



Nelson Whynder Elementary February 2025 Newsletter

IMPORTANT DATES:

- February is Registration Month & African Heritage Month!
- February 14 Valentine's Day
- February 17 No school, Heritage Day

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear NWES Families,

As we step into February, we embrace a month filled with learning, celebration, and community engagement. This month, we are proud to celebrate African Heritage Month, recognizing the incredible contributions, culture, and history of people of African descent in Nova Scotia and beyond.

This year's provincial theme is "Legacy in Action: Celebrating Black Brilliance." This theme highlights the strength, leadership, and resilience of Black Nova Scotians, emphasizing the wisdom of our elders, the power of storytelling, and the importance of honoring our past to shape the future. It also aligns with the United Nations' International Decade for People of African Descent (2015–2024), reinforcing global efforts to promote equity and inclusion. Throughout the month, students will engage in:

- Classroom discussions and projects on Black history and culture
- Guest speakers and storytelling sessions from community leaders
- School-wide activities and performances celebrating African heritage
- Literacy and art projects reflecting on identity and empowerment

We encourage families to join in the learning by exploring local events, books, and stories that celebrate Black excellence.

We are so proud of the hard work and dedication our students are showing! This month, we will continue recognizing students through our Positive Participation Awards, celebrating those who demonstrate kindness, leadership, and academic excellence.

We want to highlight that this month is Registration Month for the 2025-2026 school year. Please see the section regarding registering your child for the upcoming school.

Thank you for your continued support in making Nelson Whynder School a place where each student feels valued, celebrated, and empowered.

With gratitude,

April Desmond

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

Registration for the 2025-26 school year begins on February 3. 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)

Visit the [HRCE website](#) 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.

Pre-Primary Enrollments for 2025-26 Step-by-Step guide

Enrollments for the 2025-26 school year are open. Please visit www.hrce.ca to complete the enrollment for your child.

Go to STUDENT REGISTRATION, verify YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD SCHOOL, have the following documents ready in electronic form: Proof of Identity (birth certificate, passport, immigration papers, legal adoption papers) and Proof of 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). **Please note: a driver's license is not sufficient for Proof of Address!**

Follow the link under READY TO PROCEED to complete your child's/children's registration. Only completed registrations will be processed at the school's end.

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.

Celebrate African Heritage Month 2025

African Heritage Month in Nova Scotia, celebrated each February, honours the contributions of African Nova Scotians.

This year's theme, Legacy in Action: Celebrating Black Brilliance, highlights the achievements and resilience of African Nova Scotians, who have shaped the province's history for more than 400 years.

In schools, recognizing African Heritage Month is crucial for promoting cultural awareness and inclusion. It fosters understanding of the diverse cultural landscape of Nova Scotia, empowering African Nova Scotian students by reflecting their history and heritage in their classrooms. Highlighting their achievements serves as a source of inspiration.

African Heritage Month 2025 is an opportunity to educate, inspire, and celebrate the richness of African heritage in Nova Scotia every day.



Heritage Day

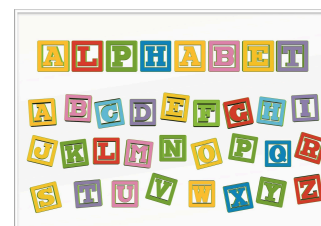
Heritage Day 2025 honours the late Nora Madeline Bernard. From Millbrook First Nation, she was a Mi'kmaq activist who fought for her community and First Nations people across Canada.

Ms. Bernard played a key role in getting justice, recognition, and compensation for survivors of the Canadian Indian Residential School system. As a survivor of the system herself, she founded and became president of the Shubenacadie Indian Residential School Association in 1987. She then started a class-action lawsuit for the survivors, which inspired others across the country to do the same, leading to the largest class-action lawsuit in Canadian history.



Literacy Development for Your Child (Primary to Grade 6)

Are you curious about your child's literacy development? A new page of information on HRCE.ca helps to break down development for children from grades Primary to 6 as they learn to read and write. Learn more [here](#).



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.



Dental Clinic

Parent (s) or Guardian (s): Your child's yearly appointment can only happen after we receive the consent form (yellow) sent home to update us on any changes.

Please check your child (s) school back pack for any forms that need signing after they are seen and return.

Please feel free to give us a call at anytime..#902-462-2041 if your unsure whether your child has been seen.

Adult Care: If your looking to have an appointment suggest you call soon as February is already booked and April 8th is our last day until reopening in September, 2025.



- **Also note:** Snacks and Drinks are important! What we put in our mouth will effect our teeth, for kids that mean sending healthy treats to school to protect the enamel of their teeth all throughout the day until its time to brush at night before bedtime.
- Some examples would be; water or sugar free juices, fresh fruits, fresh vegetables and hard cheeses. I find **compromising on a special treat day** helps, ie: Friday let's "make it your choice day" of one snack.

Adult Care: If your looking to have an appointment, suggest you call soon as possible. February is already booked and April 8th is our last day until reopening in September, 2025.

Positive Participation Awards

Positive Participation Awards for the Month of **December** and **January!**

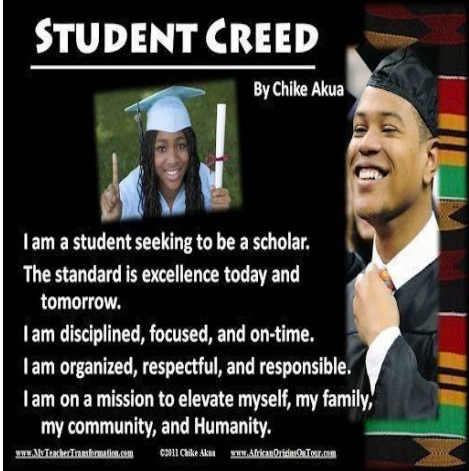
<p>Classroom Awards</p> <p>Pre Primary: Ree'Niyah Downey-Galbraith, Santiya Johnson</p> <p>Primary/One: Avaya Smith, Zakai Sparks</p> <p>Grade One/Two: Novah Downey, Armon Downey</p> <p>Grade Three/Four: Fredrico Conrod, Nai'Ondre Smith</p> <p>Grade Four/Five: Eerina Downey, Daylon Flint</p> <p>Grade Five/Six: Migeal Beals, Lynajiah Smith</p> 	<p>Music</p> <p>Grade Primary: Zuriah Smith</p> <p>Grade One: Ka'Niayah Beals, Co'laijah Smith</p> <p>Grade Two: Kainen Bundy</p> <p>Grade Three: Damarrei Smith, Zayzell Smith</p> <p>Grade Four: Eerina Downey, Lynzell Smith</p> <p>Grade Five: Denaijah Downey</p> <p>Grade Six: Ju'Kyree Beals</p> <p>Art</p> <p>Grade Primary: Jamauri Bundy, Ma'kai Cunningham</p> <p>Grade One: Netanyah Rodrigues</p> <p>Grade Two: Kainen Bundy</p> <p>Grade Three: Egypt Simmons-Lamb, Damarrei Smith</p> <p>Grade Four: Elayce Clayton</p> <p>Grade Five: Tyler Cain, Lynajiah Smith, Maliki Brownie</p> <p>Grade Six:</p>	<p>Phys.Ed.</p> <p>Primary: Gregory Nyenti, Ju'Kyi Beals</p> <p>Grade One: Alijah Smith, Novah Downey</p> <p>Grade Three: Royalty Whalen</p> <p>Grade Four: Ka'myrah Beals, Elayce Clayton</p> <p>Grade Five: Ro;Jhaiah Beals, Lynaijjah Smith</p> <p>Grade Six: Jah'siyah Glasgow-Upshaw</p> <p>French</p> <p>Grade Four: Lynzell Smith</p> <p>Grade Five: Shanaea Beals</p> <p>Grade Six: Mezziah Grant, Jah'siyah Glasgow-Upshaw</p>
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PHOTO GALLERY

