

Hawthorn Elementary

NEWSLETTER

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November 2023



Dear Families,

We have had a productive few months filled with valuable experiences and essential learning opportunities. We would like to acknowledge our students, staff, and families who have been working together to support the success of our students.

During Mi'kmaq History month students have been learning about the Mi'kmaq 7 teachings. We practiced bus evacuations and a fire drill this month, and our Grade 6 students completed their Provincial Assessments. Our grade 4-6 students were invited to participate in Cross Country and had a great time racing at their meet. We also welcomed some HRCE Fine Arts teachers; Johnathan Church who worked with our classes to create artistic pieces and Toria Aidoo who joined Mr. Powell in music class and led drumming workshops.

A big thank you to our Home and School Association for organizing a great Halloween Howl Dance and to our families for their donations as we raised \$1000 toward Phys. Ed. equipment!

Looking ahead, we are planning for our Remembrance Day Assembly, Report Cards, and Parent Teacher conferences.

Sincerely,

Ms. Gourlay and Ms. Dunn

Dates to Remember:

- November 3: Class picture and Make up pictures for absent students
- November 13: No School in lieu of Remembrance Day
- November 14: HSA meeting @ 7 pm in school library
- November 15: SAC meeting @ 3:30 pm in school library
- November 17: Assessment & Evaluation Day (No School for Students)
- November 23: Professional Learning AM & Parent-Teacher Conferences PM (No school for students)
- December 4: Professional Learning Day- No School for Students
- December 13 & 14: December Concert
- December 21- January 1: Holiday Break (No School)

Class Pictures and Make up Pictures

Friday, November 3rd, Pineapple Studios will be back to take class photos as well as pictures of students who were absent on the original picture day.

Remembrance Day & Indigenous Veterans Day

On November 8, we honour Indigenous Veterans who have served in missions in times of war and peace. While not often enough acknowledged, the military service of First Nations, Inuit and Métis in Canada has deep roots. On November 11, we pause and reflect on the sacrifice of our veterans, past and present. Lest we forget.



Dressing for the weather

As the weather starts to shift we are getting a few colder days and some wet, rainy days too. Please make sure that your child is dressed appropriately for the weather. Even if it is a rainy day, we may get a break in the rain and have an opportunity to get outside. As the weather is colder, we still go outside. Some days we are already seeing mittens, hats, snow pants, and boots!

Recess, Lunch, and water bottles

A reminder to send your child to school with everything they need for lunch, including spoons and forks. Also, please ensure your child has their waterbottle at school. We've seen an increase in the students coming to the office for spoons, forks, and paper cups.

Computer Mice Donations

We are looking for some computer mouse donations. Both corded or cordless are welcome donations. These are helpful for our students as they begin to navigate Chromebooks. You can send any donations to the office.

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!

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.***

School Advisory Council (SAC)

The next School Advisory Council (SAC) meeting will be Wednesday, November 15th at 3:30 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@gnspe.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, November 14th at 7pm in the school library. All are welcome! Please contact us if you would like the link to our meeting, Hawthorn@hrce.ca

Save the dates – Hawthorn’s Scholastic Book Fair is back!

Hawthorn’s Scholastic Book Fair is coming! From Nov 20 to Nov 27, discover hundreds of new, affordable, best-selling titles coming right to our school.

Students and families can shop the Book Fair IN-PERSON Tuesday Nov 21 to Friday Nov 24 and online through our VIRTUAL Book Fair Nov 20 to Nov 27.

- Students can browse and shop in-person on Tues Nov 21 and Fri Nov 24
- Families can browse and shop in-person Thursday Nov 23, 1-4 pm and 6-8 pm and Friday Nov 24 from 9 am to 4 pm

Our VIRTUAL Fair Site goes live Nov 20. Online orders incur NO SHIPPING charges as orders are delivered to our school (estimated delivery date: Dec 11).

Every purchase supports our school library and helps keep kids reading. Thank you in advance for your support and see you at the Fair!

Have questions or need assistance? Contact Deborah Copeman, Librarian, at dcopeman@hrce.ca or 902-464-2048

We accept cheques made payable to our school, cash, and Visa, American Express and MasterCard.

Need more shelf space? Donate your gently used kids books!

Hawthorn Library welcomes donations of gently used books, including

- picture books (Robert Munsch, Ruth Ohi, Shauntay Grant)
- first chapter books (Eerie Elementary, Owl Diaries, Magic Treehouse)
- graphic novels (InvestiGATORS, Big Nate, Baby-sitter's Club)
- non-fiction (information books about living things, vehicles, sports, crafts...)
- novels (Gordon Korman, Kelly Yang, Kate DiCamillo)

We add donated books to our school library and classroom libraries. We also make books freely available to kids and families through our Little Free Library near the Hawthorn playground.

Thank you for your support!

Plans for Inclement Weather

Did you know? HRCE takes great care when making the decision to alter the regular operations of schools and school buses in the event of severe or inclement weather.

It is HRCE's goal to communicate any changes to the regular operations of schools and/or buses as close to 6:00 a.m. as possible. A 6:00 a.m. announcement could be:

- All schools are delayed in opening by two hours and 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 weather deteriorates, or is forecasted to worsen throughout the morning, an 11:00 a.m. announcement could be:

- 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.



Visit hrce.ca/weather for everything you need to know about how weather could impact the operation of our school.

 Halifax
Regional Centre for Education

How will I find out?

- By email to the addresses in PowerSchool
- By text message, if you have opted-in. If you aren't sure if you have opted-in, text Y to the following number: 978338
- On our website www.hrce.ca
- On X (formerly Twitter) at [Twitter.com/HRCE_NS](https://twitter.com/HRCE_NS)
- On Instagram at www.instagram.com/hrce_ns/

It's important to always have a plan in place for childcare in the event of any cancellation. For more information on how HRCE manages during inclement weather, visit hrce.ca/weather.

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.
- 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.

What's happening at Hawthorn:



Building words in P/1 Campbell.



Soil exploration in 3/4 Grattan.

Art with Mr. Church in 4/5 Barro Ralph.



Grade 5/6 in music drumming workshop with Ms. Aidoo.