

Hillside Traditional Academy Newsletter



November 2025

Dear Hillside Families,

November has been a month of meaningful transitions, both in our school and in the world around us. As the bright colors of autumn fade and the days grow cooler, our students have spent time reflecting on the importance of Remembrance Day and the lessons it brings about courage, peace, and gratitude. Now, as we move toward winter's arrival, our school community is looking ahead to the joyful activities this season brings—hands-on learning, acts of kindness, and the early excitement of Christmas preparations. Our hallways are already coming alive with vibrant displays of student creativity, showcasing the thoughtful work and imagination that make our school such a warm and inspiring place to learn. During this busy time, our teachers are also carefully preparing assessments and compiling information for upcoming report card submissions, ensuring each child's growth is thoughtfully captured. We are grateful for the steady support of our families during this time of change, and we look forward to the next weeks filled with growth, reflection, and celebration.

Kindergarten Sibling Registration – December 1st

If you have a child attending Hillside Traditional Academy and they have a younger sibling born in 2021 – Kindergarten Sibling Registration will take place on December 1, 2025 between 7:30 am – 2:30 pm. It is very important that sibling are registered on this day so we can open up the balance of the class to our waitlist in January.

Please bring the following documents on December 1st

- Birth Certificate
- Care Card
- Parent Drivers Licence

November 28, 2025

Non-Instructional afternoon.

Students dismissed at 11:00 am

**These days are a great chance to
schedule doctor/dentist appointments.**

Concert - December 11th

We are very pleased to present our annual winter concert. This year it is called the **Christmas at the Hillside Corral**. Mrs. Columbus has sent home costume requirements for the big show. Please check with the classroom teacher if you have any questions. We know that the number of people who wish to attend will be very high. Fire regulations limit the number of people we can have in the gym. So, for that reason we will be offering two tickets per family. Please remember to bring your tickets to the concert. Tickets will be collected at the entrance to the gym.

Please note the date and times of this year's concerts:

- Thursday, December 11 @ 9:00 am **families** with last names **A to J**
- Thursday, December 11 @ 12:45 pm **families** with last names **K to Z**

*****Tickets will be sent home in planner of your oldest Hillside child on Wednesday December 3. If you are unable to attend, please send your tickets back to your teacher on Friday, December 5.**

If you need **extra tickets**, please complete the attached form and return it to the office. Extra tickets will be sent home with your child on December 9th on a first come first serve basis

If you need to **attend a different performance**, ask your oldest child's teacher if they have any returned tickets.

Christmas Concert – Request for extra tickets



If you require additional tickets, please complete the form below. Additional tickets will be given out on a first come first serve basis. These extra tickets will be made available on December 9 with the child listed on your request.

Student Name _____ Div. _____

We are requesting _____ extra tickets for the 9:00 or 12:45 Christmas concert. (please circle time that you would like to come)

Parent Name _____ Daytime Phone _____

Winter Weather

Thank you, parents, for ensuring your child is prepared for the changing winter weather. Please ensure your children come to school with appropriate clothing for the weather (jackets, gloves and toques). Because we believe strongly in the value of daily physical exercise, we have students go outside at recess and lunch even if it is raining or snowing. During periods of significant rain, we may have inside recess and/or lunch. These days will be limited. Please help your child be prepared. Please pack a **change of uniform** for muddy/wet days.

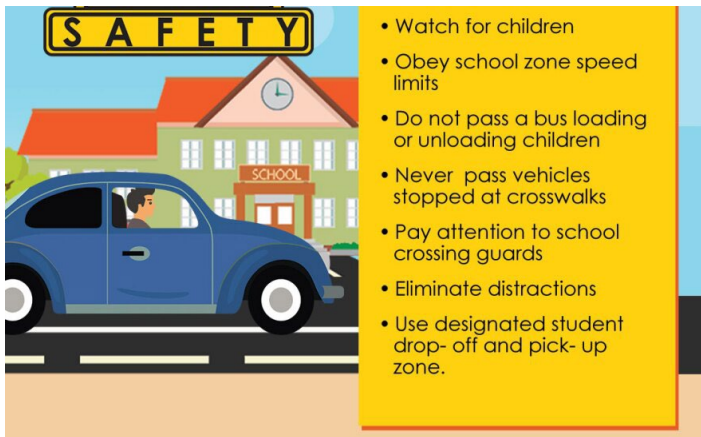


Safe Driving, Parking, and the Front loop

We know that parking at Hillside is very limited but please do not pull into staff parking areas while dropping off your children. Please do not park in front of the bus stop.

Please ensure you are driving in a safe manner near the school. Unsafe driving will be noted by Mr. Turkin will be taking photos of unsafe driving and forwarding license plates to the RCMP.

We want to encourage parents/guardians to be cautious when driving in the loop. Please only use the loop for **“DROP AND GO”**. Please do not get out of your vehicle in the loop. We need to keep this area moving. Additionally, we would ask parents/guardians to pull as far into the loop as possible before stopping and unload students. We want to ensure the safety of all at school. Please **NO LEFT TURNS** exiting the loop **while there are cones on the street**.



- Watch for children
- Obey school zone speed limits
- Do not pass a bus loading or unloading children
- Never pass vehicles stopped at crosswalks
- Pay attention to school crossing guards
- Eliminate distractions
- Use designated student drop-off and pick-up zone.

Parking

Thank you to all who have been ensuring the safety of our students when it comes to parking in the parent parking lot and on the street. Please continue to avoid parking against the painted yellow curb, by the crosswalk, in front of the school as this allows the students see any oncoming cars in both directions when using the crosswalk. Also, thank you for being considerate to our neighbours by ensuring that when you park you aren't blocking their driveways.

Flu Season

As we are in flu season, parents and students are reminded that one of the best ways to prevent getting the flu is frequent handwashing with soap. If your child experiences flu-like symptoms, arrangements need to be made for him/her to remain home for the length of the flu symptoms and at least 24 hours after all symptoms have disappeared. If they are sick, please keep them home.

School Closures Due to Inclement Weather

Although we hope that winter weather is a long way off, you may want to make a note of the following information. If you are wondering if Mission schools are closed, you can go to www.mpsd.ca (Mission Public School website), scroll down the page to the heading “School Closures”. There you will receive the most up to date

Little Readers

Little Readers is a preschool reading program. It happens every Friday from 9:00 – 10:00 am. There is usually a story, a craft and a snack. Parents are invited to attend with their children during this time. This is a great opportunity to introduce your preschooler to Hillside. Newcomers are welcome.



Attendance Matters

School is a preparation for adult life and job experiences. Regular attendance is as essential for success at school as it is in the adult working world. A consistent pattern of regular attendance and prompt arrival at school is vital for student success at Hillside Traditional Academy. We expect that families will only take vacations during regularly scheduled school holidays. Students who arrive late disrupt the classroom and the student misses important instructional time and information. If a student is late, they must report to the school office. We believe that parents are “partners” in a students’ learning and that it is the parents’ responsibility to ensure that their children are at school on time and attending regularly.

Hillside Uniforms

Our school uniform is an important part of Hillside Traditional Academy. Please take a moment in your busy morning to make sure that your child is in the correct uniform. If you need some clarification on anything, please reach out to your child’s teacher or Mr. Turkin. Please pay close attention to socks and hair accessories. Since it is likely your children have grown since September, please check to see that their inside shoes still fit. If you need to purchase new ones, please ensure they are black.



School Closures Due to Inclement Weather

With possible snow just around the corner, you may want to make a note of the following information. If you are wondering if Mission schools are closed, you can go to www.mpsd.ca (Mission Public School website), scroll down the page to the heading “School Closures”. There you will receive the most up to date information. One can also access information by listening to the following radio stations: STAR FM 98.3, COUNTRY 107.1 FM, CKNW 980 AM and CKWX 1130 AM

Book Fair

We are thrilled to share that our annual Book Fair was a wonderful success! Thanks to the enthusiasm of our students, the support of our families, and the hard work of Mrs. Ketchen and our student leadership, our school community came together to celebrate a love of reading. The event not only filled our halls with excitement but also helped us raise valuable funds that will go directly toward enhancing our school’s literacy resources. Thank you to everyone who contributed to making this year’s Book Fair such a memorable and meaningful event!

Remembrance Day Assembly

Our Remembrance Day ceremony was a heartfelt and meaningful gathering for the Hillside school community. Students showed great respect as they listened to readings, poetry, and musical performances that honored the courage and sacrifice of those who served. The thoughtful participation of our classes created a powerful sense of reflection and unity, and we are proud of how sincerely our students approached this important day. A special thank-you goes to the Mission Secondary school choir for joining our own choir—the combined voices added a beautiful and moving touch to the ceremony’s musical tributes. Thank you to the staff, students, and families who helped make the ceremony such a memorable experience.

Upcoming dates to Remember

November 20	PAC Hot Lunch
November 21	Accountability Assembly
November 28	Students will be dismissed at 11am
December 1	Kindergarten Sibling Registration
December 3	Div 3 & 15 Field Trip
December 4	Rotary Choir Festival PAC Hot Lunch
December 10	Concert Dress Rehearsal
December 11	Christmas Concert
December 18	Report Cards Home PAC Hot Lunch
December 20 – January 4	– Winter Vacation

Help your child sleep well

- Set up a bedtime routine to help your child get ready for bed and sleep. For example, read together, cuddle, and listen to soft music for 15 to 30 minutes before you turn out the lights. Do things in the same order each night so your child knows what to expect.
 - Have your child go to bed at the same time every night and wake up at the same time every morning. Children who have consistent and regular bedtimes are less likely to have behaviour problems than children who do not have regular bedtimes.
 - Keep your child's bedroom quiet, dark or dimly lit, and cool. Keep TVs and computers out of your child's room.
 - Limit activities that stimulate your child, such as playing and watching TV, in the hours closer to bedtime.
- If your child wakes up and calls for you in the middle of the night, make your response the same each time. Offer quick comfort, but then leave the room.
- Help prevent nightmares by controlling what your child watches on TV and video games
- Have your child take medicines exactly as prescribed. Call your doctor if your child has any problems with his or her medicine.

Emergency Preparedness

To enhance our students' safety and well-being, we are expanding our school's efforts to prepare for a critical incident. It is important that you become familiar with the school's emergency procedures and what you should do in the event of an emergency at the school. In efforts to be prepared we will be having some drills in the next 6 weeks. We encourage you to discuss how you expect your child to behave and respond during an emergency or disaster situation



Critical incident Terminology

- Shelter in Place – Students and staff remain on site. This may be due to a flood, powerlines down, a hazardous spill near the school etc. Essentially, evacuating is more dangerous than remaining in place.
- Evacuate – Students and staff evacuate the building, generally to a specific nearby location. Typically, due to events like a fire.
- Hold and Secure – Also referred to as a lockout. In this case students remain in the building, but external doors are locked. Students and staff are asked to remain in the classroom while a situation is resolved. Typically used for a police incident near a building.
- Lockdown – A lockdown isolates students and staff from a threat outside or within the building. This is generally considered the most significant level of response and controls the movement of people both within and near the building. Internal and external doors are locked.

The school is prepared to care for your child in the event of an emergency until you or an authorized alternate come to pick him or her up. To make your child as comfortable and safe as possible until you arrive, we ask for your help in the following areas.

- Please **do not phone the school following a disaster**. We must keep the lines open for outgoing emergency calls.
- Please, **in the event of a lockdown, do not phone your child's cell phone**. A ringing phone can call attention to students.
- Please **do not drive to the school**. Streets and access to the school must remain clear for emergency vehicles. Park as close as you safely can and walk to the school.
- Listen and watch for updates – both the school and District will use a variety of communication tools including phone trees, e-mail, traditional and social media to alert parents of the current situation and next steps.
- As soon as school officials indicate it is safe to pick up your child, we request you or your alternate guardian travel to the school or identified student-parent reunification site to reunite with your child.
- No student will be released from the school unless a previously authorized parent/guardian or alternate comes for the student.
- All parents/alternates who come to pick up children must sign the students out at a designated student release area.

One of the most important areas of school emergency planning is gathering accurate information so the school can contact you or someone authorized to act on your behalf. **Please ensure the office has up to date contact information at all times.**

Thank you for your cooperation and assistance. This process helps to ensure a speedy reunion for you and your child and contributes to the safety and well-being of your child in an emergency.