

Hawthorn Elementary

NEWSLETTER

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December 2021



Dear Families,

As we head into December, we are now in Term 2 of the school year. This past month we had our virtual Remembrance Day assembly and we ended Term 1 with our first set of report cards and Parent-Teacher conferences. Mr. Foot started lunch time intramurals for our Grades 4-6 and Ms. Copeman continues to have Hackmatack Lunch Bunch each week. We ask that families continue to use the Daily Covid screening tool Daily COVID-19 Checklist. Hawthorn staff wishes you all a safe and happy holiday season. The new-year will bring new learning experiences, new challenges, and new fun. We look forward to what lies ahead for us as a school community in 2022. We wish the best to Ms. Gillespie as she begins retirement and we welcome Ms. Dunn to the school in the new year. Thank you for your ongoing support in your child's learning.

Sincerely,

Ms. Gourlay and Ms. Gillespie

Clothing and Winter Attire

With the cold weather upon us, we would like to remind families and students of the importance of dressing appropriately for the weather including hats, mittens, and snowpants (extra mitts are always a good idea too in the event of mittens getting lost or wet). As the weather changes we ask that all students pack a change of clothes in the event that their clothing gets wet or dirty/muddy while going outside during recess or lunch.

Parking at School

A reminder to follow street signage for parking around the school. Please also keep in mind that we do have a bus that drops off students in the morning and picks up students in the afternoon. For the safety of those students we ask that there is room for the bus to pull up at the curb in front of the school and so we do not block the flow of traffic along Hawthorne Street. Thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation.

Schools Plus information Christmas Assistance Registration

Please see the information below for Christmas Assistance Registration. Schools Plus is also sharing the following website about Housing Clinics in HRM

<https://www.ahans.ca/blog/2021/11/5/housing-clinics-in-the-hrm>

If you have any questions, you can contact Laura McAvoy, our Community Outreach Worker, Schools Plus via email: LMcAvoy@hrce.ca



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 continued cooperation.

School Advisory Council (SAC)

The next School Advisory Council (SAC) meeting will be on December 6th, at 6 pm via Zoom.

The SAC is a welcome place for any concerns that you may have regarding the school environment or curriculum. The SAC is a volunteer organization that receives its authority from the Nova Scotia Education Act. Comprised of parents, community members and school staff members, the SAC discusses and decides on policies. 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 add their voice and be involved. Our meetings are generally 30 minutes. The SAC Handbook is also available on the school website under “Our School” / “School Advisory Council”. 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@gnspe.ca.

Home and School Association (HSA)

Home and School Association 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 Meeting: Monday, December 6th at 7pm. All are welcome!

Our Halloween Pumpkin Carving Contest was a great success. Thank you to all our participants and . Congratulations to all our winners. We currently have another contest organized by the HSA. Please see attached flyer.

Community News/Events

- Halifax Recreation Winter Registration opens December 1st at 10am. Aquatics opens on December 9th at 10am. You can register online or call 902-490-6666.
- TD Dartmouth Lights of Christmas. Saturday, December 4th 5:30-7:30pm. Get ready to celebrate the holiday season with friends and family and view spectacular light displays in Downtown Dartmouth. The program has been designed to allow for families to comfortably stroll Downtown Dartmouth with the ability to social distance while celebrating the festive season. <https://www.halifax.ca/parks-recreation/events/td-lights-dartmouth-christmas>
- Findlay Community Rink Meeting. Monday, December 6th, 6:30-7:30pm at the Findlay Community Centre. This open meeting is to gauge interest and to discuss volunteer opportunities associated with running the Community Skating Rink behind the Findlay Community Centre.

School Spirit & Spirit of Giving

As we approach the Winter Break we are looking to bring some fun school spirit to Hawthorn. Monday, December 20th, students are invited to wear Holiday Colours. Students can wear any colour(s) that represents a holiday that they celebrate. Tuesday, December 21st, students are invited to a Be Comfy day. Students can wear their favourite cozy clothes, PJs, etc. We will also have Stop, Drop, and Read moments, so students will make sure to have a favourite book in hand.

In the spirit of Giving, we will be collecting donations for Margaret’s House. If you were considering a gift for your child’s teacher this season, they would appreciate your generosity being shared with Margaret’s House instead. Each class will be collecting a needed item from Margaret’s House’s wish list. You are also welcome to make a donation directly to Margaret’s House in Hawthorn Elementary's name if you would rather. Donations will be accepted at the school up to Thursday, December 16th. Classes will be collecting donations as followed (although all donations are appreciated):

Class	Item	Class	Item
Pre Primary An	Holiday Chocolate or Candy	2/3 Hayes	Soda Crackers
Pre Primary Shortt	Fruit cups	3 Milner	Coffee Whitener
Primary Stulac	Breakfast Bars	3/4 Grattan	Canned Milk
P/1 Campbell	Granola Bars	4/5 Barro Ralph	Cans of chunky soup or stew
1 Hall	Hot Chocolate Packages	5 Jodrey	Instant coffee
1/2 Coffin Were/Brennan	Instant Oatmeal Packages	6 Gillespie/Brennan	Juice Boxes

December Concert

Our December Concert will be virtual again this year. Each class performance will be recorded during their music class December 8th and 9th. The students will be able to watch all the class performances with their teacher. All students will be able to perform with their class however, only students who have media release permission will be recorded. Classroom teachers will share **their class performance** with their families, with the understanding that the video is for their viewing only and not to be distributed.



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>

Guidelines for school and/or bus cancellations due to inclement weather

Nova Scotia winter weather can change quickly and can be challenging to predict. This document outlines the steps we take when deciding whether to cancel school and/or bussing.

A 6:00 am announcement could be:

- All schools are closed for the day
- OR
- Some schools (either individually or by family) are closed for the day
- OR
- All schools are open, but some or all busses are not operating for the day
- OR
- All schools are delayed in opening by 2 hours

If weather deteriorates, or is forecast to worsen throughout the morning

An 11:00 am announcement could be:

- Bussed students will be picked up 2 hours earlier than their regular dismissal time
- AND
- Walking students will be dismissed at their regularly scheduled lunch hour

Remember:
Parents/guardians always have the right to keep their child home from school if they believe that the travelling conditions are unsuitable.


How does Halifax Regional Centre for Education (HRCE) decide on school and/or bus cancellations?

By 4:30 am, HRCE staff begin to gather information from:

- A contracted weather service that provides radar and satellite imagery, real-time road conditions and weather warnings;
- A meteorologist who provides forecast details, level and type of precipitation and impact on road conditions;
- HRCE's three transportation service providers, who provide updates on road conditions in their area;
- Municipal and provincial transportation staff; and
- Other local weather services, including Environment Canada and the Weather Network.

By 5:30 am, HRCE staff make recommendations to the Regional Executive Director (or designate), who then makes the final decision.

This decision is communicated by 6:00 am.

 **Halifax**
Regional Centre for Education

Where can cancellation information be found?
Website: www.hrce.ca Twitter: @HRCE_NS Phone: 902-464-INFO (4636) Local media outlets
Subscribe to email/text notifications at www.hrce.ca

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 the library for their regular scheduled library time, they will have an opportunity to browse the books and make purchases.



Students and staff -- visit our Book Fair IN PERSON!!! Book Fair is back in person for students and staff in our Hawthorn Library Nov 29 to Dec 3.

In-person purchases will be possible; Your child will browse the in-person book fair during their usual library time on Wednesday or Thursday. Students may shop (cash, cheque) on these days and as well as Friday morning.

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 with a portion of sales directly benefiting our school. New this year : NO shipping charges, as all online orders are shipped to our school. (Predicted arrival date : Dec 17)

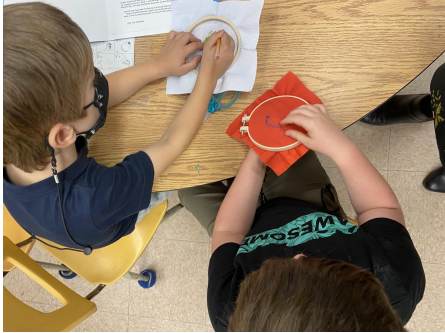
<https://virtualbookfairs.scholastic.ca/pages/5167903>

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

Dates to Remember:

- December 1-16- Spirit of Giving Food Donation Collection
- December 6th- Virtual School Advisory Council Meeting @ 6pm
- December 6th- Virtual Home and School Association Meeting @ 7pm
- December 8th & 9th: Holiday Concert Recordings
- December 17th-HSA Winter Art Challenge Deadline
- December 20th- Holiday Colours
- December 21st-Be Comfy/Cozy Day
- December 21st-Last Day of school before Break
- January 4th-School Reopens

A look at what's happening at Hawthorn.

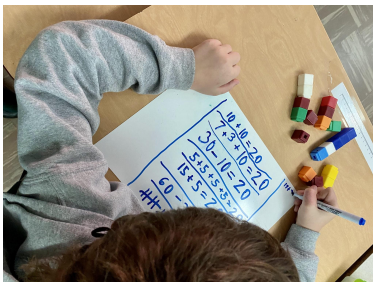


Students in Primary Stulac explore needle pointing during play zones. Both students are sewing the first letter of their name.

Students in 1 Hall share their writing pieces.



Students in Grade 3/4 Grattan have fun at recess after our first snowfall.



Students in Grade 1/2 Coffin Were/Brenan making groups of numbers to 20.