

Hawthorn Elementary

NEWSLETTER

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May 2022



Dear Families,

This past month, we had great parent teacher interviews and welcomed some families into the building. Students celebrated Earth Day in a variety of ways, including a viewing of Neptune's *Seeds of Change* with popcorn prepared by our Home and School Association. Thank you! Looking forward to May, our VP, Ms. Dunn has organized a Monday Run Club for our Grade 3-6 students, our Grade 3s will write our Nova Scotia Literacy and Math assessments, and Grade 4-6 students will be completing our Student Success Survey. We have welcomed Spring and warmer, sunnier days. Students are enjoying playing outside and also using our outdoor classroom more.

Sincerely,

Ms. Gourlay and Ms. Dunn

Introducing SafeArrival by SchoolMessenger: A New Way for Families to Report Student Absences

One of our greatest priorities is ensuring all students arrive to school safely each day.

Parents/guardians of students who attend our school now have the option to report their child's absence in advance using a toll-free number, the PowerSchool Parent Portal or an app!

SchoolMessenger SafeArrival – an absence management system that improves student safety and makes it easy for families to inform their child's school if they will be away – powers all three of these options.

If your child will be absent, please let us know by using one of the following methods:

- **Toll-Free Number** :Call 1-833-582-6940 to report an absence using an automated system.
- **PowerSchool Parent Portal**: Log into <https://sishrsb.ednet.ns.ca/public/> and access the SchoolMessenger website to report an absence.
- **SchoolMessenger App**: Download the SchoolMessenger app for Android and iOS devices and sign up using your PowerSchool username (full email address).

For more information about reporting your child's absence and a list of frequently asked questions, visit: <https://www.hrce.ca/safearrival>

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.

Pre Primary, Primary, and Grade 6 Students: Information & Orientation

As we prepare for next year, we want to provide families with information so students feel ready for the move to school for Pre Primary, to Primary, or heading off to Junior High. As we finalize plans to share information with families and welcome students, we will be in touch with more details.

Masks

Masking is to continue in schools until the May long weekend, at least and will be revised closer to then. Please continue to send your child to school with a mask daily. If your child forgets their mask, they can come to the office to get one. Covid rapid testing kits will continue to be provided to students and staff at public schools as needed.

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, May 2nd at 7pm*. All are welcome! Please contact us if you like the link to our meeting, Hawthorn@hrce.ca

School Advisory Council (SAC)

The next School Advisory Council (SAC) meeting will be May 2nd, at 6 pm via Zoom.

This is our last scheduled meeting for the 2021-2022 school year. If you are interested in attending and possibly joining next year, you are welcome to attend our virtual meeting. You can contact our SAC chair for the link to our meeting. Also, 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@gnspes.ca

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. Even if you are only available certain days of the week your time is appreciated. Thank you!

Dogs on the school grounds

We have had some 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.

- some children are afraid of dogs
- 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

Change of Clothes

Reminder: a complete change of clothes in your child's backpack just in case of mud, puddles or spills may save you a trip in the middle of your day.

Dates to Remember:

- May 2: SAC Virtual Meeting @ 6pm
- May 2: HSA Virtual Meeting @ 7pm
- May 17, 18, 24, & 26th: Grade 3 Provincial Assessments
- May 23: Victoria Day (No School)

Reminders

- Please, do not send nut or peanut products to school.
- Please ensure that your child has indoor shoes for school and wears outdoor shoes/boots to help keep our school clean.
- Check students' heads periodically for lice.
- Water bottles, Masks and Cutlery: Please remember to send a water bottle, an extra mask 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.

A look at what's happening at Hawthorn!

Creativity and problem solving
in Primary Stulac.



1st day of Run Club



Grade 5 students working with their new flexible seating chairs.

On Earth Day, students in 1/2 Coffin Were/Brennan dug up a pumpkin filled with garbage they planted in the fall.



Hands on Math in P/1 Campbell.

