

Hawthorn December Newsletter



Dear Hawthorn Elementary Families,

I hope this message finds you well. At Hawthorn Elementary, our focus remains on creating a safe, welcoming, and engaging environment where all students feel valued and ready to learn. Your partnership plays an essential role in making this possible, and we truly appreciate your continued support.

As we continue working together to support every child's success, I want to take a moment to emphasize the importance of consistent, on-time attendance. Arriving at school each day ready to learn when the bell rings helps students start their morning calmly, engage fully in classroom activities, and build routines that support both academic growth and emotional well-being.

We understand that mornings can be challenging, and we are here to help. If your family is experiencing barriers that make it difficult for your child to arrive on time, please reach out. The school can offer support in a variety of ways, including connecting with a trusted adult at school, helping problem-solve morning routines, or connecting families with community resources. Together, we can ensure every student has the opportunity to start their day successfully.

If you have questions, concerns, or would like assistance, please don't hesitate to contact us. We are here for you and your child.

Sincerely,

Tina Waterhouse-Campbell

Principal, Hawthorn Elementary School

Important dates to remember in December

December 2: Scholastic book fair students can browse only

December 2: Term one Report Cards will be distributed online by the end of the day

December 3: International Day of Persons with Disabilities

December 3: Home and School meeting 6pm-7pm (all are welcome)

December 4: Teacher Professional Practice Day AM/Parent teacher PM 1:30-3:30 and 5:00-7:00 (no classes - PP-6)

December 4: Scholastic book fair: 1:30-3:30 and 5:00-7:00 families can browse and shop

December 5: Scholastic book fair: Families and students may shop 9 am to 12 pm and 12:30 to 3:30 pm

December 5: Belonging Assembly for all students

December 10: **Winter Concert - A Snow Story** begins at 1:30 PM, with the Band opening the show.

December 11: **Winter Concert - A Snow Story** begins at 1:30 PM, with Strings opening the concert.

December 14: First day of Hanukkah

December 17: Shopping under the Stars

December 19: Last day of school for students before holiday break

December 22: Teacher Professional Practice Day (no classes - PP-12)

December 25: Christmas Day

December 26: Kwanzaa

✨ Shopping Under the Stars ✨

We're excited to announce our *Shopping Under the Stars* event happening on Wednesday December 17th! This special day gives students the chance to purchase gifts for their parents/guardians at just \$2 each—a wonderful way for them to experience the joy of giving.

To make this event possible, we are gratefully accepting donations of gently used or new items starting November 24th in the school office. Suggested donations include:

- Crafts – paint, brushes markers, adult colouring books, knitting yarn/needles
- Spa supplies – candles, bubble bath, face masks
- Cooking supplies – spatulas, mugs, cookbooks
- Board games and puzzles
- Books
- Cozy clothes – mittens, hats, scarves
- Small decorative pottery or glassware
- Costume Jewelry and small trinkets
- Gardening supplies – seeds, bulbs, trowels; gardening gloves
- Extra wrapping paper, tape and gift bags

Your generosity helps create a magical experience for our students and ensures every child can surprise their loved ones with thoughtful gifts. Thank you for supporting this event!

Save the dates – Hawthorn’s Scholastic Book Fair is back!

Hawthorn’s Scholastic Book Fair is coming! Discover hundreds of new, affordable, best-selling titles coming right to our school.

- Students will *browse* Tues Dec 2
- Families can browse and shop (non-instructional day) Thursday Dec 4, 1:30 to 3:30 pm and 5:00 to 7:00 pm
- Families and students may shop Friday Dec 5, 9 am to 12 pm and 12:30 to 3:30 pm

Every purchase supports our school library and helps keep kids reading. Thank you in advance for your support and see you at the Fair!

We accept cheques made payable to our school, cash, debit, and Visa, American Express and MasterCard.

Interested in giving an hour of your time as a volunteer, assisting during our browsing and shopping days? Have questions? Contact Deborah Copeman, Librarian, at dcopeman@hrce.ca or 902-464-2048

**SchoolsPlus is
here to support
you**



**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

**Schools
Écoles Plus**
NOVA SCOTIA / NOUVELLE-ÉCOSSE

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.

Parents, guardians and students (12+) can self-refer to SchoolsPlus 12 months a year! Just contact the SchoolsPlus Facilitator at your school.

Call 902-464-2000, ext. 2331 or email schoolsplus@hrce.ca.

Learn more about SchoolsPlus [here](#).

Resources for Parents from Unplugged Canada



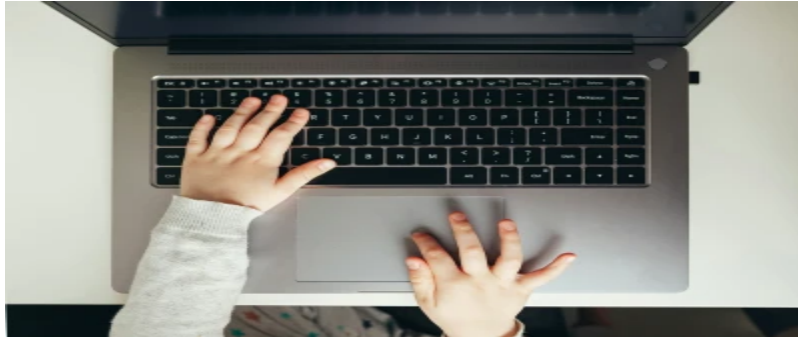
If you're concerned about your kids' screen time, smartphone use, or social media pressure, there are some wonderful resources below to help parents and caregivers navigate the challenges of raising kids in a digital world.

For parents: *The Anxious Generation* by Jonathan Haidt highlights the research and evidence behind how early smartphone and social media exposure have shaped a generation over the last 10–15 years. *Ten Rules for Raising Kids in a High-Tech World* by Jean Twenge offers practical, actionable guidance to help parents set healthy boundaries and support their kids' digital wellbeing.

For kids: *The Amazing Generation*, written for pre-teens and teens and co-authored by Jonathan Haidt, will be released on December 30. It explains the impact of today's digital environment in an engaging, age-appropriate way. All of these books are available at your local library or bookstore.

Unplugged Canada is a parent-led, national movement advocating for healthier childhoods by delaying smartphones and social media until kids are more developmentally ready. Join thousands of Canadian families choosing to delay by taking the Unplugged Canada Pledge at unpluggedcanada.com/sign-pledge.

New educational technology resource for families



We're excited to share a new online resource designed to help families understand how technology supports student learning in HRCE. This page provides an overview of how tools like Chromebooks and Google for Education are used in classrooms, what provincially approved online platforms students may access, and how student privacy is protected. You'll also find information about Nova Scotia's guidance on the provincial cell phone expectations, tips for supporting online safety and digital citizenship at home, and an introduction to how students are learning about artificial intelligence in a thoughtful and responsible way. It also includes answers to common questions about screen time, passwords, communication during the school day, and more.

You can find the webpage [here](#).

Planning for Inclement Weather



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 busses 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:

- Bussed students will be picked up two hours earlier than their regular dismissal time; and
- Walking 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 the HRCE website](#)
- [On Instagram](#)

It's important to always have a plan in place for childcare in the event of any cancellation. Please remember: As a parent or guardian you always have the choice of whether or not to send your child to school.

For more information on how HRCE manages during inclement weather, visit hrce.ca/families/cancellations.

We're ALWAYS hiring!



- Did you know that HRCE has more than 10,000 employees serving more than 60,000 students?
- Our job postings are updated every Wednesday at noon and feature a wide variety of career opportunities!
- As HRCE grows, so does our staff. Check out new opportunities weekly at www.myhrce.ca/jobs.