

Hawthorn Elementary **NEWSLETTER**

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February 2025



Dear Hawthorn Families,

This past month, we welcomed Q-Mack to a school assembly, where he shared his message about being an ALL-STAR student. He also left us two basketballs to award to students who demonstrate that spirit! This tied in perfectly with our Growth Mindset themed assembly, highlighted by Ms. Wiseman's class presentation and a song from our school choir.

As we move into February, we're excited for the winter weather, but remind families to ensure students are dressed warmly for the cold. Proper winter gear is essential for staying safe and comfortable outside. February is also Registration Month; you will see more information about school registration in the newsletter.

This year, African Heritage Month embraces the provincial theme, *Legacy in Action: Celebrating Black Brilliance*. The theme celebrates the enduring legacy of Black Nova Scotians, paying tribute to the community's resilience, achievements, and impact throughout history. Classes will be learning, recognizing, and celebrating African Heritage Month in a variety of ways.

We have witnessed the incredible support of the Hawthorn community after the recent unfortunate event and we are deeply grateful. We encourage you to reach out if we can assist in any way.

Warm regards,

Ms. Gourlay and Ms. Bambury

Upcoming Dates: [Hawthorn Calendar](#)

- February-Registration Month: see details below
- February 5-SAC meeting 6pm School Library
- February 5-HSA meeting 7pm School Library
- February 17-Heritage Day-No School
- March 5 -HSA meeting 7pm
- March 7- End of Term 2/Assessment & Evaluation Day (No School for Students)
- March 10-14 - March Break (No School)

Celebrate African Heritage Month 2025

African Heritage Month in Nova Scotia, celebrated each February, honours the contributions of African Nova Scotians.

This year's theme, Legacy in Action: Celebrating Black Brilliance, highlights the achievements and resilience of African Nova Scotians, who have shaped the province's history for more than 400 years.

In schools, recognizing African Heritage Month is crucial for promoting cultural awareness and inclusion. It fosters understanding of the diverse cultural landscape of Nova Scotia, empowering African Nova Scotian students by reflecting their history and heritage in their classrooms. Highlighting their achievements serves as a source of inspiration.

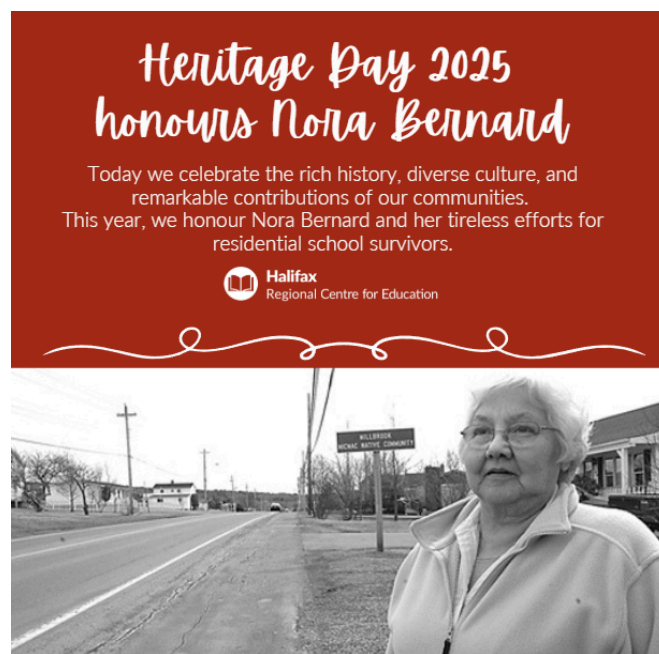
African Heritage Month 2025 is an opportunity to educate, inspire, and celebrate the richness of African heritage in Nova Scotia every day.



February 17 is Heritage Day

Heritage Day 2025 honours the late Nora Madeline Bernard. From Millbrook First Nation, she was a Mi'kmaq activist who fought for her community and First Nations people across Canada.

Ms. Bernard played a key role in getting justice, recognition, and compensation for survivors of the Canadian Indian Residential School system. As a survivor of the system herself, she founded and became president of the Shubenacadie Indian Residential School Association in 1987. She then started a class-action lawsuit for the survivors, which inspired others across the country to do the same, leading to the largest class-action lawsuit in Canadian history.



February is Registration Month

Do you have a child who will be starting pre-primary or primary this fall? It's time to register!

Registration for the 2025-26 school year begins on February 3. To ensure we have the right staff and supports in place for September, it's important that we gather enrolment numbers now.

Tip: Before you begin, make sure you have the following documents in electronic form (image, PDF or Word document):

- Proof of identity/age with one of the following: birth certificate, passport, immigration papers, or legal adoption papers) if you are new to the HRCE;
- Proof of home address (a recently dated official government or utility document with your current address that includes your name and date, such as water bill, power bill,



internet bill, home fuel bill, a tax receipt, property assessment or a mortgage contract);
and

Visit the [HRCE website](#) for more information and to enrol your child today through PowerSchool Enrollment!

Don't have a child to register? Maybe you know someone who does! Please help us spread the word and pass this information on to friends, neighbours or relatives who will be looking to register for the fall.

Important weather reminders

Did you know? HRCE takes great care when making the decision to alter the regular operations of schools and school buses in the event of severe or inclement weather.

It is HRCE's goal to communicate any changes to the regular operations of schools and/or buses as close to 6:00 a.m. as possible. A 6:00 a.m. announcement could be:

- All schools are delayed in opening by two hours and bus pickups are delayed by two hours; or
- All schools are open, but some or all buses are not operating for the day; or
- Some schools (either individually or by family) are closed for the day; or
- All schools are closed for the day.

If weather deteriorates, or is forecasted to worsen throughout the morning, an 11:00 a.m. announcement could be:

- Bused students will be picked up two hours earlier than their regular dismissal time; and
- Non-bused students will be dismissed at their regularly scheduled lunch hour.

How will I find out?

- By email to the addresses in PowerSchool
- By text message, if you have opted-in. If you aren't sure if you have opted-in, text Y to the following number: 978338
- On [our website](#)
- On [X \(formerly Twitter\)](#)
- On [Instagram](#)

It's important to always have a plan in place for childcare in the event of any cancellation. For more information on how HRCE manages during inclement weather, visit www.hrce.ca/families/cancellations.



Parking around School

A reminder to follow street signage for both ‘no stopping’ and ‘no parking’ around the school. For safety reasons, we ask that there is room for the flow of traffic along Hawthorne Street to move. This is especially important as snow banks develop along the sidewalks and makes it harder to see people walking and crossing streets. Thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation.

A message from Schools Plus

SchoolsPlus is offering the Handle with Care program for parents and caregivers of preschool children (0-6 years old) who are connected to the Dartmouth High Family of Schools. Handle with Care is a simple interactive, evidence-based, trauma-informed, and culturally-sensitive program for parents and caregivers to promote the social and emotional well-being of young children from birth to 6 years. The fundamental component of the [program](#) is to facilitate and promote healthy development of children’s minds and emotions.

The program is free and will happen in-person on Wednesdays, 9:30am-11am, at Dartmouth High - SchoolsPlus Room (95 Victoria Rd Ext, Dartmouth), from February 5th to March 5th (5 sessions). Please [click here](#) to fill out the form if you are interested in participating in the program. This is a small group format with limited spots available. Registration will be confirmed via email or phone call.

If you have any questions, please contact Juliana at jpontes@hrce.ca

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.