

Hawthorn Elementary **NEWSLETTER**

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Website: Haw.hrce.ca • Email: hawthorn@hrce.ca

May 2025



Dear Hawthorn Families,

April flew by with many exciting moments! We started the month with Parent/Family Interviews and Student-Led Conferences—it was wonderful seeing so many families. We celebrated healthy eating with the BIG CRUNCH (after an unexpected April snow day!), and some classes kicked off their spring field trips. Our upper elementary students enjoyed badminton with Mr. Foot, and our Grade 6 Band performed at DSA to wrap up the month. Looking ahead to May, we're excited for Grade 3 & 4 Chess Club, the Grade 3 Literacy and Math Assessments, Black Excellence Day, and Gaelic Nova Scotia Month, which we'll celebrate with our School Ceilidh Family Night. Please continue to learn more about what's happening in our school from our students' [Hawthorn Highlights](#). With spring here, students are soaking up the sunshine and taking their learning outdoors!

Warm regards,

Ms. Gourlay and Ms. Bambury

Upcoming Dates: [Hawthorn Calendar](#)

- May 7-SAC meeting 6pm
- May 7-HSA meeting 7pm
- May 12-General EXCEL registration
- May 13,14,21,22-Grade 3 Provincial Assessments
- May 15-Black Excellence Day

- May 15-Hawthorn Spring Ceilidh: celebrating Gaelic Nova Scotia Month- See more [here](#)
- May 19-Victoria Day/No School
- June 2- Violin Performance
- June 7-Spring Fair
- June 11-HSA meeting
- June 26-Grade 6 Closing
- June 27-Assesment & Evaluation Day-No School for Students
- June 30-Last Day of School

May 15 is Black Excellence Day

What is Black Excellence Day? In essence Black Excellence Day is about acknowledging, celebrating, and uplifting Black contributions while fostering a more inclusive and equitable environment. The following are ways you celebrate the fourth annual Black Excellence Day:

Celebrating achievements: Black Excellence Day provides an opportunity to celebrate the achievements, contributions, and successes of Black individuals within the community. It highlights the talent and accomplishments within the Black community, ensuring that Black students have an opportunity to highlight all their positive contributions within the education system.



Promoting equity and inclusion: Recognizing Black Excellence fosters a culture of equity and inclusion within schools. It sends a message that all students, regardless of their background, have the potential to excel and make valuable contributions to society. By celebrating diversity and promoting inclusivity, schools create a more welcoming and supportive environment for all students.

Education and awareness: Black Excellence Day serves as an educational opportunity to raise awareness about the rich history, culture, and achievements of Black people. It provides a platform to share stories of resilience, innovation, and leadership, helping to combat stereotypes and promote understanding and appreciation of Black heritage.

Empowerment and inspiration: By celebrating Black Excellence, students are inspired and empowered to pursue their own goals and dreams. Seeing examples of successful Black individuals from various fields, such as science, arts, politics and sports, can motivate students to strive for their own excellence.

Community engagement: Black Excellence Day can serve as a platform for community engagement and collaboration. It provides an opportunity for schools to partner with local organizations, leaders, and activists within the Black community to organize events, workshops, and discussions that promote dialogue and understanding. Overall, celebrating Black Excellence Day within HRCE schools is important for fostering a culture of inclusivity, empowerment, and appreciation for the diverse talents and contributions of Black individuals.

SAVE THE DATE: Hawthorn Elementary Spring Fair - June 7, 2025

We are excited to announce the biggest school fundraiser of the year, which will help support many upcoming class trips. Circle Saturday, June 7 between 10am-12pm on your calendars – rain or shine (weather will not dampen our school spirit). There will be games, prizes, inflatables, balloon animals and much more! This event is a wonderful opportunity for our Hawthorn community to come together, enjoy fun activities and support our school.

This event can only be successful with parent/guardian volunteers. We are requesting donations to make this event a success. Your contributions can make a BIG difference. we are accepting donations of:

- Juice boxes
- Small bags of chips (to hand out as prizes - similar size given at Halloween)
- Suckers (for prizes in the sucker pull)
- cakes for the cake parade (sign up below)
- Plants
- Books
- Toys (dinkies, action figures, puzzles/games, small stuffed animals)

Silent Auction: We are also looking for donations of unique skills and talents for our silent auction. This is a great way to build community and bring families together. Consider donating:

- Music lessons: offer 3 lessons to teach a budding artist
- Gardening skills: help a family start or assist with their garden
- Jam making sessions - teach someone to make jam
- Celebration cakes: if you are a great baker, consider donating a celebration cake
- Any other talent or skill you are willing to share with other families

Volunteers Needed: We need volunteers to help with various tasks during the fair. Your time and effort are invaluable to us. Sign up @

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094CA8AB23A7F4C25-56533729-hawthorn>

If you have any questions or would like to make a donation to the silent auction, please contact Lisa at lisas.power@gmail.com

Thank you for your support, and we look forward to seeing you at the Hawthorn Spring Fair.

A message from SchoolsPlus Team-Dartmouth Family of Schools

Schools Plus has partnered with the North Grove and the Boys & Girls Club to offer a free in-person session on **Online & Cyber Safety: Helping Your Children Stay Safe in a Digital World on Wednesday, May 14, 2025 from 6:00-7:30pm at the North Grove** located at 6 Primrose Street, Dartmouth.

Parents/Caregivers can call 902-464-8234 to express their interest.

[05-14 Online Safety Final.pdf](#)

2025-26 EXCEL registration

The EXCEL Before and After Program is a recreation based, fee-for-service before and after school program run by Halifax Regional Centre for Education. At each school site where EXCEL is offered, the dedicated staffing teams plan games and activities that suit the needs and interests of all registered students. Since EXCEL began more than 25 years ago, staff have continually enhanced the program based on experiences and feedback. Today, with more than 4,000 participating students, EXCEL is one of the largest programs of its kind in the Maritimes, providing inclusive and engaging programming for participants.

For more information about registration, fees and programming, please [click here](#).

If you have additional questions, please contact the EXCEL Before and After Program Registrar's Office: Kimberly Lozon at 902-464-2000 ext. 2787 or excelregistrar@hrce.ca and Gail Hartling at 902-464-2000 ext. 2236 or excel@hrce.ca

Celebrating Education Week 2025

Education Week 2025, May 11 to 17, is a special opportunity to acknowledge educators, school support staff and partners for their outstanding work. This year's theme, *Empowering Futures: Innovation in Education*, celebrates educators who have gone above and beyond in their efforts to infuse innovation into their classrooms and schools.




We applaud educators, school staff, and partners who embrace innovation in meeting the evolving needs of students in preparing them for a rapidly changing future.

Please take a moment, if you feel inspired, to send a note of appreciation to an educator in your child's life who is having a positive impact!

Homework Hub: Finish the year off strong!

Did you know your student has access to Homework Hub? Finish the year off strong with the help of experienced tutors!


- GNSPES Access: Easy access to online resources and tutoring through your GNSPES account (gnspes.ca) by clicking on the Nova Scotia Homework Hub icon.
- 24/7 Access: Anytime access to video tutorials, practice questions and vocabulary review.
- Bilingual tutors available for students in:
 - Grade 4-6 Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
 - Grade 7-12 on school nights 5:30 to 9:30 p.m.




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**Find the Homework Hub at
gnspes.ca or call 1-888-444-6607**

 **Halifax**
Regional Centre for Education

 **NOVA SCOTIA**
NOUVELLE-ÉCOSSE

[Watch this video](#) to learn more about Homework Hub!

Access Awareness Week

Access Awareness Week takes place annually during the last week of May to raise awareness about disability, access and inclusion. This year, Access Awareness Week runs from May 25-31, and the provincial theme is "Our Voices, Our Votes: Disability Rights in Action."

The provincial Accessibility Directorate is providing all HRCE schools with posters to help bring attention to the importance of removing barriers for people with disabilities. The posters are being mailed directly to schools from the directorate and should arrive in the coming days.

For 38 years, Nova Scotians have organized community events, flag raising, forums, and concerts during Access Awareness Week to bring attention to the importance of removing barriers for people with disabilities. More information can be found [here](#).

Interested in Volunteering?

Our school thrives on the support of dedicated volunteers like you. Whether you have a few hours to spare or can commit to regular assistance, your contributions make a significant difference in enhancing our students' educational experience. We have various opportunities available, including classroom support, event organization, field trips, and extracurricular activities. If you want to know more about what is needed in order to volunteer see this [link](#). This is a good time of year to ensure that all necessary paperwork is completed and up-to-date. Criminal Record Checks are valid for 5 years and Child Abuse Register Checks are valid for 3 years. If you want to check if your paperwork is still valid or if it has expired, have any questions, or need assistance with completing the paperwork, please don't hesitate to contact us at the office; 902-464-2048 or Hawthorn@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.