

Hawthorn Elementary

NEWSLETTER

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January 2023



Dear Families,

Happy New Year! We hope that you had a relaxing and joyful holiday season! We look forward to welcoming students back and getting back into our school routines.

As we continue to monitor student achievement we also take time to reflect on our goals. As a school, our Student Success Plan outlines goals in literacy, mathematics, and well-being. We are looking forward to new learning opportunities this month!

We wish you a wonderful 2023!

Sincerely,

Ms. Gourlay and Ms. Dunn

Dates to Remember:

- January 3-School Reopens
- January 12-Green Schools Class visits
- January 16-Home and School Meeting 7pm in School Library
- January 25-School Advisory Council Meeting 3:30 pm in School Library

Parking around School

A reminder to follow street signage for both ‘no stopping’ and ‘no 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 safety reasons, we ask that there is room for the bus to pull up at the curb in front of the school and so the flow of traffic along Hawthorne Street is not blocked. This is especially important as snow banks develop along the sidewalks and makes it harder to see people walking and crossing streets. Thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation.

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.

Visiting the School

Visitors are asked to 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 to your child. If picking your child up early, please call ahead. ***For safety, we ask that all visitors and volunteers sign-in at the office and wear a visitor or volunteer tag.***

Ready for Phys. Ed. Class

Mr. Foot would like to remind everyone that it is important to be dressed appropriately for physical activity on days when students have Phys. Ed. class. This includes proper sneakers and shorts, sweatpants, or leggings, and t-shirts or sweatshirts.

Family Literacy Day

Family Literacy Day takes place each year on January 27 to raise awareness about the importance of reading and engaging in other literacy-related activities as a family.

This year's theme is Celebrate Your Heritage! Canada is a great diverse country full of different cultures. Use reading as a way to explore and learn about your heritage and the dynamic cultures that make up our communities. Click [here](#) for the official Family Literacy Day web page which contains many great links for families to enjoy!

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.

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 buses 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](https://twitter.com/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.