

*Hawthorn Elementary*

# NEWSLETTER

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**October 2023**



Dear Families,

We had a great September and we thank you for your support as we had a smooth transition back to school. In our first week of school, we participated in Pink Shirt Day and our ongoing message to stand up against bullying. This month, we successfully practiced a fire drill, a lockdown drill, and a hold and secure drill. Thank you to Mr. Foot for organizing our Terry Fox Walk! Teachers and students discussed Orange Shirt Day and took time to reflect and learn about Truth and Reconciliation.

Communication between school and home is very important. Last week, you would have received an email from the PowerSchool system asking you to update your child's information. Even if your info is current and up to date, please follow the instructions in the link and submit the form. The 'consent for publication' form is embedded within the student demographic link, as well as dismissal plans in the event of an early closure. If you need help completing this, please call the school and we will assist.

Wishing you all a fantastic October filled with learning, growth, and memorable experiences.

Sincerely,

*Ms. Gourlay and Ms. Dunn*

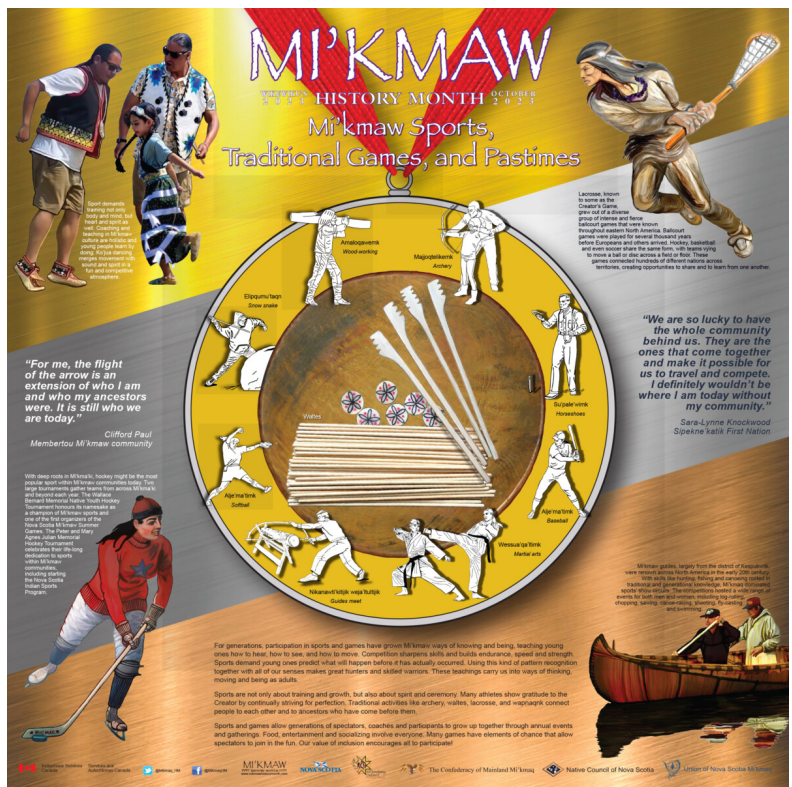
## Dates to Remember:

- September 30: Truth and Reconciliation Day (No School October 2nd)
- October 4,5,11,12-Grade 6 Provincial Assessments
- October 9: Thanksgiving Monday (No School)
- October 10: SAC meeting 6pm School Library
- October 10: HSA meeting 7pm School Library
- October 26: HSA school event
- October 27: Provincial Conference Day (No School for Students)
- November 13: No School in lieu of Remembrance Day
- November 17: Assessment & Evaluation Day ( No School for Students)
- November 23: Professional Learning AM & Parent-Teacher Conferences PM ( No school for students)

## Mi'kmaq history month

The theme for Mi'kmaq History Month this year is Mi'kmaq sports, traditional games, and pastimes. This is a wonderful celebration of the great success of the North American Indigenous Games held in Mi'kma'ki this year, and the Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Summer Games held in Millbrook.

For centuries, sports and games have grown Mi'kmaq ways of knowing and being. They are crucial for teaching young ones how to hear, how to see, and how to move. This Mi'kmaq History Month is shining a light on traditional sports and pastimes that are central to Mi'kmaq culture. Join in the fun!



## Visitors to 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. We can meet you at the door and retrieve the item. If picking your child up early, please call ahead. **All visitors, regardless how brief the visit, must sign-in at the office and wear a visitor or volunteer tag.**

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## Terry Fox Donations

A big thank you to our families for their generous donations to the Terry Fox Fund. We raised \$ 342.55 this year!

## World Teachers' Day

October 5th is World Teachers' Day. World Teachers' Day started in 1994 and is now celebrated in over 100 countries around the world. We are fortunate to have such a fantastic staff at Hawthorn Elementary!



## Grade 6 Provincial Assessments

Our Grade 6 students will be completing the NS Provincial Reading/Writing and Mathematics Assessment this month. The dates have been scheduled for October 4th, 5th, 11th, and 12th. Teachers are having ongoing conversations with students about the importance of being rested and having a good breakfast to start their day. Students have had some practice time before the administration of the assessments. If your child will be absent on the listed dates, please let your child's teacher know.

## Family Survey- link closing October 13th

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!

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## School Advisory Council (SAC)

The next School Advisory Council (SAC) meeting will be Tuesday, 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: Emily Mercer or Bryony McStay by email : [hrce-sac-haw@gnsps.ca](mailto:hrce-sac-haw@gnsps.ca)

## 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](mailto:Hawthorn@hrce.ca)

## Emergency Management Plans

All HRCE schools have Emergency Management Plans, which are reviewed, updated and practiced every year. These plans have three responses to an emergency situation: *Shelter in Place*, *Evacuation*, and *Relocation*.

- *Shelter in Place* involves either a *Hold and Secure* (where no one enters or exits the building, but those inside may be able to move around) or a *Lockdown* (where no one enters or exits the building and all students and staff are concealed in a secure location, away from doors and windows).
- *Evacuation* involves all students and staff exiting the building but remaining on the property.
- *Relocation* involves all students and staff moving from the school property to another nearby site.
- It is also important to note that HRCE can respond to an emergency evacuation using our large network of school buses. There are more than 400 school buses on the road every day.

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## Joint Accessibility Plan

HRCE, along with Nova Scotia's six other regional centres for education and Conseil scolaire provincial have been developing a multi-year plan to ensure accessibility in public education. This is part of a bigger goal for an accessible Nova Scotia by 2030. [Click here](#) to learn more.

Last February, Nova Scotian families and staff across the province were invited to review the draft plan and submit feedback. We sincerely appreciate everyone who contributed and shared their voice. Your thoughts, ideas and feedback during the consultation were invaluable.

HRCE is excited to let you know that with your input, the Joint Accessibility Plan has been finalized. [Click here](#) to see the plan. Next, HRCE will start to develop an implementation plan for our region. You can expect more updates as we continue the important work of creating accessible public education in Nova Scotia.

## School Bus Safety Week

*October 16-23, 2023 is School Bus Safety Week in Nova Scotia!*

Did you know that HRCE has more than 30,000 students who ride the school bus every day?

School Bus Safety Week is a great time to remind students, families and schools, of a few daily safety tips that everyone can follow to ensure all students get to school safely.

### *Bus Stop Safety*

- Be on time for the bus and please don't run to/from the bus.
- Stand back off the road and don't push or shove when waiting at a stop.
- Always cross in front of the bus. Walk three metres (10 feet) in front of the bus to a point where you can see the driver and wait for the driver's signal to cross. Proceed to the centre of the road, STOP, LOOK & LISTEN and cross the road when it is safe.
- Never crawl under a school bus or cross the road behind the bus.
- Know the danger zones around the bus.

### *School Bus Safety*

- Please respect and listen to the driver and avoid distracting them.
- Please keep noise levels to a minimum.

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- Do not stand or move seats while the bus is in motion.
  - Never put your hands, arms, feet or head out of the bus window.
  - Ask the driver for permission before you open the bus windows.
  - Do not throw anything inside the bus or out of the windows.
  - Keep the aisle clear at all times when the bus is in motion.
  - You can find out more information about School Bus Safety Week, including more safety tips, [here](#).

## Community Notes

Our community needs help!

*The Dartmouth Community Fridge* is looking for tradespeople who can volunteer their time to help modify its small deck/ step so it can be fully accessible and safe for its patrons and volunteers. We anticipate the work might take a day, and will plan for it to happen on a weekend, depending on folks' availability. For more info email: [Emily.mercer@novascotia.ca](mailto:Emily.mercer@novascotia.ca)  
<https://linktr.ee/dartmouthcommunityfridge>

## 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.