

*Hawthorn Elementary*

# NEWSLETTER

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**September 2022**



Dear Families,

Welcome Back to School! We had a great first few days. Students and staff are excited to be back. September is a month of positive beginnings. Classes are working on building relationships and establishing routines to create safe learning environments. Please read through our newsletter so that you can keep in touch with us and follow along with the great things happening at Hawthorn Elementary.

Sincerely,

*Ms. Gourlay and Ms. Dunn*

## **Morning Drop Off and After School Dismissal**

P-6 students can come into the building between 8:40 and 8:50 am. Students will enter through their designated classroom door. A morning bell will ring at 8:55 am. If a student arrives after 8:55 am, they will ring the doorbell at the main office doors for entry, stop by to see Ms. Urquhart, and continue on to their classroom. Instruction begins at 9:00am. Students will dismiss at 3:00pm from their designated doors.

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## **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.

## **Recess and Lunch**

We will be outside in various types of weather, so please dress your child to be comfortable for the weather outside. Recess is supervised by our teachers. During the lunch hour, students will eat in their classroom from 12-12:30 pm and go outside from 12:30-1:00 pm. Lunch forms will be sent home this week. Please review, sign, and return to your child's teacher. If your child is going home for lunch, please send in a note with your child and ask them to sign out at the office before they leave. If your child is going home for lunch regularly, please email your child's teacher and the office and we will keep the note on file.

## **Registration Forms**

Registration forms for the 2022-2023 school year will be sent home this week. Please review, update, sign, and return to your child's teacher as soon as possible. Even if the information is accurate, please return your child's form.

## **Media Release Forms**

Media Release forms will also be sent home this week. Please review, sign, and return to your child's teacher.

## **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!

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## 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. Our first Home and School Association Meeting is Monday, Sept. 12 at 7pm in the school library. All are welcome! Please contact us if you like the link to our meeting, [Hawthorn@hrce.ca](mailto:Hawthorn@hrce.ca)

## School Advisory Council (SAC)

The next School Advisory Council (SAC) meeting will be Monday, Sept. 12 at 6 pm in the school library.

This is our first scheduled meeting for the 2022-2023 school year. If you are interested in attending and possibly joining, you are welcome to attend 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](mailto:hrce-sac-haw@gnspes.ca)

## Head Lice

If your child has been in contact with someone who has lice, you need to check your child's head carefully to see if they have caught lice. Head lice spread easily, so if one person in the household has lice, others may have it too.

Please note, the following guidelines are helpful in preventing the spread of head lice:

- Notify your principal and your child(ren)'s classroom teacher if your child(ren) has or have head lice and keep the school informed about head lice issues as they arise.
- Check your child(ren)'s head(s) and hair regularly, including:
  - o once a week as part of your routine
  - o after every sleepover
  - o any time they have had contact with someone with lice
- Keep long hair tied back or braided.
- Teach your child(ren) not to share personal items that have touched their head, such as: brushes, combs, barrettes, headbands, hair elastics, hats, helmets, toques, scarves, etc.
- Teach your child(ren) to put their hats and scarves in their coat sleeves or backpacks when they take them off.

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Check everyone in the household on the same day. For further information on Head Lice please go to:

<https://www.novascotia.ca/dhw/publications/public-health-education/07135-head-lice-pamphlet-en.pdf>

## **School Cash Online**

HRCE has a new system that will allow you to make payments electronically, with the click of a button. From lunch orders to yearbook fees, you will be able to make all payments safely, securely and quickly through SchoolCash Online. Our school will post items for purchase and assign school fees relevant to your child. You can make all purchases and payments from your phone, tablet or computer. We would like families to register as soon as possible. To get started, please register for SchoolCash Online. It's free and takes less than two minutes. You will receive an email once items are posted for purchase. Visit <https://hrce.schoolcashonline.com/> and click Register to get started. Need support? Connect with the SchoolCash Online help desk at <https://schoolcashonline.com/Home/Support>. We hope that SchoolCash Online makes paying school-related fees more convenient!

## **Emergency Management Plan**

The safety and security of our students and staff is a top priority for Hawthorn School and the Halifax Regional Centre for Education. We have been implementing a number of measures as part of a comprehensive plan aimed at ensuring our school remains a safe place for our students to learn.

One of the procedures our school will be practicing during September is a hold and secure drill. During a hold and secure drill, classroom doors are secured and the students remain inside the room and continue with their activities. All exterior doors are locked and no one is permitted to enter or leave the building. Our school will also practice a lockdown drill. During a lockdown drill, classroom doors are secured and the students remain inside the room positioned for safety until instructed by the teacher to resume their activities. All exterior doors are locked and no one is permitted to enter or leave the building. Our school will practice evacuation drills in response to the fire alarm 3 times during the fall and 3 times during the spring. All of these drills require our students to follow directions and need to be treated with great importance.

Please be assured that staff at our school will spend time discussing the importance of these procedures with students prior to running these various drills. Staff will also take time after

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the drills to remind students that it was only a practice and there was no danger. Please take the time to speak with your son/daughter about these procedures and reinforce their importance. We practice these drills to ensure our school remains a safe place for teaching and learning.

### **Dates to Remember:**

- September 12- School Advisory Council Meeting @ 6pm in the school library
- September 12-Home and School Association Meeting @ 7pm in the school library
- September 23-Terry Fox Walk @ 11:30 am
- September 28- Orange Shirt Day
- September 30-Truth and Reconciliation Day-No School
- October 3- School Advisory Council Meeting @ 6pm in the school library
- October 3-Home and School Association Meeting @ 7pm in the school library
- October 10- Thanksgiving Day -No School
- October 18- Picture Day
- October 28-Conference Day-No School

### **Reminders**

- Please, do not send nut or peanut products to school (this includes Nutella products).
- 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 our school clean.

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

