



Nelson Whynder Elementary December 2024 Newsletter

IMPORTANT DATES:

- **December 5: Progress Conference & Teacher Professional Practice Day - no school**
- **December 11: Christmas Concert**
- **December 16-19: School Spirit Week - details below**
- **December 18: Santa Workshop**
- **December 19: Christmas Concert Snow Date**
- **December 20: Last Day of School before Christmas Break**
- **January 3: First Day Back after Christmas Break**

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear NWES Families,

As we embrace the final month of 2024, I want to take this opportunity to reflect on the many successes we've experienced together this school year. Our students have been making strides academically, socially, and emotionally.

This month, we are excited to highlight several activities:

- **Cultural Celebrations:** December offers a wonderful chance to learn about and celebrate the diverse traditions. Through classroom activities and special events, we will honor the rich cultural heritage of our students.
- **Acts of Kindness Initiative:** Our students will participate in projects that encourage giving back and spreading kindness within the school and the broader community.
- **Christmas Concert:** We are delighted to invite you to our Christmas Concert, where our talented students will share their creativity and hard work through music and performance. As part of the holiday spirit, we kindly ask each family to bring a non-perishable food item to donate. All donations will be collected for our **Community Pantry**, helping support those in need during this festive season.
- **Santa Workshop:** We're excited to announce our upcoming Santa Workshop! We are collecting items to help make this event magical for our community. Your contributions can help us spread joy and holiday cheer! Please see more details further in the newsletter.

As we approach the winter break, I encourage you to spend time reading with your child, engaging in reflective conversations, and celebrating their achievements so far this year. Your support at home is instrumental in their success.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership. I wish you and your family a joyful holiday season and a peaceful start to the new year.

Warm regards,

Warm regards,

April Desmond

Safe Arrival



Safe Arrival If your child will not be attending school or will be late, it is imperative that you call the school's safe arrival line at **1-833-582-6940** or visit <https://sishrsb.ednet.ns.ca/public/> to record them as absent. The automated system will call out for all unaccounted absences. If your child will be arriving late, please record them as absent, and the office will mark them present once they have arrived at school. The automated system is not set up to account for half day absences. Daily attendance and prompt arrival at school ensure your child(ren) and all other students in the class a successful start to their day. Missing even 10 minutes of a morning routine can interrupt student learning. We encourage parents to call the safe arrival line rather than calling the school.

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. Please make sure your child/children are dressed for the 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 busses 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:**

- Bussed 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 the HRCE website](#)
- [On X \(formerly Twitter\)](#)
- [On Instagram](#)



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.

Nelson Whynder Santa's Workshop

Students will have the opportunity to shop for their loved ones at our Christmas Santa Shop on

Wednesday, December 18th, 2024. Proceeds from the sale will be used as a school fundraiser.

The school will be accepting donations of new or gently used items. We are also looking for donations of

wrapping paper, gift bags and tags. Donations can be delivered to the school between **Monday, December 2nd to Friday, December 13th, 2024**.

Please contact the school at 902-462-6030 for more information.



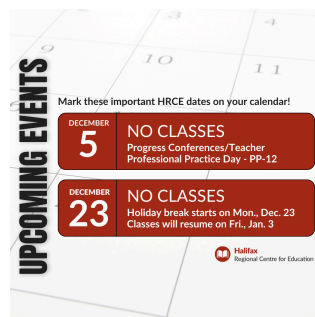
Lunch Monitors

Nelson Whynder Elementary School is looking for Lunch Monitors! If you are interested, please contact the office at 902-462-6030 Ext. 0 for more information, or come on in and ask.

Lunch Monitors are required to provide a full Criminal Background check, Vulnerable Sector Search and a Child Abuse Registry to be considered for the position.

Important dates you may wish to recognize in December:

- **December 3:** International Day of Persons with Disabilities
- **December 5:** Professional Learning Day (no classes)
- **December 10:** International Human Rights Day
- **December 20:** Last day of school for 2024
- **December 25:** Christmas Day
- **December 25:** First day of Hanukkah
- **December 26:** Kwanzaa



Upcoming important HRCE dates

Reminder of some important upcoming dates in the HRCE calendar.

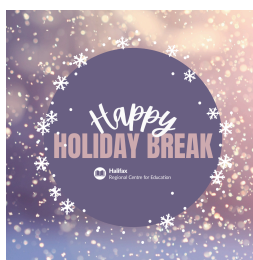
There will be no school on December 5 as it is a Professional Learning Day for all grade levels.

The last day of school for 2024 is December 20. The first day of school for students in the new year will be January 3.

Happy Holidays!

To all who celebrate, we wish you a joyful holiday season!

Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas and Blessed Kwanzaa!



We're always hiring!

Did you know that HRCE has roughly 10,000 employees serving nearly 60,000 students?

Our job postings are updated every Wednesday at noon and feature a wide variety of career opportunities! As HRCE grows, so does our staff. Check out new opportunities weekly at

www.myhrce.ca/jobs.



SchoolsPlus is here to support you

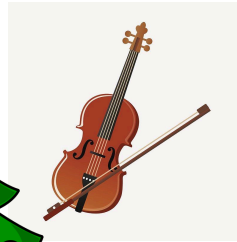
SchoolsPlus is a confidential, free service available in every school in Nova Scotia. Our goal is to build positive relationships between families, schools, and communities. Parents, guardians and students (12+) can self-refer

to SchoolsPlus 12 months a year! Just contact the SchoolsPlus Facilitator at your school. Call **902-464-2000**, ext. 2331 or email schoolsplus@hrce.ca.

Holiday Concert Announcement

We are excited to announce this year's **Holiday Concert on December 11!**

- **Afternoon Performance:**
Students will have an afternoon run-through open to families.
Time: 1:00 PM
- **Evening Performance:**
Our main event will take place in the evening.
- **Time:** 6:00 PM



Due to fire safety regulations, each student will be given a certain number of tickets. The tickets will be sent home On Monday, December 9, 2024.

We look forward to celebrating this festive season together. As part of the holiday spirit, we kindly ask each family to bring a non-perishable food item to donate. All donations will be collected for our **Community Pantry**, helping support those in need during this festive season.

Holiday Spirit Week is Here! 🎄

Get ready to spread holiday cheer with our fun-filled Holiday Spirit Week! Here's what's in:

👤 **December 16 - Ugly Sweater Day**
Pull out your quirkiest, silliest, or most festive sweater and show it off with pride!

🎄 **December 17 - Holiday PJs Day**
Stay cozy all day long in your favorite holiday pajamas. It's time to bring comfort to the sea

❤️🟢 **December 18 - Red & Green Everything Day**
Deck yourself out in all things red and green! Go bold and festive from head to toe.

🎀 **December 19 - Wacky Hair Day**
Let your creativity shine with the wildest, wackiest hairstyle you can dream up!

👤 **December 20 - Dress Like Your Favorite Holiday Movie Character Day**
Channel your inner Elf, Frosty, or even the Grinch! Celebrate the season by bringing your favorite holiday movie character to life.

Let's make this week full of fun, laughter, and unforgettable memories. We can't wait to see your holiday spirit! 🎉🌟



Kwanzaa Celebration at NWES



Kwanzaa is an annual celebration at NWES, where we continue to celebrate African Nova Scotian culture and heritage. It spans seven days, starting on December 26 and ending on January 1. The celebration focuses on reflecting on African cultural traditions and values, emphasizing unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity, and faith. Below are the themes we will honor during each of the seven days:

Day 1: Umoja (Unity)

- **Theme:** Building and maintaining unity in the family, community, nation, and race.

Day 2: Kujichagulia (Self-Determination)

- **Theme:** Defining ourselves, naming ourselves, creating for ourselves, and speaking for ourselves.

Day 3: Ujima (Collective Work and Responsibility)

- **Theme:** Working together to build and maintain community and solve shared problems.

Day 4: Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics)

- **Theme:** Supporting and building businesses and initiatives that benefit the community.

Day 5: Nia (Purpose)

- **Theme:** Making our collective vocation the building and developing of our community to restore our people to their traditional greatness.

Day 6: Kuumba (Creativity)

- **Theme:** Using creativity to make the community more beautiful and beneficial than it was before.

Day 7: Imani (Faith)

- **Theme:** Believing in ourselves, our community, and our collective future.

Positive Participation Awards

Positive Participation Awards for the Month of **September and October** :

Classroom Awards

Pre Primary: **Nylazarus Downey**

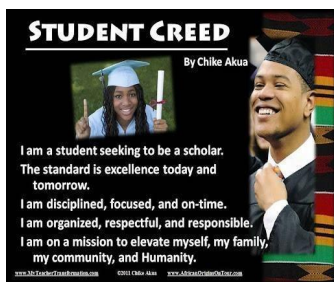
Primary/One: **Jakaya Cormwell-Downey**

Grade One/Two: **Kyien Smith**

Grade Three/Four: **Lavonia Beals**

Grade Four/Five: **Ro’Jhaiah Beals**

Grade Five/Six: **Lucius Fournaud**



Music

Grade One: **Azayla White, Nalah Willis-Grant**

Grade Four: **Aleciah “China” Cain, Elayce Clayton**

Grade Five: **Lynajiah Smith**

Art

Grade One: **Azayla White**

Grade Two: **Armon Downey**

Grade Three: **Nai’Ondre Smith**

Grade Four: **Alenastaija Downey**

Grade Five: **Julmyree Provo**

Phys.Ed.

Primary: **Damaesiah Smith**

Grade One: **Alijah Smith**

Grade Three: **Egypt Simmons Lamb**

Grade Five: **Ra’Kyien Beals**

Grade Six: **Nahara Johnson**

French

Grade Four: **Royalty Whalen**

Grade Five: **Migeal Beals**

Home and School Organization



We are excited to announce the formation of a new **Home and School Organization** at Nelson Whynder

School, formerly known as the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO). This initiative aims to strengthen the partnership between families and our school, creating a supportive and engaged community that works together to enhance the educational experience for all students. Joining the Home and School Organization is a wonderful opportunity for parents, guardians, and community members to collaborate with staff on various fundraising projects, events, and school initiatives that support our students’ growth and well-being.

If you're interested in being part of this dynamic team or learning more, please reach out. We’d love to have you involved!

Please contact the school at 902-462-6030 Ext. 0 for more information and to volunteer.

School Advisory Committee



We are excited to announce that Nelson Whynder School is seeking new members for our School Advisory Committee

(SAC)! The SAC plays a vital role in helping shape school priorities, fostering a positive learning environment, and supporting the success and well-being of our students.

If you're interested in contributing to our school community, bringing forward ideas, and collaborating to make a meaningful impact, we encourage you to get involved. This is a wonderful opportunity for parents, guardians, community members, and staff to work together to support the school's vision and goals.

For more information or to express your interest, please contact us at 902-462-6030. We look forward to welcoming new voices and perspectives to our team!

DENTAL CLINIC NEWS

HELPFUL HINTS...

How can I help prevent my child from getting cavities?

- Water or Sugar free juices are the recommended in between meal drinks
- Fresh Fruit/ Fresh vegetables and cheese are the recommended in between me
- Avoid “sipping” throughout the day (unless it is water), encourage drinking all down at one sitting rather than “sipping and playing” or “sipping” while watching TV.
- Use a fluoridated toothpaste (small amount, twice a day)
- Children’s teeth should be brushed by an adult before bedtime (until the children can tie their shoes or colour in between the lines) and at least one other time during the day.
- Only water should be given to your child overnight after the last brushing of their teeth of the day.



Avoid foods that cause cavities

Sticky/Sweet Food	Foods that stick in teeth	Sugary/Acidic Drinks
Fruit roll ups	Granola bars	Juices
Gummy Bears/Snacks	Crackers	Sports Drinks
Dried fruits	Chips	Chocolate Milk
Marshmallow Squares	Hard candies	Pop (even diet)
Gum	Cookies	

PHOTO GALLERY

