



Nelson Whynder Elementary January 2025 Newsletter

IMPORTANT DATES:

- January 2, 2025 No School
- January 3, 2025 First Day back to School
- January 4, 2025 National Ribbon Skirt Day
- January 27, 2025 International Holocaust Remembrance Day
- January 27, 2025 Family Literacy Day
- January 29, 2025 Lunar New Year

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear NWES Families,

Happy New Year! I hope you had a joyful and restful holiday season filled with moments of connection and celebration with loved ones. As we step into 2025, I want to take a moment to share some of the exciting plans ahead.

This year, our focus remains on fostering a positive, inclusive school culture where every student feels a sense of belonging, safety, and pride. We are committed to supporting student achievement in literacy, math, and well-being through targeted strategies that build confidence and promote growth. Together with our dedicated staff, we continue to provide enriching learning opportunities and celebrate the unique identities and strengths of each student.

In January, we are excited to launch new initiatives under our **SAC Innovative Grant**. The objectives of this project are to:

- Empower our students to build resilience, a strong sense of identity, purpose, and belonging, while promoting the five elements of well-being (physical, emotional, social, intellectual, spiritual).
- Strengthen partnerships with parents/guardians to support our students' academic and well-being success.
- Implement trauma-informed strategies to support our students and staff, engaging the local community and families in the holistic development of African Nova Scotian learners.

Additionally, we will continue emphasizing our **Student Creed**, which guides us in building a school culture rooted in kindness, responsibility, and respect. These traits will be highlighted through the **Positive Participation Awards and Celebration Assemblies**, recognizing students who embody the values of the creed in their actions.

Highlights for the month include:

- **Goal Setting and Reflection:** Supporting students in setting and achieving personal goals in literacy and math.
- **Community and Cultural Engagement:**
- **Celebrating Growth:** Honoring students who exemplify excellence and uphold the values of the Student Creed.

Your continued support makes all the difference. Whether it's reading together at home, encouraging positive behaviors, or discussing the importance of identity and community, you play a vital role in your child's success.

Let's make 2025 a year filled with achievement, growth, and shared success. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions, concerns, or ideas.

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.

Upcoming Dates Observed with HRCE

January 27 is International Holocaust Remembrance Day

International Holocaust Remembrance Day, observed on January 27, serves as a crucial reminder of the Holocaust.



Through survivor stories, students learn empathy, compassion, and the importance of standing against antisemitism and prejudice. By observing this day, we ensure future generations uphold human rights and dignity, fostering a culture of respect and inclusion.



January 27 is Family Literacy Day

Did you know? January 27 is Family Literacy Day! This special day is meant to raise awareness about the importance of reading and engaging in other literacy-related activities as a family.

This year's theme is "Learn to be Green, Together!" Make a pledge as a family to learn ways to be greener. Use less electricity, commute together, and reuse items. Being green together is a fun way to learn as a family while being kind to the environment.

January 29 is Lunar New Year

Lunar New Year, also known as Chinese New Year or Spring Festival, will be celebrated on January 29.

It marks the beginning of the Year of the Snake, an animal sign that symbolizes wisdom, intuition, and renewal. It's a time for families to come together, honour their ancestors, and welcome the new year with hopes of prosperity and happiness.



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.

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.

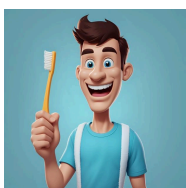


SchoolsPlus is here to support you

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.

Dental Clinic

Parents are asked to return the pink consent forms and if unsure or need an update on child treatments to call the clinic anytime during office hours at 902-462-2041.



*You should change your toothbrush often, at least every three months and use fluoride toothpaste. If you're experiencing sensitive teeth, give Sensodyne toothpaste a try or speak to your Hygienist or dentist.

Positive Participation Awards

Positive Participation Awards for the Month of **will be announced next month!**

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!

PHOTO GALLERY

