

Hawthorn Elementary

NEWSLETTER

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September 2023



Dear Families,

Welcome Back to School! We had a great first week. 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

Dates to Remember:

- September 14: Pink Shirt Day-Stand Up Against Bullying
- September 22: Move for Terry Fox
- September 26: School Picture Day
- September 29: Orange Shirt Day
- September 30: Truth and Reconciliation Day (No School October 2nd)
- October 9: Thanksgiving Monday (No School)
- October 10: SAC meeting 6pm School Library
- October 10: HSA meeting 7pm School Library
- October 27: Provincial Conference Day (No School for Students)

Morning Drop Off and After School Dismissal

Our morning arrival will look a little different this year. Primary-Grade 6 Students can arrive at school at 8:40 am and will be outside with teacher supervision. There is no supervision prior to this time. Students will play on the side area or back area of the school (including field and playground), not the front of the school. At 8:50 am the bell will ring and students will come inside and go to their classes for a 9:00 am start time. Students will dismiss at 3:00pm from their designated doors.

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 with our lunch monitors. 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. They are still asked to sign out at the office before leaving for lunch.

Student Information Updates

Next week, you will receive an email with information on how to confirm and/or update your child's information in PowerSchool. In previous years, we sent home Registration Form for families to review and return to school. This will now be done online.

Stand Up Against Bullying Day is September 14

Stand Up Against Bullying Day is recognized on the second Thursday in September across Nova Scotia. Recognizing this day early in the school year allows us to set a positive tone by engaging students in activities that focus on the importance of building healthy relationships. HRCE is committed to ensuring that every school is a safe place to learn and succeed. We put this commitment into action through our policies, procedures, staff development, and school supports. Please join us in taking a stance against bullying by wearing pink on September 14!



National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

Each year, September 30 marks the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. The day honours the children who never returned home and the survivors of residential schools, as well as their families and communities. Public commemoration of the tragic and painful history and ongoing impacts of residential schools is a vital component of the reconciliation process.



Orange Shirt Day is an Indigenous-led, grassroots commemorative day intended to raise awareness of the individual, family and community inter-generational impacts of residential schools, and support the “Every Child Matters” movement. The orange shirt is a symbol of the stripping away of culture, freedom and self-esteem experienced by Indigenous children over generations. As September 30 falls on a Saturday this year, we welcome staff and students to wear orange on Friday, September 29. All classes will be cancelled on Monday, October 2 in recognition of this day.

Family Survey

We are so pleased to welcome your child(ren) to Hawthorn for our 2023-2024 school year! The following survey has been designed to inform us not only about your individual child(ren) but also about your family. The information will be used to help teachers work with families to support student learning and to help develop lessons that are responsive to each of our students. Please complete the questions you feel comfortable answering and submit. We appreciate you taking the time to help us learn more about your family.

<https://forms.gle/PU7reyagw7WD8Xju9>

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!

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 next Home and School Association Meeting is Tuesday, October 10th at 7pm in the school library. All are welcome! Please contact us if you would like the link to our meeting, Hawthorn@hrce.ca

School Advisory Council (SAC)

The next School Advisory Council (SAC) meeting will be Monday, October 10th at 6 pm in the school library. 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 SAC Co-Chairs: Alexis Carter Malloch or Bryony McStay by email : hrce-sac-haw@gnspe.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: once a week as part of your routine , after every sleepover , 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.

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

SchoolCash Online is an easy to use and safe way to pay for your children's school fees. Now, with a few clicks, you can pay for your child's yearbook, class trips and so much more, quickly and conveniently. Simply [click here](#) to register an account to be able to pay in several different payment forms.

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

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.