can help your child/ren with what they may need to succeed – from home, from school, and back again. You can ask your child's teacher or guidance counsellor to submit a referral or you can refer yourself directly by connecting with our Schools Plus team. To do this contact, Nicole at 902-240-1148 or [nmacfarlane@hrce.ca](mailto:nmacfarlane@hrce.ca) or Jessica at [Jessica.bailey@hrce.ca](mailto:Jessica.bailey@hrce.ca)

# Portland Estates Elementary School

## EXCEL REGISTRATION INFORMATION FOR 2022-2023:

EXCEL Registration is divided into two periods: (1) Early Registration for families with a child(ren) currently enrolled in the 2021-22 EXCEL Program and (2) General Registration for families who **do not** have a child(ren) currently enrolled in the 2021-22 EXCEL Program. As in previous years, families may only submit an EXCEL application for the school(s) in which their child(ren) is registered for 2022-23. Applications are processed based on the date and time they are received.

### EARLY REGISTRATION

#### **Week of April 25, 2022**

In order to be eligible for Early registration, families must have children enrolled in a 2021-22 EXCEL program as of April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022. Siblings of 2021-22 EXCEL participants who will be starting school in September 2022 are eligible to be enrolled during the Early Registration Period.

Using the most **updated version** of your web browser, please visit <https://ca.ezchildtrack.com/excel/parent>. Once you have reached the Parent Portal landing page, please enter your email address and password in the "Returning Parents Sign In" icon to access your account. If you do not remember your password or have not visited the parent portal, please click on the Sign Up button in the "Existing Parents Sign Up" icon and enter your Registered Email Address to receive a temporary password. Please do this prior to the Early Registration period to avoid a delay in the application process.

### GENERAL REGISTRATION

#### **Week of May 2, 2022**

Using the most **updated version** of your web browser, please visit <https://ca.ezchildtrack.com/excel/parent>. Once you have reached the Parent Portal landing page, click on the Register button in the "New Parents Open Account" icon to complete the online application.

#### **Please Note:**

**EXCEL 2022-23 registration will be conducted using a staggered approach based on Unit of Schools.**

Detailed information about EXCEL registration for the 2022-23 school year will be available at: <https://www.hrce.ca/about-our-schools/parents/excel-program> in early April.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the EXCEL Registrar's Office as follows:

Kimberly Lozon	902-464-2000 ext. 2787	<a href="mailto:excelregistrar@hrce.ca">excelregistrar@hrce.ca</a>
Gail Hartling	902-464-2000 ext. 2236	<a href="mailto:excel@hrce.ca">excel@hrce.ca</a>
Wendy Terry	902-464-2000 ext. 2491	<a href="mailto:wterry@hrce.ca">wterry@hrce.ca</a>

## **Community News**

Are you looking for childcare this summer? Banook Canoe Club still has space available in our Non-Member Summer Activity Camp. Register for one week or multiple weeks! Visit Banook's registration website at <http://ckcmember.ca/org/banook> for additional details and click "Non-Member Summer Activity Camp".

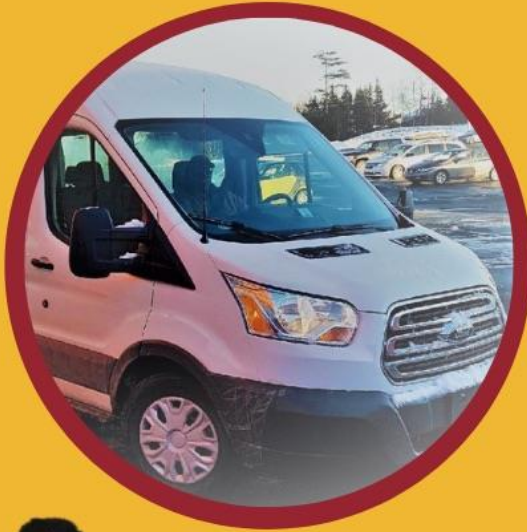


**MAMBEC BEFORE/AFTER SCHOOL  
SPECIALTY PROGRAM  
Martial Arts/Life Skills Program**

**A Focus on Anti-Bullying, Conflict Resolution and Leadership**

**Life Skills Program with a Martial Arts Connection  
MAMBEC Studio located at Cole Harbour Place Facility  
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**Early Drop: 7:00 AM  
Pick Up: 6:00 PM**



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info@mambec.com  
902 488 6779**

**Servicing Schools**

- Astral Drive Elementary
- Brookhouse Elementary
- Coldby Village Elementary
- Caldwell Road Elementary
- Colonel John Stuart Elementary
- George Bissett Elementary
- Portland Estates Elementary
- Robert Kempt Turner
- and Bois Jolie



**Pandemic restrictions apply.**

**Optional: Swimming  
and Hip Hop Fridays**

