



PORTLAND ESTATES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**45 Portland Hills Drive
Dartmouth, NS
B2W 6L5
(902) 433-7100**

**Principal: Mrs. Louise Henman-Poirier
Vice Principal- Ms. Broussard
Secretary: Mrs. Norton-Ashley**

May 2022

Hello Portland Estates Families,

Thank you for participating in our parent-teacher meetings last month. We appreciate you taking the time to come (in person or virtually) and have conversations about how your child(ren) are doing. Please know that you can reach out to teaching staff at any time with questions or concerns.

The work for our Outdoor classroom and Mobility swings are complete. The Outdoor classroom will seat a full class of students and allow teachers to lead some of their learning opportunities outdoors.

Believe it or not, plans for the 2022 – 2023 school year are well underway! Over the next few weeks, we will be going through the class placement process. This planning is always considered to be flexible until the end of September, as so many things can change between now and then. The assignment of students to classes is decided by a team, which includes our Resource and Learning Centre teachers, classroom teachers, School Counsellor and administrators. Our goal is to ensure an optimal learning environment, taking into consideration academic needs and strengths; social and emotional needs and abilities; physical needs; leadership abilities and friendships.

It is hard to believe that there are only two months left in this school year. I encourage students to continue to work hard as we push through these last few weeks of learning. Please continue to feel welcome to contact staff with any questions or concerns.

May is a beautiful month in Nova Scotia so we hope that everyone gets a chance to get outside to enjoy the wonderful places in your own community. Stay safe and continue being kind to each other,

Mrs. Henman-Poirier

Important Dates to Remember:

- May 12 – Field Trip(Lion King at PAH)**
- May 16- Dress up as your favourite Celebrity/Hero**
- May 16- 27 - Grade Three Assessments**
- May 23 - Victoria Day – no classes for students**
- May 24 – Violin & Band Concert 7 pm**
- May 31 - Stuffy Day – Bring your favourite stuffy today**



Registration:

I know that it is difficult to believe that we are already looking at our student enrollment and staffing for next year. We have registered all our new Pre-Primaries, Primaries and new to the area students as well. It is very important that we have accurate numbers so that we hire the correct amount of teachers. If you have not yet registered your child for Pre-Primary or Primary, or if you know that your child or children will not be attending Portland Estates Elementary school in the Fall of 2022, please contact Mrs. Henman-Poirier at 902-433-7100.

Dogs on the School Property- Reminder that dogs should not be brought onto the school property.

Volunteers:

We recognize our responsibility to ensure that all students attending our schools are protected by taking reasonable precautions to screen volunteers who may be working or supervising students. In accordance with the HRCE's Student Protection Policy, prior to volunteering with the HRCE, all volunteers will provide:

1. Completed Child Abuse Registry check
2. A certified and true copy of a Criminal Records Check with Vulnerable Sector check.

Child Abuse Registry Search and Criminal Records Check with Vulnerable Sector must be issued within the three months preceding being given to the school and must be updated every three years.

Introducing SafeArrival by SchoolMessenger

A New Way for Families to Report Student Absences

One of our greatest priorities is ensuring all students arrive to school safely each day.

Parents/guardians of students who attend our school now have the option to report their child's absence in advance using a toll-free number, the PowerSchool Parent Portal or an app!

SchoolMessenger SafeArrival – an absence management system that improves student safety and makes it easy for families to inform their child's school if they will be away – powers all three of these options.

If your child will be absent, please let us know by using one of the following methods:

Toll-Free Number

Call 1-833-582-6940 to report an absence using an automated system.

PowerSchool Parent Portal

Log into <https://sishrsb.ednet.ns.ca/public/> and access the SchoolMessenger website to report an absence.

SchoolMessenger App

Download the SchoolMessenger app for Android and iOS devices and sign up using your PowerSchool username (full email address).

For more information about reporting your child's absence and a list of frequently asked questions, visit: <https://www.hrce.ca/safearrival>

Assessment:

Assessment is a critical component of teaching and learning. Ongoing assessment guides the teacher's next steps in instruction and helps learners know how they are doing in relation to the outcomes taught. One aspect of assessment is providing feedback. This helps to inform students and families on how the student is progressing and allows teachers to define student strengths, needs, and next steps in instruction. Assessment may take the form of a running record with your child or a math assessment – it might be a Google form or it may be an interview.

Communication with staff: Communication is key to a smooth-running operation. Regular communication is a great way to make sure that you are aware of the successes and challenges your child may be facing. Please feel free to reach out to the teacher if you have any questions.