

Hawthorn Elementary

NEWSLETTER

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October 2024



Dear Families,

We had a great September and we thank you for your support as we had a smooth transition back to school. In our first week of school, we participated in Pink Shirt Day and our ongoing message to stand up against bullying. This month, we successfully practiced a fire drill, a lockdown drill, and a hold and secure drill. Teachers and students discussed Orange Shirt Day and took time to reflect and learn about Truth and Reconciliation.

Communication between school and home is very important. Last week, you would have received an email from the PowerSchool system asking you to update your child's information. Even if your info is current and up to date, please follow the instructions in the link and submit the form. The 'consent for publication' form is embedded within the student demographic link, as well as dismissal plans in the event of an early closure. If you need help completing this, please call the school and we will assist. We also have the Nova Scotia School Lunch Program starting at the end of the month. More information will be shared but please see [here](#) in the meantime for more details.

Wishing you all a fantastic October filled with learning, growth, and memorable experiences.

Sincerely,

Ms. Gourlay and Ms. Bambury

Upcoming Dates:

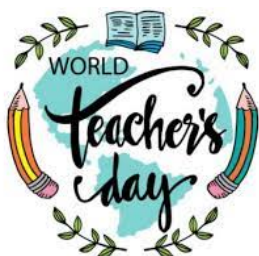
- October 1: Treaty Day
- October 1: School Picture Day
- October 2: SAC meeting 6pm School Library
- October 2: HSA meeting 7pm School Library
- October 4: Terry Fox Walk
- October 9,10,16,17: Grade 6 Provincial Assessments
- October 11: Professional Development Day (No School for Students)
- October 14: Thanksgiving Monday (No School)
- October 24: Halloween Howl Family Dance
- October 25: Provincial Conference Day (No School for Students)
- October 31: Halloween & Diwali

Mi'kmaq History Month

The theme for Mi'kmaq History Month is Food and its Significance in Mi'kmaq Culture. Food helps us gather together for celebration, nourishment and comfort. It is central to ceremonies, considered part of medicines, and key to resilience. Sharing freely honours each other's families and communities.



World Teachers' Day



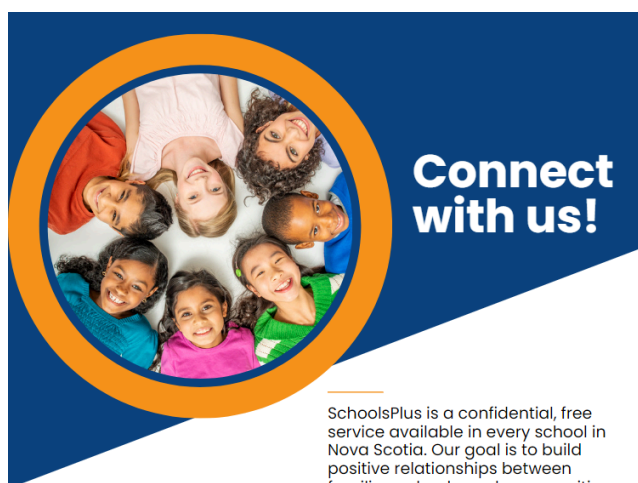
October 5th is World Teachers' Day. World Teachers' Day started in 1994 and is now celebrated in over 100 countries around the world. We are fortunate to have such a fantastic staff at Hawthorn Elementary!

Grade 6 Provincial Assessments

Our Grade 6 students will be completing the NS Provincial Reading/Writing and Mathematics Assessment this month. The dates have been scheduled for *October 9th, 10th, 16th, and 17th*. Teachers are having ongoing conversations with students about the importance of being rested and having a good breakfast to start their day. Students have had some practice time before the administration of the assessments. If your child will be absent on the listed dates, please let your child's teacher know.

What is SchoolsPlus?

SchoolsPlus is a confidential, free service available in every school in Nova Scotia. Our goal is to build positive relationships between families, schools, and communities. We can help families navigate complicated situations when they are involved with many different services. This helps ensure everyone is communicating clearly and working on shared goals. SchoolsPlus can also help connect families to community resources and offers mental health support in schools. Contact our SchoolsPlus Facilitator, Juliana Pontes, jpontes@hrce.ca to make a referral. You can find additional information [here](#).



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Phone: 902-464-2041
Email: schoolsplus@hrce.ca
Twitter: @HRCESchoolsPlus

Visitors to the School

Visitors are asked to ring the doorbell upon arrival and Ms. Urquhart will answer through the intercom and ask how she can help you. We would be happy to deliver a forgotten recess snack or lunch bag to your child. We can meet you at the door and retrieve the item. If picking your child up early, please call ahead. ***All visitors, regardless how brief the visit, must sign-in at the office and wear a visitor or volunteer tag.***

SchoolCash Setup

SchoolCash Online is an easy-to-use and safe way to pay for your children's school fees. You can pay for your child's yearbook, class trips and so much more, quickly and conveniently. Simply register an account to be able to pay in several different payment forms. [Click here](#) for more information.

Lunch Monitors

We are reaching out in search of lunch monitors. If you have or are willing to have a criminal record check/vulnerable sector and child abuse registry done and are able to help, please phone 902-464-2048 and we can begin the process. Even if you are only available certain days of the week your time is appreciated. Thank you!

Home and School Association (HSA)

Home and School Association is a volunteer, non-profit organization of parents and school staff. Membership is free and open to any interested parent/guardian or staff member. Our next meeting is Wednesday, *October 2nd at 6pm* in the school library. All are welcome!

Reminders

- Please, do not send nut or peanut products to school (this includes Nutella products).
- Our school is a scent-free zone! We ask that all parents, guardians, and visitors refrain from using scented products such as perfumes, colognes, and heavily scented lotions when on at school. Many of our students and staff members have sensitivities or allergies to certain scents. Your cooperation and understanding in this matter are greatly appreciated.
- It is helpful to have a complete change of clothes in your child's backpack just in case of mud, puddles, or spills and it may save you a trip in the middle of your day.
- Please do not bring dogs onto school grounds. If you do bring your dog, please stay on the sidewalk and not on school property.
- Please ensure that your child has indoor shoes for school and wears outdoor shoes/boots to help keep our school clean.
- Students are not permitted to use cell phones during the school day. If students bring cellphones to school, they must be turned off and in their backpacks for the entire school day.