

Hawthorn Elementary **NEWSLETTER**

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June 2025



Dear Families,

As we welcome June, we want to take a moment to thank you for your ongoing support throughout the school year. Our students have grown in so many ways, and that success is a reflection of the dedication of our staff and the partnership we share with you. Whether you've helped at home, attended events, or volunteered, your involvement has truly made a difference in our community. We're excited for the joyful events ahead! Look out for a mid-June newsletter with details about year-end activities, staffing, and September planning.

Warm regards,

Ms. Gourlay and Ms. Bambury

Upcoming Dates: [Hawthorn Calendar](#)

- June 2-Violin performance 11:30 am
- June 7-Spring Fair 10 am-12pm
- June 10-Volunteer Appreciation Social 8:30 Library & 9:15 am Assembly
- June 11-Grade 7 orientation at Bicentennial School (during school day)
- June 11-SAC meeting 6pm School Library
- June 11-HSA meeting meeting 7pm School Library
- June 19-School Pizza lunch hosted by HSA
- June 20-Field Day (raindate June 24)
- June 26-Grade 6 Closing 1:15pm

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- June 26-Last Day of EXCEL
 - June 27-Assesment & Evaluation Day-No School for Students
 - June 30-Last Day of School

Spring Fair this weekend- June 7, 2025

Get ready for a morning of fun and festivities! Our much-anticipated Spring Fair is finally here this weekend (rain or shine). Join us for games, delicious food and exciting activities for all ages. Bring your family and friends to celebrate the season and support our school community. Don't miss out on the fun!

Donations for gently used toys for prizes, juice boxes, individual bags of chips, and books are still being accepted in the office! If you would like to volunteer, please sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094CA8AB23A7F4C25-56533729-hawthorn>

Admission is \$1/person. Tickets can be purchased in advance through school cash or during the spring fair. Cash only: Admission, tickets, books, plant sale

HSA would also like to thank our sponsors Dartmouth Kiwanis and Lion's Club for making a donation to help with our inflatable costs.

Final Home and School Association Meeting – June 11

Mark your calendars! Join us for our final Home and School Association meeting on June 11. This is a fantastic opportunity to learn more about what the Home and School does and how you can get involved in our school community.

Thanks to your support this year, we were able to raise funds for essential items, including classroom supplies for teachers and specialists, bus transportation for field trips, books for each class from the book fair and Hackmatack Program, School Pizza Lunch and shelters for Track and Field Day.

Come share your ideas and help us continue making a positive impact. We look forward to seeing you there!

School Pizza Day – June 19

Exciting news! The Home and School Association is hosting a School Pizza Day on June 19. We need volunteers to help distribute delicious slices of pizza and juice boxes to the entire school.

Your commitment would be from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM. If you're able to lend a hand, please reach out to Lisa at lisas.power@gmail.com . It's a great way to support our students and have some fun! Thank you for considering helping out!

EXCEL STAFFING INFO

EXCEL is currently staffing for the Before- and After-School Program. These roles are a great fit for people with experience or interest in working with children, and include flexible hours, competitive pay, and the added benefit of free program access for the children of EXCEL staff while they are working. It is also an excellent opportunity for parents, university students, or others in the community who are looking for rewarding part-time work. For anyone interested in working with EXCEL, here is the link to the Team Form: [Working with EXCEL 2025-26](#)

SchoolsPlus supports for summer

Did you know? SchoolsPlus operates 12 months of the year! SchoolsPlus is a confidential, free service available to every school in Nova Scotia. Families and students (12+) can self-refer to SchoolsPlus by contacting the SchoolsPlus facilitator for your school: [Juliana Pontes jpontes@hrce.ca](mailto:jpontes@hrce.ca) Learn more [here](#).



Connect with us!

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.

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

Be tick aware

Sharing on behalf of Nova Scotia Public Health

In summer and fall, people spend time at Nova Scotia's many beautiful beaches, parks, and wooded areas. However, we need to be mindful of the presence of ticks and how we can protect ourselves. These small insects are found across Nova Scotia and can cause tick-borne diseases (TBDs), including Lyme disease and anaplasmosis.

Ticks like moist and humid environments and can be found in or near woods, shrubs, leaf litter, long grass, urban parks and gardens. They can be very small, which makes them hard to spot and their bites don't hurt, which makes it difficult to know when you've been bitten.

Visit <https://novascotia.ca/ticksafety> and learn:

- How to protect yourself - especially in grassy, wooded, or shrub-covered areas
- What to do if you find a tick on yourself/your child

Be Tick Aware



- The signs and symptoms of tick-borne illnesses

Tips to support reading and writing at home



As parents and caregivers, you play one of the most important roles in helping your child become a strong, confident reader and writer. What you do at home can make a big difference in your child's success in school and beyond. When reading and writing become part of family routines — like bedtime stories, writing notes to each other, or making shopping lists together — children see them as enjoyable and meaningful activities.

Here are some ideas and tips:

1. Create a dedicated writing space

Set up a quiet, well-lit area where your child can focus. Stock your writing center with essentials like paper, pencils, crayons, and even fun extras like family photos and old magazines to spark creativity.

2. Read often

Reading is one of the best ways to become a better writer. When children read a variety of books, they naturally absorb vocabulary, grammar, and different writing styles. Encourage daily reading to build their language skills and inspire their own writing.

3. Encourage reflective journaling

A journal is a great outlet for expressing thoughts and feelings. Prompt your child to write about everyday events at home and school. Suggest using sensory details — what they saw, heard, or felt. This helps develop descriptive writing. Provide real-life experiences that they can later write about. Remember, only read their journal if invited — and always respond with encouragement and thoughtful feedback.

4. Offer real-world writing opportunities

Help your child see writing as a practical skill. Let them write thank-you notes, grocery lists, birthday invitations or letters to family. Consider finding a pen pal to make writing feel more authentic and fun.

5. Be a writing role model

Let your child see you writing too! Whether it's a grocery list, an email or a note to a friend, show how writing fits into everyday life. Talk about the purpose of different types of writing and their audiences. Try having a "family writing night" where everyone writes and shares

together.

6. Start a vocabulary notebook

Introduce a few new words each week and encourage your child to use them in writing and conversation. Turn it into a game for using words creatively.

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 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.