

Hawthorn Elementary
NEWSLETTER

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Website: Haw.hrce.ca • Email: hawthorn@hrce.ca • Twitter: @HawthornElem



December 2023



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 Winter Concert. Thank you to Mr. Powell for organizing a wonderful event and afternoon together. Thank you to the Hawthorn community for all your support and collaboration over the past few months. 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 2024!

Sincerely,

Ms. Gourlay and Ms. Dunn



Dates to Remember:

- December 2: Hawthorn Choir performs at Alderney Market @ 11:30 am
- December 4-Professional Learning Day-No School for Students
- December 13: December Concert (with strings) @ 1:30pm
- December 14: December Concert (with band) @ 1:30pm
- December 21-January 1-Holiday Break (No School)

December Concert

Our December Primary - Grade 6 December concert will be held Wednesday, December 13th and Thursday, December 14th at 1:30 pm. All classes perform on each day. Our string students will perform December 13th and our band students will perform December 14th. Please continue to return your ticket order forms.



Front Row Concert Seats Raffle

Hoping to get a front row seat to our December concert? We are selling tickets to win 2 seats at each concert! The money raised will help purchase instruments for our school music program. Next week, raffle tickets will be sent home with each student. Each ticket is 50 cents. You can fill out the tickets and return them to the office with the correct amount owing, depending on the number of tickets you purchase. The draw will take place Monday, December 11th.

School Spirit & Spirit of Giving

As we approach the Winter Break we are looking to bring some fun school spirit to Hawthorn. Monday, December 18th, students are invited to wear their **Favourite Headwear or hat**. Students can wear hats, headbands, etc. Tuesday, December 19th, students are invited to wear **Holiday Colours**. Students can wear any colour(s) that represents a holiday that they celebrate. Wednesday, December 20th, students are invited to a **Be Comfy & Cozy** 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 15th**. Classes will be collecting donations as followed (although all donations are appreciated):

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

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.

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.**

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.



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

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.

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.

SchoolMessenger app

Did you know you can report your child's absence through the SchoolMessenger app?

SchoolMessenger's SafeArrival is an absence-management system that improves student safety and makes it easy for you to let the school know about your child's absence.

Did you know?

You can report your child's absence through the SchoolMessenger app!

- Download the SchoolMessenger app for Android and iOS devices
- Sign up using your PowerSchool username (full email address) that the school has on record for you
- Click on Attendance
- Follow the prompts

Halifax Regional Centre for Education | SCHOOLMESSENGER®

The graphic features a clipboard with a checklist. The first row has a green bar and a red checkmark. The clipboard is pinned to a light brown background.

- Download the SchoolMessenger app for Android and iOS devices
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- Follow the prompts

SchoolsPlus is here to support you

SchoolsPlus is a confidential, free service available in every school in Nova Scotia. Our goal is to build positive relationships between families, schools, and communities. We can help students with what they need to succeed – from home, to school, and back again! For more information, email schoolsplus@hrce.ca.

What is SchoolsPlus?

SchoolsPlus is a confidential, free service available in every school in Nova Scotia. Our goal is to build positive relationships between families, schools, and communities. We can help students with what they need to succeed – from home, to school, and back again!

Connect with us!

Parents, guardians and students (12+) can self-refer to SchoolsPlus - 12 months a year!

902-464-2041
schoolsplus@hrce.ca
@HRCEschoolsplus

Resources & support

- Recreation**
Help finding and applying for rec programs or funding.
- Tutoring**
Help understanding and accessing tutoring supports.
- Food supports**
Help accessing food banks and other local food supports.
- Health & wellness**
Help navigating healthcare systems.
- General support**
Help completing paperwork and applications, as well as transportation and accompaniment to appointments.

Halifax Regional Centre for Education | SchoolsPlus Écoles Plus

The graphic is a vertical banner with a dark blue background and orange accents. It features a circular image of hands being held together in a circle, symbolizing support and community.

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.