



December 2022



Dear Families,

As we head into December, we are now in Term 2 of the school year. This past month we had our Remembrance Day assembly and we ended Term 1 with our first set of report cards and Parent-Teacher conferences. A big thank you to Ms. Copeman for organizing our Scholastic Book Fair. This month, we have our Primary-Grade 6 Holiday Concert. Thank you to Ms. Tipper for organizing a wonderful event and afternoon together. We hope the season is filled with joy and time spent with family and friends. The new-year will bring new learning experiences and new fun. We look forward to what lies ahead for us as a school community. Wishing you all good health and happiness in 2023!

Sincerely,

Ms. Gourlay and Ms. Dunn

Dates to Remember:

- December 1-PD AM/ Family-Teacher Conferences PM-No School for Students
- December 2-PD Day-No School for Students
- December 3-Hawthorn Choir Perform at Alderney Landing 10am
- December 14 & 15-December Concert
- December 16-Spirit of Giving donations due
- December 19-Holiday Colours Day
- December 20- Be Comfy Day
- December 21-First Day of Holiday Break
- January 3-School Reopens

School Spirit & Spirit of Giving

As we approach the Winter Break we are looking to bring some fun school spirit to Hawthorn. Monday, December 19th, students are invited to wear **Holiday Colours**. Students can wear any colour(s) that represents a holiday that they celebrate. Tuesday, December 20th, students are invited to a **Be Comfy** day. Students can wear their favourite cozy clothes, PJs, etc.

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 Friday, December 16th. Classes will be collecting donations as followed (although all donations are appreciated)

Class	Item	Class	Item
Pre Primary Shortt	Hot Chocolate packages	3 Hayes	Instant Coffee
Primary Stulac	Instant Oatmeal packages	4 Grattan	Canned Milk
Primary Campbell	Soda Crackers	4/5 Barro Ralph	Instant Coffee
1/2 Hall	Granola Bars	5/6 Jodrey	Cans of chunky soup or stew
1/2 Brennan/Pope	Coffee Whitener (powder)	6 Ryan	Juice Boxes
2 Dunn/Pope	Fruit Cups	Thank you!	

December Concert

Our December Primary - Grade 6 Holiday concert will be held Wednesday, December 14th and Thursday, December 15th at 1:30 pm. All classes perform on each day. Our string students will perform December 14th and our band students will perform December 15th. Please continue to return your ticket order forms.



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.

Morning Start Time

We are seeing an increase in the number of students arriving late in the mornings. We have an 8:55 am bell that rings and students should all be in the building so they are in their class and ready to learn at 9:00 am.

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. The HSA meets monthly. All are welcome! Please contact us if you have any questions about the HSA.
Hawthorn@hrce.ca

School Advisory Council (SAC)

If you are interested in attending and possibly joining the SAC, you are welcome to attend our meetings. 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@gnspe.ca

Recycling for Hawthorn

We have an account with a local recycling depot, Canadian Recycling located at 365 Portland Street. If you drop off your recycling you can let them know the funds can be added to the HSA Hawthorn account as part of a school fundraiser.

Did you know? HRCE is growing!

More than 57,000 students are currently enrolled in the Halifax Regional Centre for Education (HRCE). In the last five years, enrollment has increased by 7,733 and that number continues to grow!

As our region's population expands (Nova Scotia's population reached one million last year), new families are registering all year round. This is an exciting time for our province, our city and for HRCE! You can learn more here: www.hrce.ca/growth

Community News

Registration dates for winter programs for the Findlay Community Centre and other Halifax Recreation Centres are December 7th at 10am, and December 8th at 10am for swimming and skating. Zatzman Sportsplex registration dates are December 13th for fitness, sports and dance, and December 20th for swimming.

Information from Schools Plus

Christmas Support: All the information you need to find support for Christmas can be found at the following link: <https://www.feednovascotia.ca/find-food/find-christmas-support>.

- A family can apply online at the bottom of this webpage or directly with the Salvation Army or Parker Street Food & Furniture Bank.
 - Salvation Army registration begins on October 25 and families can register at <https://salvationarmy.ca/maritime/home/christmas/hrm/> or in person at 2038 Gottingen Street. If there are any questions, call 902-422-1598. They offer applications in 5 different languages. The deadline to apply through the Salvation Army is December 5.
 - Parker Street registration is open. A family can apply online at <https://parkerstreet.org/programs/christmas-programs/> or by visiting in person on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday between 8:30am and 12pm. A family can call 902-425-2125 for more information and select option one. The deadline to apply through Parker Street is December 7.

For more information about the Christmas support programs or to register individuals can email christmas@feednovascotia.ca or call 902-457-2849.

Winter is Coming: Guidelines for Inclement Weather

Making the decision to alter the regular operations of school and/or school buses due to inclement weather is never an easy task. To learn more about how the Halifax Regional Centre for Education (HRCE) makes this call, visit www.hrce.ca/weather.

When is the decision made?

HRCE's goal is to make the decision as close to 6 a.m. as possible.

A 6 a.m. announcement could be:

- All schools are delayed in opening by two hours and all bus pickups are delayed by two hours; or
- All schools are open, but some or all buses are not operating for the day; or
- Some schools (either individually or by family) are closed for the day; or
- All schools are closed for the day.

If the weather deteriorates through the school day, the HRCE can decide to dismiss early. In the event of an early dismissal, the decision will be communicated as close to 11 a.m. as possible.

An 11 a.m. dismissal means:

- Bused students will be picked up two hours earlier than their regular dismissal time; and
- Walking students will be dismissed at their regularly-scheduled lunch hour.

Please Note: students in Grades Primary to 6 will not be released from school until parents/guardians or designates have been notified by the school.

How will families be notified?

- Families will receive an email and text message (*opt-in is required: text Y to 978338*)*
- Check our website at www.hrce.ca
- Follow us on Twitter at [@HRCE_NS](https://twitter.com/HRCE_NS)
- Call the HRCE information line at 902-464-INFO (4636)
- All local radio stations are informed

[Click here](#) for a printable PDF of our guidelines.

**If you know someone who is NOT a parent/guardian who would like to receive an email and/or text message, let them know they can sign up here: www.hrce.ca/notifications*

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

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.
- Students are not permitted to use cell phones during the school day. If students bring cellphones to school, they must stay in their backpacks for the entire school day.