



Hawthorn Elementary School Newsletter

December 2020

Important Dates:

- Tuesday December 1, Report Cards go home
- December 3, PD in morning, Parent-teacher meetings in PM (no classes)
- Monday December 7, SAC meeting @ 7pm, HSA meeting @ 8pm
- Tuesday December 22, Last day before Christmas Break
- Monday January 4, School re-opens

We ask that families continue to use the Daily Covid screening tool [Daily COVID-19 Checklist](#)

Parent Teacher Conferences

Report cards will be emailed on December 1, and you will require your child's birthdate to access the report.

Parent/Teacher conferences will be taking place Thursday, December 3 from 1:00 – 6:00. All interviews will be conducted virtually via [telephone](#) or [google meet](#). Teachers will be in contact to arrange a time and meeting plan.

Students will not be in attendance on December 3 (teacher professional development in the morning and conferences in the afternoon).

Parents/guardians can join a google meet meeting from any email address, it does not need to be from a Gmail account. Parents/ guardians need to know that if they choose the dial in option for a Google Meet there will be long distance charges as all calls are routed through the US.

Masks and Buffs

We have noticed a few students arriving at school wearing a buff instead of a mask. At this stage, a buff is not something that is acceptable to use as a mask.

Breakfast Program

We want to thank Ms. Gillespie for her leadership in organizing and getting our Breakfast program up and running for this school year.

4-Squares

Thank you to our Home and School Association for sprucing up our 4-Squares and adding stencils to our school grounds.

School/Bus Cancellations and Delayed Openings

The Halifax Regional Centre for Education takes great care when making the decision to cancel schools and/or buses, or delay the opening of school, in the event of severe or inclement weather. When these situations occur, the information is posted on the HRCE's website at www.hrce.ca , on Twitter at www.twitter.com/HRCE_NS , recorded at 902-464-INFO (4636) and communicated to local radio stations. Families can also subscribe to receive notice of cancellations and delayed openings by e-mail or text message by following the link on the front page (left side) of the HRCE website.

If weather conditions warrant, the HRCE could implement a delayed opening. Delayed openings would be considered when a weather event has concluded but snow clearing or other operations require additional time. Delayed opening may also be considered when the physical plant is experiencing an issue such as a power outage or loss of water and additional time is required to prepare the school to open. If this was to occur, school and Pre-Primary would be delayed by two hours. In our school, this means school would start at 11:00. Pre-Primary would start at 11:00. Our lunch and dismissal times will remain at their regularly scheduled times. The EXCEL program will be cancelled for the morning only.

The weather in Nova Scotia is unpredictable so it's always a good idea for families to have a back-up plan for child care when school is cancelled. To learn more about the process on how decisions regarding closures and cancellations are made, visit: <https://www.hrce.ca/about-our-schools/parents/inclement-weather> .

School Advisory Council (SAC):

The SAC discusses and decides on policies and is made up of parents, community members and staff members from the school. We allocate funds to support math, literacy and wellbeing.

The SAC is a volunteer organization that receives their authority from the Nova Scotia Education Act. We provide a voice to influence decisions that impact student learning and provide principals and regional centres for education with advice that reflects the best interests of students.

We are currently in need of one (1) community member for this committee. This is a great way for grandparents, former Hawthorn parents or any community member to be

involved with important discussions that affect our students, school and community. Adding a voice to this committee is an easy and effective way to contribute in a meaningful way to our students' community.

Our next meeting will be held virtually on Monday December 7, 2020 at 7:00pm via Google Meet. For a link to the meeting, please let us know and we are happy to send it to you. If you are interested in learning more, please do not hesitate to reach out to the Chair, Alexis Carter Malloch (hrce-sac-haw@gnspec.ca). The SAC Handbook is also available on the school website under "Our School", "School Advisory Council".

Hawthorn Home & School Association (HSA):

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. Upcoming Home & School Scheduled Zoom Meetings: Monday December 7th, 2020 at 8pm & Monday January 12th, 2020 at 7pm.

[ALL ARE WELCOME!](#)

HSA Events & Updates:

Pumpkin Carving Contest: Our Pumpkin Carving Contest was a great success and we saw some amazing pumpkins! Thanks to all those children that participated and to our amazing judges for narrowing it down. A thanks also goes out to the HSA volunteers that made this possible, especially Rachel Blair-Johns who made this one happen.



Diversity Book Drive: Thanks to the community members who supported this initiative and really helped our school library! We managed to get a start on stocking our library with some amazing books. Thanks also to Ms Deborah Copeman for all her hard work and effort to get our children the best library experience possible. We appreciate everything she does, please support her again by buying your holiday books through the scholastics book fair!

Just Us Coffee Fundraiser: Our Just Us online ordering ends Monday November 30th. It has never been this easy! (Thanks Andrew! :) Once the ordering process is closed, you will receive a sign up via email for a scheduled curbside contactless pickup. Pick up will be at a private residence near the school, this way we can follow all the pandemic protocols, keeping everyone safe! If you have multiple orders to pick up, we will package them for you separately but in the same box for pick up in the same time slot. Thanks for supporting Nova Scotia business and your school.

Home and School Website - update Our website should be up and running in the New Year. In the meantime, we are still posting everything on our Facebook page **Hawthorn Home and School Association** (<https://www.facebook.com/Hawthorn-Home-and-School-Association-207936592613211/>) and will still be sending out updates through the schools email system.

December Holiday Events:

We are hoping to do both a Food Drive and a Drawing/Colouring Contest for the Holidays. More details on these events will be available next week!

HSA 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.”

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!

HSA Executive for 2020-2021:

President: Bryony McStay Fost

Secretary: Rachel Blair-Johns

Treasurer: Joseph Malloch

Email: hawthornschoollhsa@gmail.com