

*Hawthorn Elementary*

# NEWSLETTER

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**May 2024**



Dear Families

April was a great spring month! We had our Family-Teacher interviews/conferences, an assembly with Dave Carroll, and some classes took part in an Earth Day clean up. This month, Ms. Dunn will be organizing a Run Club for our Grade 3-6 students, our Grade 3s will write our Nova Scotia Literacy and Math assessments, and Grade 4-6 students will be completing our Student Success Survey. We are enjoying spring and warmer, sunnier days as students play and take learning outside.

Sincerely,

*Ms. Gourlay and Ms. Dunn*

## **Dates to Remember:**

- May 8: Strings Concert @ 6pm School Gym
- May 13: SAC Meeting @ 6 pm School Library
- May 13: HSA Meeting @ 7pm School Library
- May 13: General Registration for EXCEL
- May 15: Band Concert @ Dartmouth South Academy
- May 20: No School-Victoria Day
- June 1-Spring Fair
- June 27: Assessment & Evaluation Day-No School for Students
- June 28: Last Day of School

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## New to the area or moving out of the area

**New to the area:** if you are aware of any families new to the Hawthorn area please direct them to contact the school at (902) 464-2048 and we will assure they get their child(ren) registered in a timely manner.

**Moving away:** if you are moving and your children will not be attending Hawthorn in 2024-2025 please contact the school to let us know. 902-464-2048 or [hawthorn@hrce.ca](mailto:hawthorn@hrce.ca)

## May 15 is Black Excellence Day

**Celebrating Black Excellence Day on May 15, 2024, within Halifax Regional Centre for Education is important for several reasons:**

1. Representation and Recognition: Black Excellence Day provides an opportunity to celebrate the achievements, contributions, and successes of Black individuals within the community. It highlights the talent and accomplishments within the Black community, ensuring that Black students have an opportunity to highlight all their positive contributions within the educational system.



2. Empowerment and Inspiration: By celebrating Black Excellence, students are inspired and empowered to pursue their own goals and dreams. Seeing examples of successful Black individuals from various fields, such as science, arts, politics and sports, can motivate students to strive for their own excellence.

3. Education and Awareness: Black Excellence Day serves as an educational opportunity to raise awareness about the rich history, culture, and achievements of Black people. It provides a platform to share stories of resilience, innovation, and leadership, helping to combat stereotypes and promote understanding and appreciation of Black heritage.

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4. Equity and Inclusion: Recognizing Black Excellence fosters a culture of equity and inclusion within schools. It sends a message that all students, regardless of their background, have the potential to excel and make valuable contributions to society. By celebrating diversity and promoting inclusivity, schools create a more welcoming and supportive environment for all students.

5. Community Engagement: Black Excellence Day can serve as a platform for community engagement and collaboration. It provides an opportunity for schools to partner with local organizations, leaders, and activists within the Black community to organize events, workshops, and discussions that promote dialogue and understanding.

Overall, celebrating Black Excellence Day within HRCE schools is important for fostering a culture of inclusivity, empowerment, and appreciation for the diverse talents and contributions of Black individuals.

For more information and activities to help mark the day, [click here](#).

## EXCEL registration

The EXCEL program is a recreation-based, fee-for-service before and after school program run by the Halifax Regional Centre for Education, offering before and after school care for elementary-aged children.

At each school site, the dedicated and qualified staffing teams plan weekly games and activities that suit the needs and interests of the registered students. These individual plans are framed around EXCEL's overall philosophy which is focused on physical activity and positive social interaction in a safe and fun environment.

Registration for returning children began April 29 and registration for new EXCEL participants will begin on May 13. [Click here](#) for more information.



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## Bikes and Scooters

Students are asked to please use the bike rack that is located on the side of the school for bikes and scooters.

## Pre Primary, Primary, and Grade 6 Students: Information & Orientation

As we prepare for next year, we want to provide families with information so students feel ready for the move to school for Pre Primary, Primary, or heading off to Junior High. As we finalize plans, we will be in touch with more information and details.

## Access to the School

Unless you are picking up a student from EXCEL, or meeting with staff please know that after school dismissal, there isn't access to the school. Thank you for your support and understanding.

## Homework Hub: Finish the year off strong!

**Did you know your student has access to Homework Hub? Finish the year off strong with the help of experienced tutors!**

- **GNSPES Access:** Easy access to online resources and tutoring through your GNSPES account (gnspes.ca) by clicking on the Nova Scotia Homework Hub icon.
- **24/7 Access:** Anytime access to video tutorials, practice questions and vocabulary review.
- **Bilingual tutors available for students in:**
  - Grade 7-12 on school nights 5:30 to 9:30 p.m.
  - Grade 4-6 Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

[Watch this video](#) to learn more about Homework Hub!



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**Find the Homework Hub at [gnspes.ca](http://gnspes.ca) or call 1-888-444-6607**



**Halifax**  
Regional Centre for Education



**NOVA SCOTIA**  
NOUVELLE-ÉCOSSE

### 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.

### Spring Fair

We are excited to announce that our Spring Fair is coming up on Saturday, June 1st. This fun-filled event will feature games, inflatables, face painting, food & more for everyone to enjoy.

We need your assistance. Here are 3 ways to help:

#### *DONATIONS:*

As we prepare for the Spring Fair, we are reaching out for gently used donations:

- books (All types of books accepted: children, adult, cookbooks, etc)
- toys (action figures, balls, small stuffed animals, etc)
- games (sports, board games, etc)

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Other donations requested are juice boxes, boxes of chips, and cakes for the cake walk (please sign up for the cakes at the link below).

These items will be used for a book sale, activities & prizes throughout the day and all donations are greatly appreciated! If you are interested in donating items, they will be accepted in the office starting on May 6.

### *Volunteer Day of Spring Fair*

There are a variety of ways you can get involved, from helping to set up and clean up, to manning a booth or activity, to organizing your own fun activity for the kids to enjoy. If you'd like to volunteer your time, please sign up below. We also welcome any ideas you may have for new and exciting activities to add to the fair! Your creativity and enthusiasm are greatly appreciated.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094CA8AB23A7F4C25-49213600-hawthorn>

### *Sponsorship*

In addition to donations and volunteering your time, we are also seeking one or two sponsors to make a meaningful contribution to the inflatables. Sponsorship includes having your logo displayed at the Spring Fair.

We truly appreciate your support and look forward to putting on a fantastic Spring Fair for our school community with all proceeds being returned to school programming and field trips. If you have any questions please reach out to Lisa at [lisas.power@gmail.com](mailto:lisas.power@gmail.com)

Thank you for your generosity and participation.

Hawthorn Home and School Association

## **Healthy Hunger-Lunch orders**

There are now 3 days a week (Monday, Tuesday, and Friday) where families can order lunches for students. You can create an account and order through Healthy Hunger. Please note that orders need to be placed 5 days in advance. <https://healthyhunger.ca/>

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## Reminders

- Please, do not send nut or peanut products to school (this includes Nutella products).
- Our school is a scent-free zone! We ask that all parents, guardians, and visitors refrain from using scented products such as perfumes, colognes, and heavily scented lotions when on at school. Many of our students and staff members have sensitivities or allergies to certain scents. Your cooperation and understanding in this matter are greatly appreciated.
- 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.