



Hawthorn Elementary School

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Principal: Ms. Tina Waterhouse, Vice-Principal: Ms. Candice Bambury
Administrative Assistant: Ms. Ann Urquart

Dear Hawthorn families,

Re: Lockdown/Hold and Secure Drills

The safety and security of our students and staff are a top priority for Hawthorn Elementary and the Halifax Regional Centre. We implement a number of measures as part of a comprehensive plan aimed at ensuring our school remains a safe place for our students to learn.

Two of the safety procedures our school practises are the “lockdown” and “hold and secure” drills. During a lockdown drill our staff will lock classroom doors and secure students in a quiet, hidden area until notified by the principal and/or attending authorities. During a hold and secure drill, classroom doors are locked and students remain in their classes but teaching continues.

Students are isolated within the school when circumstances make it safer to stay in the classroom rather than evacuate. Just as we prepare our students to properly respond to a fire drill, they also need to be aware of the proper response during a lockdown drill or hold and secure drill. These drills should be treated with the same level of importance as fire drills. We are required to complete 2 lock down drills per year and one hold and secure drill. **Our first lock down drill will occur next week, the week of (September 15-19, 2025). We are aiming to do the lockdown drill with the support of our liaison RCMP officer.**

Our first hold and secure drill will be held the following week, the week of September 22 - 26, 2025.

Please take the time to speak with your child about these procedures and reinforce the importance. We practise these drills to ensure our school remains a safe place for teaching and learning. If you have concerns or questions please don't hesitate to phone us at the school.

Sincerely,

Tina Waterhouse-Campbell

Principal Hawthorn Elementary