

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.

Dates to remember:

- April 2- World Autism Awareness Day
- April 6- PTO meeting – School Library 7 pm
- April 7 – No School – Good Friday
- April 10 – No school- Easter Monday
- April 21- Consignment Sale set-up
- April 22- Consignment Sale – 10 am – 2pm

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.



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 a Bus Lane and as such no parking is allowed.

Portland Estates Elementary School

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.

Welcome to our new Regional Executive Director

We are pleased to share the appointment of our new Regional Executive Director for HRCE, Steve Gallagher. Steve has been in the role on an acting basis since September and has officially accepted the role permanently. To learn more, [click here](#).

SafeArrival by SchoolMessenger

A 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>

Do you know how to raise a concern?

Did you know that there's a protocol in place to help families contact schools or the HRCE office when you have concerns about your student's education or well-being?

- All concerns should first be shared with your child's teacher.
- If your concern is not resolved, you should then contact the principal.
- If your concern remains unresolved, you can reach out to [HRCE's Parent Navigators](#) who can provide information about a wide range of supports and resources or connect you with the school supervisor.
- If your matter continues to be unresolved, you can then initiate a formal review process in which the matter will be investigated by the appropriate HRCE Directors.
- The final step is for your concern to be passed on to the Regional Executive Director.

Click here to view the [Parent/Guardian Concern Policy](#).

Portland Estates Elementary School



Kids Help Phone

If you, or someone you know, would benefit from talking with someone, please contact the Provincial Mental Health and Addictions Crisis Line 1-888-429-8167 or visit their website. For children and youth, the Kids Help Phone can be reached at 1-800-668-6868 (toll-free) or text CONNECT to 686868.

NEED SOMEONE TO TALK TO?
KIDS HELP PHONE CAN BE REACHED AT 1-800-668-6868 (TOLL-FREE) OR TEXT CONNECT TO 686868.

Explore more supports at kidshelpline.ca

Halifax
Regional Centre for Education

Meet your Parent Navigators

We know that navigating school system can be overwhelming. The role of the Parent Navigator is to help parents and guardians of HRCE students find and access the right information, resources, tools and services.

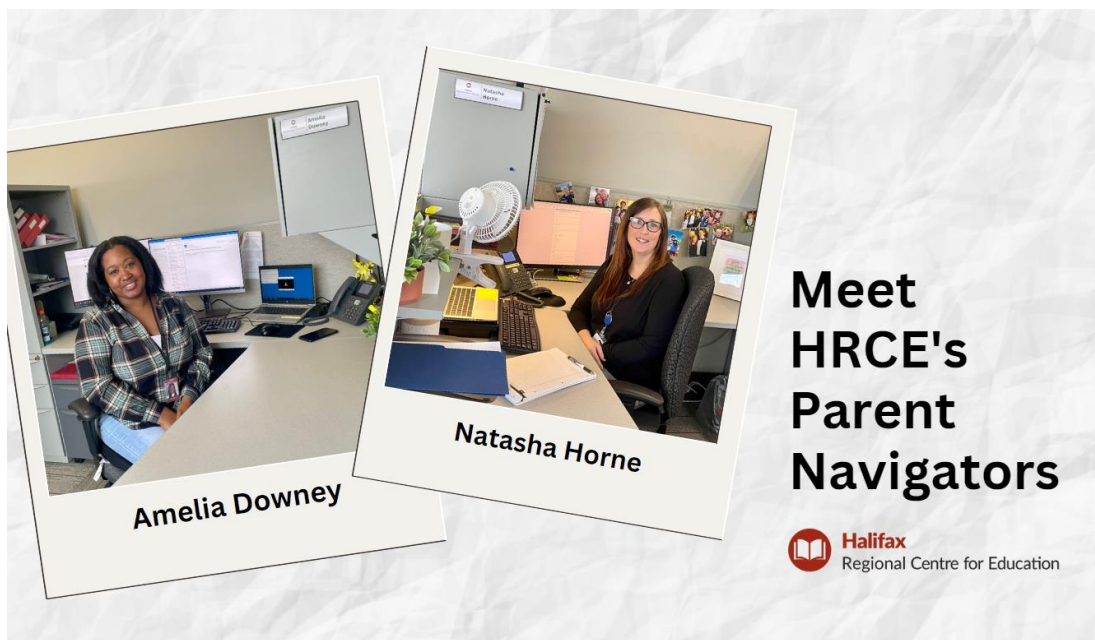
Portland Estates Elementary School

“I would say that I help parents ‘navigate’ the school systems, let them know what resources might be available within HRCE that they may not know about, and actively listen to families who call that may have a situation that needs diffusing, support or problem solving,” says Parent Navigator Natasha Horne.

“I would love for families to know we are here for them, and sometimes that’s just to listen and not solve anything. We are a non-judgemental ear for them. Sometimes just talking through something with someone that’s not involved with your situation is helpful to get some perspective.”

Parent Navigator Amelia Downey says the most common questions she receives include: How do I make a school transfer request? What age can my child attend school with HRCE? How do I speak with a school supervisor? Do I have to visit a school to register my child? How can I obtain my child’s school records/diploma/transcripts?

“What I love the most about my role the most is the moment when I know I have made a difference in a person’s day through the support I have provided to them during our call,” Amelia says.



Portland Estates Elementary School



Saturday, April 22

10am-2pm

Portland Estates Elementary

\$2 admission at the door

To register as a seller, email: ptokidssale@gmail.com

Includes: kids clothing, toys and games, sports equipment, books, baby gear, maternity clothing, seasonal items, etc.

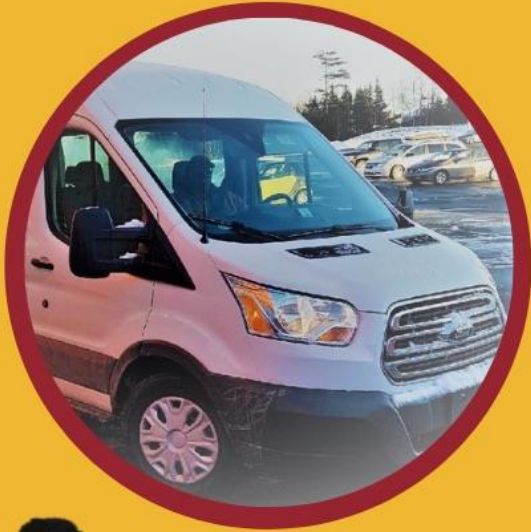


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- Portland Estates Elementary
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- and Bois Jolie



Pandemic restrictions apply.

**Optional: Swimming
and Hip Hop Fridays**

