

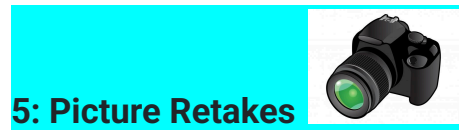
## Hawthorn Elementary November 2025 Newsletter



*Least We Forget*

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### Important dates to remember in November



#### 5: Picture Retakes

**5: Remembrance Youth Expo- Classes attending 1-2 A, 2 B/M, 3 W, 5/6 H and 6 R.**

**5: SAC 6pm and HSA 7 pm meeting**

**7: 1:15 Remembrance Day Assembly**

**8: Indigenous Veterans Day**

**11: Remembrance Day - no classes all schools**

**12: Kenny's Pizza kits sales close in school cash**

**20: Kenny's Pizza Kits to be picked up**

**21: Elem/Middle/Jr evaluation day - no classes elem/jr high only**

**25th - 10am - Primary Stulac & Primary Campbell to Alderney Theatre for Alice in Winterland**

### DECEMBER

**2 to 5: Scholastic Book Fair - table top fair in library**

**2: Report Cards sent home**

**3: HSA meetings 6pm**

**4: Teacher Professional Practice Day AM and PM 1:30-3:30pm and 5-7pm**

**Parent/Teacher Interviews**

**5: Belonging assembly, "Who are our students and our families?" 9:30 am**

**10: Winter Concert - A Snow Story (More information to come)**

**Wednesday Dec 10<sup>th</sup> -Afternoon concert 1:30 Band or String perform at one of the dates.**

**11: Winter Concert - A Snow Story (More information to come)**

**Thursday Dec 11<sup>th</sup> Regular Classes Afternoon Concerts 1:30 Band or Strings  
Start the concert**

**17: Shopping under the Stars**

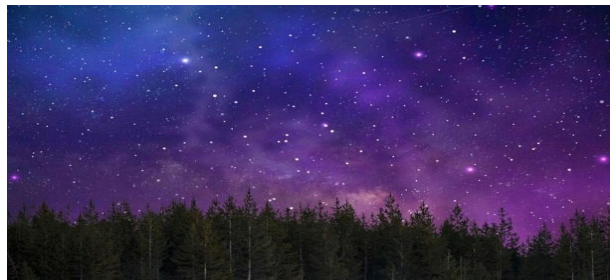
**19: Last day of school before holiday break**

**22: Teacher Professional Practice Day - no classes all schools**

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### **Home and School News:**

The Hawthorn Home and School Association is a volunteer, nonprofit organization of parents and school staff. Membership is open to any parent, guardian or staff member. The next meeting is November 5 at 7pm in the school library.



### **Shopping under the Stars!**

Get ready for our exciting upcoming event, "**Shopping Under the Stars**"! This is a wonderful opportunity for students to experience the joy of choosing and purchasing thoughtful gifts for 1 - 2 loved ones right here at school.

To make this event a success, we need your help! As you begin your **fall cleaning** and tidying, we ask that you save any high-quality items you no longer need that could make a lovely gift. We are looking for gently used or new items such as:

- **Scarves** and other accessories
- **Books** (adult and children's)
- Small decorative **pottery** or glassware
- **Candles** and soaps
- Jewelry and small trinkets
- Games

By donating, you'll be helping our students find the perfect, affordable gifts while teaching them about giving back. **Please set aside those items now!** More details on the donation drop-off schedule and the event date will be coming home soon. Thank you for your support!

### **Kenny's Pizza Kit Fundraiser**

**Purchase a pizza or garlic finger kit, and support Hawthorn Elementary!**

#### **Kenny's Pizza Kit Fundraiser**



**Purchase a pizza or garlic finger kit, and support Hawthorn Elementary!**

**Cost: \$13 each (\$5 from each kit goes directly back to our school)**

**Pick-up date: Thursday, November 20th, 3-5 pm at Hawthorn School**

**How to order: School cash- Orders are due by Wednesday, November 12th**

#### **Kit options:**

- **Pepperoni**
- **Cheese**
- **Garlic fingers**

**Kits can be frozen and then thawed later. If not frozen, keep kits refrigerated and use all ingredients within 48 hours.**

**For current and interested HSA Members**

We're excited to announce our upcoming **Pizza Fundraiser**, and we need your help to make it a success! This event is a fantastic opportunity to support our school while enjoying delicious pizza. We are calling on all parents to volunteer their time to pick up and distribute **Kenny's Pizza kits** on November 20th. If you are able to help out with this fundraiser please sign up at the following link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094CA8AB23A7F4C25-60103721-kennys>

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**Our passionate librarian, Ms. Copeland, is excited to announce the Hawthorn Book Fair!**

**17 July** **Dates:**

- **Tuesday, Dec. 2 – Friday, Dec. 5**

**Schedule:**

- **Tuesday, Dec. 2:** Classes browse the fair
- **Thursday, Dec. 4:** Family Book Fair open *afternoon and evening* during progress conference times
- **Friday, Dec. 5:** Open for student purchases

👋 **Volunteers Needed!**

**Ms. Copeland is looking for volunteers to help with:**

- **Thursday, Nov. 27 (morning): Move boxes upstairs**
- **Monday, Dec. 1: Set up the fair**

If you're able to help, please contact Ms. Copeland at [DCopeman@hrce.ca](mailto:DCopeman@hrce.ca).

Let's make this year's Book Fair a great success—thank you for your support!

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## **November 8 is Indigenous Veterans Day**



Indigenous Veterans Day is an important occasion to honour the sacrifices and contributions of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples who have served in the Canadian Armed Forces. Recognizing this day in schools is especially significant, as it provides students with the opportunity to learn about the often-overlooked histories and experiences of Indigenous veterans. By commemorating Indigenous Veterans Day in our schools, we ensure that younger generations understand the vital role Indigenous peoples have played in defending Canada, while also promoting respect, reconciliation, and a more inclusive

understanding of Canadian history. This recognition helps strengthen empathy, respect for diversity and a greater appreciation for the many ways in which Indigenous peoples have shaped our country.

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## November 11 is Remembrance Day

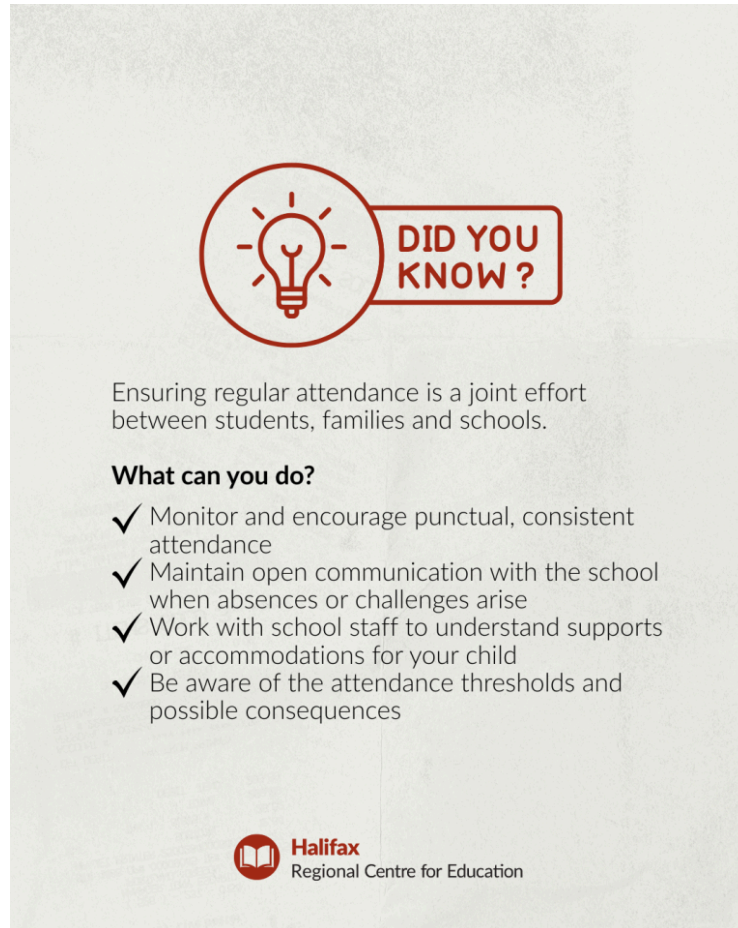


Remembrance Day holds an important place in our schools as it provides a meaningful opportunity for our students to learn about the sacrifices made by veterans and all those who have served in times of conflict. Through ceremonies, discussions and creative projects, we demonstrate respect and gratitude for the freedoms Canadians enjoy. Observing Remembrance Day also helps students connect with Canada's history and reinforces the values of peace, tolerance and community responsibility.

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# Learning more about the Student Attendance and Engagement Policy



Did you know? [The Student Attendance and Engagement Policy](#) guides our approach to attendance and is in place to support all students.

The policy states that regular, punctual attendance supports academic success, responsibility, and preparation for the future.

Ensuring regular attendance is a joint effort between students, families and schools. As a parent/guardian, you play an important role by monitoring attendance, communicating with the school when your child is absent, and supporting your

child's regular attendance.

### What Should You Know?

- Communication about absences
  - Schools will monitor attendance and lateness.
  - All absences must be communicated to the school, following the school's procedure.
  - If absenteeism or lateness reaches 10% of class time, the school will begin to engage more actively with the student and family.
  - If it goes beyond 15%, more targeted supports may be used (counselling, referrals, community supports).
- High school credit requirement
  - For Grades 10–12, students must attend at least 80% of class time to earn the credit.
  - If more than 20% of class time is missed, and efforts to improve attendance haven't succeeded, the teacher may recommend "loss of credit." The principal makes the final decision.

### What Can You Do?

- Monitor and encourage punctual, consistent attendance
- Maintain open communication with the school when absences or challenges arise
- Work with school staff to understand supports or accommodations for your child
- Be aware of the thresholds (10%, 15%) and possible consequences (intervention, loss of credit in high school)



- Remember: the policy allows flexibility. If your child has a legitimate reason for missing school (health, family issue, etc.), schools are encouraged to take a supportive approach.
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## **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](https://hrce.ca/families/cancellations).

## **AI and your child's learning**

# ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) AND YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING

A QUICK GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND  
GUARDIANS IN HRCE



## WHAT IS AI?

Artificial Intelligence (AI) means computers that can learn from information and find patterns to help make decisions. AI doesn't think or feel like people—it uses data to make connections that led to informed responses.

## HOW IS AI USED IN SCHOOLS?

- Teachers choose if and how AI is used in the classroom.
- Some lessons may include AI tools for learning or creativity.
- Students learn how to use technology safely and responsibly.



## HOW AI CAN HELP LEARNING?

AI can:

- Give students quick feedback.
- Help with idea generation when a child is stuck.
- Adjust lessons to fit different learning needs.
- Change reading levels of text so it is more easily accessible.



**Remember, teachers will always tell students when they can or cannot use AI for school work.**

## AI PRIVACY AND SAFETY TIPS:

- Never share personal info with AI tools.
- Only use apps approved by your school or regional centre.
- Look closely at the age restrictions of AI tools.
- Talk with your child about what's real, what's private, and what's fair online.



## AT HOME YOU CAN HELP BY:

- Setting screen time limits and tech-free times.
- Talking about what your child does online.
- Reminding your child to check if AI answers make sense.
- Asking teachers about the AI usage guidelines.
- Reviewing classroom/school academic integrity guidelines.



## WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Scan the QR code for a list of approved learning tools and information about technology in education.



**Halifax**

Regional Centre for Education

HRCE teachers and staff are introducing students to artificial intelligence (AI) in safe and meaningful ways that build awareness, creativity, and critical thinking. Together, we can help our learners understand how to use AI responsibly and confidently in their education and everyday lives. This informational sheet provides you with starting points for conversations about AI and learning.

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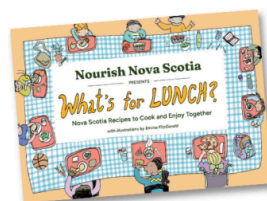
## Hungry for something fun? Check out the Nova Scotia school lunch cookbook!



### **Cook up your favourite school meals at home**

**with Nourish Nova Scotia's new cookbook!**

Within its pages, you'll find easy recipes, meet inspiring lunch heroes, explore local ingredients, and enjoy bite-sized food facts.



Get your copy of  
*What's for Lunch?* here:



[nourishns.ca/ns-school-lunch-cookbook](http://nourishns.ca/ns-school-lunch-cookbook)

All proceeds from the sale of this cookbook will support food programs in Nova Scotia schools.

**Nourish**  
Nova Scotia

**NOVA SCOTIA**

Hungry for something fun? Get cooking with the new cookbook *What's for Lunch?* Nova Scotia Recipes to Cook and Enjoy Together, a joyful collection of most-loved recipes from school food programs.

Proceeds from the sale of this book go directly to supporting school healthy eating programs in Nova Scotia, such as breakfast and snack, cooking clubs and school gardens. Learn more and order yours [here](#).

Whether you're a new cook, a young chef, or a family learning together in the kitchen, What's for Lunch? invites you to bake up a handmade pizza, create a picnic plate, make a big batch of breakfast sandwiches, or stir up some butter chicken! Each easy-to-follow recipe comes with tasty ideas for toppings, sides, and simple swaps to make it just right for you and your family.

Within its pages, you will meet some of the inspiring folks behind Nova Scotia's made-from-scratch school lunches, explore where local food ingredients come from, and discover bite-sized fun facts to spark curiosity. Colourful illustrations by students at Oxford School in Halifax and beloved local illustrator Emma FitzGerald bring it all to life!