



Hawthorn Elementary October 2025 Newsletter

Message from the Principal

Dear Hawthorn Elementary Families,

We've had a fantastic start to the school year! Students are settling in well and becoming familiar with school and classroom routines.



First Assembly:

Recently, we held our first school-wide assembly focused on Truth and Reconciliation. The gym was a sea of orange as we came together to reflect on the importance of this day. Four of our Grade 6 students were speakers, sharing powerful messages and helping us all understand why we recognize this significant part of our history. Students from grade 6 Ryan and grade 2 Bambury/McLeod sang Blackbird in the Mi'kmaw language and the whole school sang the Honor Song.

We were also honoured to welcome Brittany Pennell, Regional Coordinator of Mi'kmaw Education & Services for HRCE. She shared the Mi'kmaw Gathering Song and played her drum, making the experience even more meaningful for our students and staff.

We look forward to a year of continued learning, growth, and community.

Homework:

Following the Thanksgiving long weekend, students at Hawthorn will be starting homework. Homework is intended to be extra practice to reinforce concepts learned at school. It is not meant to be used for student assessment, just practice. Classroom teachers will communicate with families the homework that will match the grade level and the developmental level of each child. Please support your child to establish a homework routine.

[NS Provincial Homework Policy](#)

Student Safety:

At Hawthorn, student safety is our top priority. We ask for your partnership in keeping our school grounds and building secure during instructional hours.

To help us maintain a safe environment, please follow these important guidelines:

- Use the front entrance only when entering or exiting the school during school hours.
- Check in at the front office upon arrival.
- If you are volunteering, please sign in with Ms. Urquhart (M-Th) or Ms. Dominy (F) and wear a visitor badge at all times.

We are deeply grateful for the strong sense of community our Hawthorn families have built. Your cooperation with these procedures helps us ensure a safe and consistent environment for all students. Thank you for your continued support.

Together in Education,

Tina Waterhouse-Campbell

Principal, Hawthorn Elementary



[Links to 2025-2026 Calendar](#)

Important dates to remember in October

- October is Mi'kmaq History Month
- October is Canadian Library Month
- Wed., Oct. 1: Treaty Day
- Thurs. October 2: Picture Day
- Week of October 6-10 Fire Drill #2
- Fri. Oct. 10: Grade 3 and Grade 3-4 Halifax Solid Waste Presentation about worms and soil
- Mon., Oct. 13: Thanksgiving - No classes PP-12
- Fri., Oct. 24: NSTU Conference Day - No classes PP-12



- Mon., Oct. 20: Diwali begins



- **Thurs. Oct. 23:** HSA Event-Halloween Howl Family Dance - 6:30-7:30pm (Doors open at 6:15pm)
- October 20-24: School Bus Safety Week

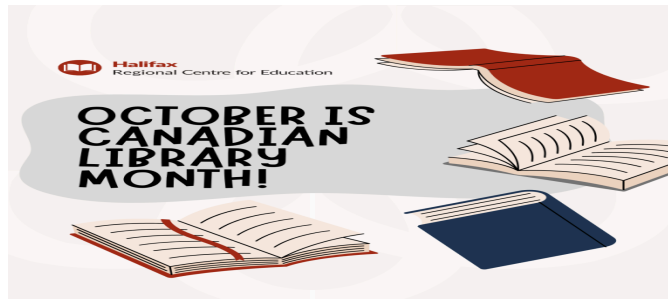
Grade 6 Provincial Assessment Dates Summary **(Please note the date changes from the original communication)**

October 6, Monday: - Grade 6 Assessment Literacy Day One- Morning

October 9, Thursday:- Grade 6 Assessment Literacy Day Two-Morning

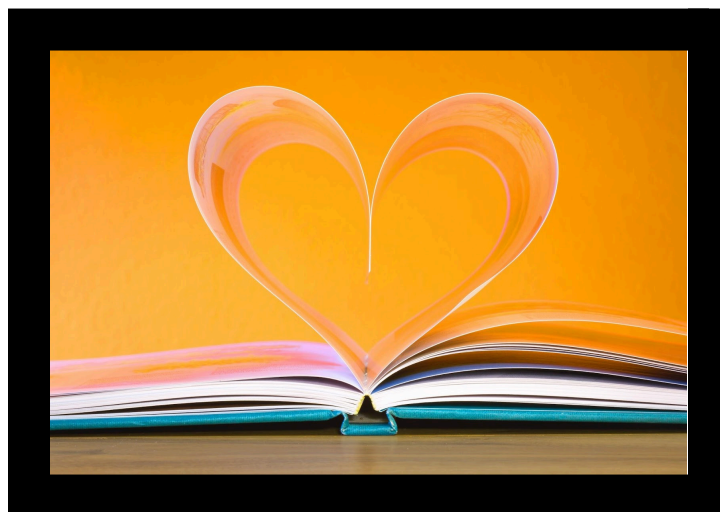
October 15, Wednesday: - Grade 6 Assessment Math Day One

October 16, Thursday: Grade 6 Assessment Math Day Two



October is Canadian Library Month, a time to celebrate our wonderful libraries and the Library Support Specialists who support our students. The third Friday of the month is Canadian Library Workers Day and the fourth Monday is Canadian School Library Day. Please join us in thanking our school library workers for all they do every day in creating safe and welcoming spaces, encouraging a love of reading and helping students succeed in school and beyond. **Learn more [here](#).**

Hawthorn is incredibly fortunate to have Ms. Copeman, whose passion for reading shines through in everything she does. She has created a library that is not only warm and welcoming, but also thoughtfully organized to reflect the diverse interests, backgrounds, and cultures of the Hawthorn student community. Her dedication ensures that every student can see themselves in the stories they read and feel inspired to explore new perspectives. She is dedicated to continuing to develop the library collection. Thank you, Ms. Copeman, we appreciate you!



O Canada in Schools



In September, the Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Development shared a new provincial policy about the playing of our national anthem in schools. You can read it [here](#).

In keeping with this policy, we play O Canada at the beginning of each school day in our school.

If you have any questions, please reach out to the school office.

Provincial Safe Schools Strategy



The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development works with Regional Centres for Education, school staff and many other partners to make sure Nova Scotia schools are places where students can focus on learning and staff can safely do their jobs.

Nova Scotia's safe school strategy ensures schools have policies, procedures and resources that support our commitment to safe and supportive schools.

For more information for families, please go [here](#).

Demographic Form Updates

On September 9, the Demographic Updates Form became available to families in the PowerSchool Parent Portal. This form should be updated by every family to ensure all information about your child is current, including contacts, medical information, consents and demographics. Even if there are no anticipated changes, please still review this information and submit the form. This information will then be reviewed by the school before updates are finalized. The deadline to submit the form is October 6, 2025.



SchoolCash Setup

SchoolCash Online is an easy-to-use and safe way to pay for your children's school fees. You can pay for your child's yearbook, class trips and so much more, quickly and conveniently. Simply register an account to be able to pay in several different payment forms. [Click here](#) for more information.

Communication



Building strong relationships between school and home is crucial for creating a supportive and effective learning environment. Understanding the communication plan can help ensure that all stakeholders—students, parents, and teachers—are on the same page and working together toward student success. Please see our communication plan below.

[School Communication Plan](#)

SAC Meetings for the School Year

We had our first SAC meeting on Sept 17th. We have the seats filled for parents and we are still looking for community members that are not parents of children at Hawthorn. Please reach out if you know of anyone who is interested.

The meeting dates are: Wednesdays Nov 5, 2025 , Jan 7, 2026, Mar 4, 2026 , Apr 8th 2026 , and June 10th 2026 all at 6pm

Home and School Meetings are Wednesdays

2025

October 8th, - 6pm

November 5th- 7pm

December 3rd- 6pm

2026

Jan. 7th- 7pm

Feb. 4th- 6pm

March 4th- 7pm

April 8th- 7pm

May 6th- 6pm

June 10th- 7pm

All families are welcome to these meetings.

The 2024-2025 Grade three assessment results were sent out to families this week. (Current grade fours)
Please contact Ms. Waterhouse directly if you did not receive the results.

TWaterhouse-Campbell@hrce.ca

If you have any questions about the results, please reach out to your child's classroom teacher.

