**Hawthorn Elementary School Newsletter**

**October 2021**

10 Hawthorne Street ● Dartmouth, NS ● B2Y 2Y3

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We, students and staff members are starting to follow routines and we appreciate the positive feedback and your willingness to work with us.

**Important Dates**

● Monday October 4, Virtual SAC @ 6 and HSA @ 7

● Monday October 11, Thanksgiving Holiday (no classes).

● Tuesday October 19, Picture Day

● Friday October 22, Conference Day (no classes).

● Thursday October 28, Picture Retakes.

**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** [covid daily checklist](https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/docs/Daily-COVID-checklist-en.pdf) 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. 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.

 *All staff and students in grades Pre-primary to 12 are required to wear a mask on buses and inside the school.*

**Morning Drop Off and After School Dismissal**

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 from 8:40-8:50. If a student arrives after 8:50 am, they will ring the doorbell at the main office doors for entry.  If they arrive after 9am they will also need to stop by to see Ms. Urquhart, and then continue on to their classroom.

**Dogs on the school grounds**

We have had several concerns from the school community in regards to dogs on the school grounds. We are reminding families NOT to bring dogs onto school property. We realize that combining a dog walk with your child's trip to and from school is convenient and environmentally responsible.  Although these pets are usually playful and harmless, the presence of dogs on the school grounds represents a potential health and safety issue for several reasons.

* their presence strikes fear in some children
* a number of children have allergies
* we have no way to monitor any individual dog's training or behaviour and even the tamest pet may react unexpectedly when surrounded by curious children or when inadvertently startled

Hawthorn Elementary thanks you for helping us to maintain a safe environment by not bringing your dog onto school property.  As a suggestion, you could make arrangements with your child(ren) to meet you on the sidewalk if you are walking the dog to and from the school.

Thank you for your cooperation.

**Recess and Lunch**

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**

This 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**

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, please call ahead. When you arrive please ring the doorbell to let Ms. Urquhart know that you have arrived at the school and we will then page your child and have them meet you outside.

**Reminders**

Please send a change of clothes with your child 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.

**Safe Arrival**

If your child will not be attending school or will be late, we request that you call the school at 902 464-2048 and leave a message. If you have not called, you will receive a phone call home. Please ensure we have the up-to-date telephone numbers on record. If your child is late, please remind them to go to the office to see the secretary **before** going to class.

**Registration Forms**

Registration forms for the 2021-2022 school year and the lunch program are needed a.s.a.p.  Please complete and return to your child’s teacher as soon as possible.

**School Advisory Council (SAC):**

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The next School Advisory Council (SAC) meeting will be on October 4, 2021, at 6 pm via Zoom.

The SAC is a welcome place for any concerns that you may have regarding the school environment or curriculum. If you have any problems you would like to have addressed; please contact the SAC chair or the principal to address your concerns at the next meeting.

Comprised of parents, community members and school staff members, the SAC discusses and decides on policies. We allocate funds to support math, literacy and wellbeing. The SAC is a volunteer organization that receives its 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 need community members 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 meaningfully to our students’ community. Our meetings are generally 30 minutes. Please let us know if you would like a link to the meeting. Additionally, if you are interested in learning more, please do not hesitate to reach out to the Chair, Alexis Carter Malloch SAC, by email,  SAC email. The SAC Handbook is also available on the school website under “Our School” / “School Advisory Council.”

**Home and School Association**

The Home and 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.

We are currently looking for a president to guide our organization in extracurricular activities for students, provide support to staff and lead fundraising initiatives.

The Home and School will meet virtually on Monday October 4, at 7pm the link is

[Join with Google Meet](https://meet.google.com/zut-swmw-tqo?authuser=0&hs=122)

meet.google.com/zut-swmw-tqo

Join by phone

You may need to use your child’s gnspes login, if you do not have your own gnspes email account or email dwilliamshart@hrce.ca to request an invite to the meeting.

**Head Lice**

If your child has been in contact with someone who has lice, you need to check your child’s head carefully to see if they have caught lice. Head lice spread easily, so if one person in the household has lice, others may have it too. Check everyone in the household on the same day.

For further information on Head Lice and other communicable illnesses please go to https://811.novascotia.ca/health\_topics/lice/ or our website.

**Nourish Your Roots**

The Nourish Your Roots online store is now Open!

Encourage customers to go online early to order their boxes especially if they want one in time for Thanksgiving, quantities are limited. Orders must be placed through the [online store.](http://shop.nourishns.ca)

Boxes sell for $35. Schools receive $10 per box minus any delivery and online store charges.

Pick-up at Noggins Corner, Alderney Landing, 40 Alderney Dr, Dartmouth.

**Thank you!**

Ms. Williams Hart is moving to a new position as a Facilitator for African Canadian Education Services with the Halifax Regional Centre for Education.  She wishes to thank the Hawthorn School community for their support and encouragement over the past 4 years.  We want to welcome Mrs. Anne Gourlay to Hawthorn Elementary as the new principal and wish her all the best.