

*Hawthorn Elementary*

# NEWSLETTER

10 Hawthorne Street • Dartmouth, NS • B2Y 2Y3 Tel # (902) 464-2048  
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**March 2022**



Dear Families,

The short month of February went by quickly. We recognized African Heritage Month with some classes participating in African Nova Scotian History Challenges through the Delmore 'Buddy' Daye Learning Institute (DBDLI). Classes also participated in a Winter Walk with a snack provided by our Home and School Association, and acts of kindness as we celebrated Valentine's Day. In the month of March there will be some schedule changes that will come into effect that reflect the changes of Covid protocols and more information will be shared in the coming weeks. With March being nutrition month we have apples ordered for all students as we participate in the Big Crunch-crunch together to celebrate good food in school. Term 3 begins March 21st, the first day back after March Break.

Sincerely,

*Ms. Gourlay and Ms. Dunn*

## **Dressing for the weather**

We will continue to go outside a lot 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.

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## **Student Registration**

New to the area: if you are aware of any families new to the Hawthorn area please direct them to contact the school at (902) 464-2048 and we will assure they get their child(ren) registered in a timely manner.

The designated Junior High Schools for Hawthorn Grade 6 students are Dartmouth South Academy and Bicentennial depending upon your home address. Registration to any other Junior High will require an Out of Area Request. Parents/guardians may complete the online Out-of-Area Request form at [www.hrce.ca](http://www.hrce.ca) beginning April 1st at 8:00 a.m. The electronic submission will automatically be sent to the receiving school.

## **When your student arrives late...**

Students can arrive at school as early as 8:40 am. The 'soft start' allows students to set the tone for the day. They have time to greet and talk to their friends and teachers and time to get organized before the day gets started. When your child arrives late, they are missing morning announcements, important lessons and instructions/ information about the daily routines. It is hard to walk in when things have already started, and to start the day already feeling behind. Let us know if we can help in any way to make this morning routine easier! Being on time is a great way to start a great day!

## **Lunch Monitors**

We are reaching out in search of lunch monitors. If you have or are willing to have a criminal record check/vulnerable sector and child abuse registry done and are able to help, please phone 902-464-2048 and we can begin the process. The Home and School Association has offered to help cover the cost associated with the checks. Even if you are only available certain days of the week your time is appreciated. Thank you!

## **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, March 7th at 7pm. All are welcome! Please contact us if you like the link to our meeting, [Hawthorn@hrce.ca](mailto:Hawthorn@hrce.ca)

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## School Advisory Council (SAC)

The next School Advisory Council (SAC) meeting will be March 7th, at 6 pm via Zoom.

The School Advisory Council is an advisory body to the school principal and the Regional Centre for Education on a range of issues related to the school and the school system that reflects the best interest of students. It 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 policies and is a welcome place for any concerns you may have regarding the overall school environment or curriculum. **\*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](mailto:hrce-sac-haw@gnspe.ca)

### Dates to Remember:

- March 7 @ 6pm- SAC Meeting (virtual)
- March 7 @ 7pm- HSA Meeting (virtual)
- March 14-18-March Break
- March 23- Assessment and Evaluation Day (No School for Students)

### Reminders

- Please, do not send nut or peanut products to school.
- It is helpful to have a complete change of clothes in your child’s backpack just in case of mud, puddles, or spills and it may save you a trip in the middle of your day.
- Please do not bring dogs onto school grounds. If you do bring your dog, please stay on the sidewalk or the field and not on school property.
- Please ensure that your child has indoor shoes for school and wears outdoor shoes/boots to help keep the school clean.
- Water bottles, Masks and Cutlery: Please remember to send a water bottle, a few clean masks and any required forks and spoons with your child each day. We often have students looking for all of these items and it is best if they bring them from home

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## A look at what's happening at Hawthorn!



Grade 4/5 Barro Ralph Enjoying their Winter Walk



Grade 5s sliding at lunch time.



Grade P/1 Campbell reading in small groups.



Grade 5 Jodrey exploring levers with catapults.



Primary Stulac enjoying their recess snack in our outdoor classroom.

## 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)