**Highland Park Junior High Community**

*Good afternoon! We hope that all is well. Please note that there is no school for students on Friday, October 25th. Also, please see the important information below:*

**Christmas Registry:**

Please see the information contained in the memo below as provided by Schools Plus:

**Student Social:**

We will be having our first student social of the school year this Thursday, October 24th from 6:00 pm until 8:00 pm. Only Highland Park students are permitted to attend. This will be a Halloween themed event, but a costume is not required! If costumes are worn, they must be school appropriate.

There is no cost for this event! There will be door prizes, and we are sure it will be fun. We hope to see many students in attendance!

YouTube In School:

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Within HRCE we have been using Google Workspace for Education (GNSPES) for a number of years. Google Workspace for Education is a set of education productivity tools from Google including Gmail, Calendar, Docs, Classroom, and more. Students use their GNSPES accounts to complete assignments, communicate with their teachers, sign into their Chromebooks, and learn 21st century digital citizenship skills.

In the fall of 2021, Google changed how students can access videos on YouTube and only allowed students to watch videos that were shared by their teachers. As this is somewhat limiting to a student’s learning, all schools with students in grades 7-12 sent notice to families indicating the opportunity to change the settings and make YouTube available to these students. Making this change in the settings allows students who are logged into GNSPES the ability to search and view YouTube videos that have been moderated (aligned with content rating 13+).

Google has a restricted YouTube experience for students in GNSPES. Students are not able to create channels, upload content, view or add comments, watch or create live stream events or participate in live chat amongst other things.(Full list of restrictions here<https://support.google.com/a/answer/10651918#zippy=%2Cyoutube> )

If you give consent for your child to access YouTube with GNSPES while at school, there is no further action required.

If you **DO NOT**wish your child(ren) to be able to access YouTube to support their learning, or if you would like to change the access that your child had to YouTube last year, please contact your child(ren)’s school principal with their name and GNSPES username by **November 4th, 2024.**

**Attendance:**

Please note that attendance at Highland Park Junior High is tracked as per the Nova Scotia Student Attendance and Engagement policy:

<https://www.ednet.ns.ca/docs/provincialstudentattendanceandengagementpolicy.pdf>

We do notice that at times students are late for both morning classes (instruction begins at 8:30 am) and afternoon classes (instruction begins at 12:30 pm) because of Metro Transit and other factors. Being present for the beginning of instructional time is important as valuable information is covered during this period. We are tracking late arrivals at Highland Park, and parents/guardians will be contacted as necessary.

Your cooperation in promoting consistent attendance is much appreciated. There is a direct relationship between being present in school and success and well-being.

Your attention to this matter is greatly appreciated.

*We hope to see many of our students join us on Thursday night for our social! Best of luck to our volleyball teams in their upcoming seasons. Last, please remember to contact us at any time. We are here as a school staff to support you, the community, and we welcome your ongoing communication.*

*Have a great day.*

*Mr. Sarka (Principal – Highland Park Junior High)*