



Hawthorn Elementary School Newsletter

September 2020

Hawthorne Street • Dartmouth, NS • B2Y 2Y3

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Dear Hawthorn Families,

We have had a great first week of school and working together great things will continue to happen. Thank you for your patience as we all get used to the new routines. As we have seen throughout this pandemic, things continue to change and we appreciate your flexibility. Thank you to the Home and School Association for their expression of kindness.

Back to School Plan

Here are a few things we need families to be diligent about: Daily monitoring for symptoms is important to identify any potential cases of COVID-19 as quickly as possible. The latest version of Nova Scotia's COVID-19 Daily Checklist is **located here** [Daily COVID-19 Checklist](#) and can be found on the school website. This tool should be used by families before sending their children to school. Individuals need to stay home when they are ill, even if their symptoms are mild. Anyone who is unsure whether they or their child should self-isolate is to contact 811. All staff will self-monitor daily for symptoms of COVID-19 at home using the checklist. Staff must follow the directions as described on the tool. Individuals who develop symptoms consistent with possible COVID-19 infection cannot stay at school, even if the symptoms are mild. Families will be notified and students who become symptomatic will isolate while awaiting pick-up. Please have a plan in place in case we need you to pick up your child from school.

Students will be in a cohort with their classmates and interaction with other students in the building will be limited. We will be following the rule of “stuff to students”. This means that instead of students going to get something (ex. Band-Aid, birthday pencil, something dropped off for a student) we will deliver the item to the student. We will be making every effort to minimize student movement through the school.

All staff and students in grades 4-12 are required to wear a mask when the 6-foot social distancing protocol cannot be met. The expectation for grade 3 students who are in a $\frac{3}{4}$ combined class is for them to also wear a mask. All students in the school have been given 2 cloth reusable masks. We will also have disposable masks on hand if your child forgets or loses their mask. No masks are required outside.

Morning Drop Off and After School Dismissal: In an effort to have students come into the building in a staggered manner, P-6 students will be permitted to come into the building between 8:40 and 9:00 am. Students will enter through their designated classroom door. If a student arrives after 9:00 am, they will ring the doorbell at the main office doors for entry, stop by to see Ms. Urquhart and continue on to their classroom. Students will be dismissed in a staggered manner to avoid large groups of children waiting at the door to be dismissed. If you have more than one child to pick up please select a meeting spot off school property so that we can maintain social distancing. Please be mindful that teachers are trying to maintain their social distance during dismissal as well.

Recess and Lunch

Students will be going outside for recess with their class cohort between 10:30-11:00 am. The playground is divided into five zones. Students will play with classmates in their class cohort. We will be rotating the use of the zones on the playground daily. Lunch time will run from 12:00-1:00 pm. Students in grades P-2 will go outside to play from 12:00-12:30 then return inside to eat their lunch from 12:30-1:00 pm. Students in grades 3-6 will eat their lunch from 12-12:30 and go outside from 12:30-1:00 pm. We will be outside in various types of weather, so please dress your child to be comfortable for the weather outside.

Hand sanitizing is important for everyone entering the school. Hands should be washed with soap and water for 20 seconds or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer should be used. Practicing hand hygiene (washing or sanitizing hands) will include but not be limited to the following:

Before: Entering the school/classroom. Eating/drinking/handling food. Outdoor activities.

After: Sneezing. Coughing. Blowing your nose. Outdoor activities.

Eating/drinking/handling

food. Cleaning. All staff and students will get a squirt when entering the building!

Visitors to the school please always ring the doorbell upon arrival. This will not change.

However, instead of being “buzzed in”, Ms. Urquhart will answer through the intercom and ask how she can help you. Access to the building is limited to staff, including regional centre staff and operations. We would be happy to deliver a forgotten recess snack or lunch bag to your child. We will meet you at the door and retrieve the item. If picking your child up early, we ask that you ring the doorbell and let Ms. Urquhart know you have arrived at the school and we will then page your child and have them meet you outside.

No Bells Will be Ringing! We have turned off the bells! Bells signal action and movement! With our staggered schedule for morning entry, recess, lunch and dismissal there will be no need for our bells.

Reminders

Please send your child with a change of clothes in case of a spill and label all of your child's belongings as there will be no lost and found location to accumulate items. We are a nut/peanut aware school. Please don't send items that contain nut/peanut ingredients. If you are sending "wow butter" please label it to prevent any confusion. We are also a scent aware school, please do not send scented products as we have a number of students with asthma and allergies. We need help to keep everyone safe.

Hawthorn Library update

Access to school library collections is important to students for free choice and enjoyment of reading. This school year, library time will be different but rest assured it will continue! We are following the rule of "stuff and staff to students". Classes will not visit the library (now a grade six classroom) in groups; library staff will come to each classroom and will provide a selection of books for student choice. Students will sanitize hands before and after handling library books. Book covers will also be wiped down.

Students in grade primary to six will continue to be able to sign out books for home use, likely for a longer loan period. Pre-Primary students will enjoy a selection of library books in their classroom. We are working out the logistics of this new way of doing things and anticipate starting student library services the week of September 21. Older students will be taught how to log in to the online library catalogue, search for and request books to borrow prior to their scheduled library time. (In October, ask your child in grades 3, 4, 5, or 6 to show you this at home! :-)

Thank you for your patience and support! Please contact Library Support Specialist Ms. Copeman with any questions -- dcopeman@hrce.ca

The first **School Advisory Committee (SAC)** virtual meeting will be on Monday, October 5 at 7:00pm. This committee [advises on education](#) policy decisions as they apply to our school, [region and province](#). [The regional and school student success plans](#) cover three areas; math, literacy and wellbeing.

Our meetings are generally 30 minutes and we have six (6) meetings planned this school year (if needed we will add more to accomplish the goals set for the SAC [as directed by Education and Early Childhood Development and the Regional Centre for Education](#)).

If you are interested in learning more about or participating on this committee, we would love to have you! Please contact Alexis Carter Malloch (calexiscarter@gmail.com) for more information.

Hawthorn Home & School Association (HSA) is a volunteer, non-profit organization of parents and school staff. **Membership is free and open to any interested parent/guardian or staff member.**

Our Mandate

“Hawthorn Home and School Association embraces a balanced approach to enhancing our children’s school experience by raising funds for initiatives in the arts, health and fitness, citizenship, the environment, and technology, in addition to core funding to the school library and teacher support.”

As outlined in our mandate, a primary activity of the HSA is to raise funds for extra programming such as special performances, support for school clubs, pizza lunches and extracurricular events like the Ice Cream Social, Movie Nights and the Spring Fair. In addition to this, we supply teacher support (including playground equipment, field trips and classroom funding). This year will certainly look different from any previous one and it is definitely time for us to get creative in our activities and fundraising. Our students and staff will need our support now more than ever and we need yours.

Upcoming Home & School Scheduled Zoom Meetings:

Monday October 5th, 2020 at 8pm
Monday November 2nd, 2020 at 8pm
Monday December 7th, 2020 at 8pm

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Please contact Bryony at hawthornschoollhsa@gmail.com if you would like to be involved or have a fundraising initiative. We look forward to seeing you!

HAWTHORN HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Executive for 2020-2021

President: Bryony McStay Fost

Secretary: Rachel Blair-Johns

Treasurer: Joseph Malloch

Email: hawthornschoollhsa@gmail.com