

Hawthorn Elementary

NEWSLETTER

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November 2021



Dear Families,

We have had a productive few months and students are engaged daily. During Mi'kmaq History month students have been learning about Mi'kmaq ways. We had our Bus Evacuations and practiced a fire drill this month. Grade 6 students completed their Provincial Assessments. Families collected their Nourish Your Roots food boxes just in time for Thanksgiving and students smiled for picture day. Looking ahead, we are planning for our virtual Remembrance Day Assembly, Report Cards, and Parent Teacher conferences. Recently, we have been sharing more on Twitter (@HawthornElem), so have a look to see our learning in action. We ask that families continue to use the Daily Covid screening tool DailyCOVID-19 Checklist which can be found on our Hawthorn website, and to remember to send your child with a mask (and maybe an extra in their backpack) every day.

Sincerely,

Ms. Gourlay and Ms. Gillespie

Parent Teacher Conferences

Parent Teacher Conferences are scheduled for Thursday, November 25th. There is no school for students that day. The morning is a professional development day for staff and Parent-Teacher meetings will take place in the afternoon and evening. This year they will be held virtually, via Zoom, Google Meet, or a phone call. Teachers will contact families as they arrange appointment times.

Morning Arrival

A reminder that Primary-6 students can come into the building between 8:40 and 9:00 am. Students will enter through their designated classroom door from 8:40-8:50. After 8:50 am students will need to ring the doorbell at the main office doors for entry as the other designated doors will be locked. If students arrive after 9am they will also need to stop by to see Ms. Urquhart, and then continue on to their classroom.

Visitors

At this time, access to the building is limited to staff, including regional center staff and operations. As always, please ring the doorbell upon arrival and Ms. Urquhart will answer through the intercom and ask how she can help you. 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. Thank you for your cooperation.

Medication

The Halifax Regional Centre for Education policy states that all prescription medication (puffers included) taken at school must be accompanied by a form filled out by parents. Parents are required to update these each school year. We are not permitted to administer over the counter medications unless prescribed by a doctor so we cannot give students such things as Tylenol for example. Also, please notify us of severe allergies as under HRCE policy, all students must carry their EPI pen on them at all times. All medications taken at school must be sent in the original containers. If you have any further questions, give the office a call.

Remembrance Day

This year our in school Remembrance Day Assembly will be done virtually with the students in their own classrooms. Each classroom will be doing activities to honor our veterans. We are asking any interested military and first responders to send in a photo by email to our Principal at agourlay@gnspecs.ca Please include the following information with your photo: Name and title as you would like to have it presented and relationship to the student at Hawthorn. If you would like to participate, please do so by Monday, November 1st.



Christmas Assistance Registration

Please see the information below and you can contact Laura McAvoy, our Community Outreach Worker, Schools Plus LMcAvoy@hrce.ca If you have any questions.



School Advisory Council (SAC)

The next School Advisory Council (SAC) meeting will be on November 1, 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 : hrce-sac-haw@gnspec.ca. The SAC Handbook is also available on the school website under "Our School" / "School Advisory Council."

Home and School Association (HSA)

Home and School Associating 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 Virtual Home and School Association Meetings: Monday, November 1st at 7pm & December 6th at 7pm. All are welcome!

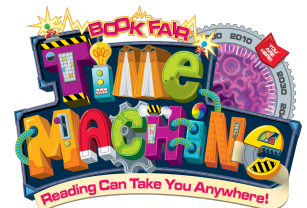
Also, the Halloween Pumpkin Carving Contest is still ongoing until November 10th. Please see the attachment for all of the Spooky info on the contest. Ghoul it your best effort and you could win a prize!

Plans for Inclement Weather

The Halifax Regional Centre for Education takes great care when making the decision to alter the normal operations of schools in the event of severe or inclement weather. Decisions on school closures and/or bus cancellations are posted on the board's website at www.hrce.ns.ca, on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/HRCE_Official](https://twitter.com/HRCE_Official), recorded on 464- INFO (4636) and communicated to all local radio stations. You can also receive notice of school bus cancellations by e-mail or text message by following the link on the front page (left side) of the HRCE website. If you are interested in learning more on how decisions regarding closures and cancellations are made, visit <https://www.hrce.ca/about-our-schools/parents/inclement-weather>

Scholastic Book Fair: November 29th-December 6th

This year, our Book Fair will be in person for Staff and Students and online for Families. As students go to their library for their regular scheduled library time, they will have an opportunity to browse the books and make purchase.



Students and staff -- visit our Book Fair IN PERSON!!! Book Fair is back ! -- in person for students and staff only -- in our Hawthorn Library Nov 29 to Dec 3. In-person purchases will be possible; details to come.

Families -- visit our Book Fair ONLINE this year! Hawthorn's Scholastic Book Fair is an opportunity for families to purchase the latest and greatest in affordable children's books while also helping build our school library -- as a portion of sales directly benefits our school. New this year : NO shipping charges, as all online orders are shipped to our school. (Predicted arrival date : Dec 17)

<https://virtualbookfairs.scholastic.ca/pages/5167903>

Have questions or need assistance? Contact Deborah Copeman, Librarian, at dcopeman@hrce.ca or 902-464-2048

Book Donations

Cleaning out your bookshelves? Hawthorn Library welcomes donations. We welcome donations of gently used picture books, first chapter books, and novels. We are also seeking donations of these children's magazines: *National Geographic Kids*, *OWL*, *Chickadee*, *Chirp* and *Kayak* (from canadashistory.ca). Thank you!

Dates to Remember:

- November 1st- Virtual School Advisory Council Meeting @ 6pm
- November 1st- Virtual Home and School Association Meeting @ 7pm
- November 10th- Virtual Remembrance Day Assembly
- November 11th -Remembrance Day Holiday-No School
- November 19th -Assessment and Evaluation Day-No School for Students
- November 24th- Report Cards sent home
- November 25th- PD in AM/Parent Teacher Interviews in PM-No School for Students