

Hawthorn Elementary

NEWSLETTER

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February 2024



Dear Families,

We welcome February and the possibility of beautiful winter weather as it invites us to get outside and enjoy the snow. We are asking families to please ensure students are dressed for the weather in the coming months. As we expect cold temperatures, students will need all their winter gear to ensure they are safe and warm.

This month, our school counsellor led our school assembly on Mindfulness after working with classes to teach students how it can help us everyday. Our Choir students went to see Jah'Mila perform with students from the Bella Voci Choir.

This year's African Heritage Month theme in Nova Scotia is: *Our Smiles, Our Joy, Our Resilience as African Nova Scotians*, which amplifies the spirit of perseverance that people of African Descent have demonstrated over the centuries in our province. Classes will be learning, recognizing, and celebrating African Heritage Month in a variety of ways.

A group of grade 5 and grade 6 students are part of an ensemble working with Ms. Toria Aidoo and Mr. Powell as they prepare for our February assembly.

Our Home and School Association has a Bingo Night planned for Thursday, February 1st and February is also Registration Month; you will see information included in the newsletter.

Sincerely,

Ms. Gourlay and Ms. Dunn

Dates to Remember:

- February 1-HSA Bingo Night
- February 12-Home and School Virtual Meeting 7pm
- February 12-School Advisory Council Virtual Meeting 6pm
- February 19-Heritage Day (No School)
- March 4-Home and School Virtual Meeting 7pm
- March 11-15-March Break (No School)
- March 18-Assessment & Evaluation Day (No School for Students)
- March 29-Good Friday (No School)

Celebrate African Heritage Month

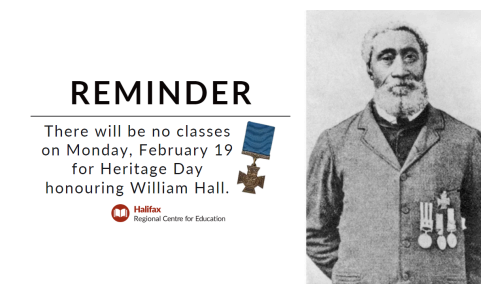
The theme for African Heritage Month 2024 is "Our Smiles, Our Joy, Our Resilience as African Nova Scotians." This month-long celebration is dedicated to recognizing and honoring the history and culture of people of African descent. The theme coincides with the final year of the United Nations' International Decade for People of African Descent (DPAD) 2015-2024, which aims to promote global cooperation in support of people of African descent, raise awareness, and acknowledge their full and equal participation in all aspects of society.

Nova Scotia is home to more than 50 historic African Nova Scotian communities with a rich, deep, and complex history that spans more than 400 years. African Heritage Month is an excellent opportunity to celebrate and showcase the culture, accomplishments, and contributions of African Nova Scotians, both past and present.



Reminder: February 19 is Heritage Day

Observing Nova Scotia Heritage Day on the third Monday of February is an annual occasion to reflect on our province's rich history. It's a chance to recognize the remarkable people, places, and events that have shaped our unique heritage. Please take time to learn about William Hall, the 2024 honoree, [here](#).



Raise a Reader

Family Literacy Week provided us with an ideal opportunity to communicate with you, our students' families, about the importance of at-home reading and engaging with children in literacy-related activities.

To support you in your at-home reading journey, we are sharing a simple infographic with tips for families, as well as links to useful resources for caregivers.



At-home reading tips for caregivers



Look at your child's books with them.

Discuss the pictures and build vocabulary by talking about new words.



Talk with your child about their books. Ask questions about the story and encourage your child to ask their own questions.



Make reading aloud a regular part of your routine – just 15 minutes each day can make a big difference in raising a reader.



Discuss examples that help them relate to what they're reading. Connect the story to your child's world.



Connect with your child's teacher for more suggestions on how to support reading at home.



Scan to learn more



February is Registration Month

Do you have a child who will be starting pre-primary or primary this fall? It's time to register!

Registration for the 2024-25 school year begins on February 1. To ensure we have the right staff and supports in place for September, it's important that we gather enrolment numbers now.



Tip: Before you begin, make sure you have the following documents in electronic form (image, PDF or Word document):

- Proof of identity/age with one of the following: birth certificate, passport, immigration papers, or legal adoption papers) if you are new to the HRCE;
- Proof of home address (a recently dated official government or utility document with your current address that includes your name and date, such as water bill, power bill, internet bill, home fuel bill, a tax receipt, property assessment or a mortgage contract); and
- Nova Scotia Health Card or Canadian Province Health Card or, for non-citizens while in Canada, proof of Medical Insurance Information.

Visit the [HRCE website](https://www.hrce.ca) for more information and to enrol your child today through PowerSchool Enrollment!

Don't have a child to register? Maybe you know someone who does! Please help us spread the word and pass this information on to friends, neighbours or relatives who will be looking to register for the fall.

Nova Scotia Homework Hub Tutoring Hours:

The Nova Scotia Homework Hub for Grade 4-6 students will have access to tutoring every Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday from 5:30pm to 6:30pm.

Homework Hub also provides students with video tutorials, practice exercises, vocabulary flash cards, digital math textbooks and an online graphing calculator.

Students and teachers are automatically enrolled in the Nova Scotia Homework Hub and access can be found through the GNSPES launch page. Tutors are Nova Scotia qualified mathematics teachers, and this is a *free service*.

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.

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.

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.

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.