

*Hawthorn Elementary*

# NEWSLETTER

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January 14, 2022



Dear Families,

Welcome back! Work on our outdoor learning space has started in the back of the school. The foundation has been set and the benches and tables will be delivered in the next few weeks. We can't wait to see our students making great use of it. We hope everyone had a good week of At Home Learning and we will see you next week!



Sincerely,

*Ms. Gourlay and Ms. Dunn*

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## Daily COVID Checklist

We ask that you continue to use the daily checklist before coming to school.

<https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/docs/Daily-COVID-checklist-en.pdf>

In addition, we ask that you stay home if you are feeling unwell and follow guidance for testing and isolating. <https://www.nshealth.ca/coronavirus>

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.

## Additional Health Measures

- We have a 3 ply reusable cloth mask to distribute to each student and staff member.. We are asking that families take a moment to review how to properly wear a mask and make sure that it is comfortable. Staff and students are required to wear masks in school, except when actively eating/drinking, participating in physical activity, or when outdoors. It would also be helpful to have additional masks in your child's backpack in case a mask is lost or gets wet and needs to be changed throughout the day.
- Some classes may have their windows open so consider bringing an extra layer of clothing to have in the classroom.
- Students are reminded to have their own water bottle everyday. We have a number of students coming to the office to ask for a cup. As we attempt to reduce unnecessary foot traffic in the halls, we ask that students bring their own water bottles. Consider a water bottle as important as packing a lunch or a snack.
- Specialist teachers will be going to classrooms for now to reduce movement within the building. Phys. Ed. classes will be outside as much as possible.
- We will have 2 recess times ( 10:30-10:45 and 10:45-11:00) so that we can limit mixing of different classes.

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## Arrival and Dismissal Times

Morning arrival will continue as it did in December. Students will enter their assigned doors between 8:40 am- 8:50 am. After 8:50 am please use the Main/Office door. At this time, we are moving to staggered dismissal times. This will assist in class cohorting. Families may wish to arrange meeting areas. Please see the schedule below.

ONE (Front - office)	Two (Front)	Side (field)
6 Brennan/Dun (3:00) 4 / 5 Barro Ralph (2:55) 3 / 4 Grattan (2:50)	5 Jodrey (2:50) 3 Milner (2:55) 2/3 Hayes (3:00) 1/2 Coffin Were (3:00)	1 Hall (3:00) P/1 Campbell (2:55) P Stulac (2:50)

## Visitors

At this time, access to the building is limited to essential staff only. 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, mask, or water bottle 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.

## Dressing for the weather

We will continue to go outside a lot, including Phys. Ed classes when possible, and winter is here so please make sure your child is well equipped for whatever weather the day might bring. Students should be wearing boots, snow pants, hats and mitts every day, and carrying extra clothes, a pair of dry socks, and mitts in their backpacks..

## 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](http://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](http://www.hrce.ca) Twitter: @HRCE\_NS Phone: 902-464-INFO (4636) Local media outlets  
Subscribe to email/text notifications at [www.hrce.ca](http://www.hrce.ca)