



# Nelson Whynder Elementary May 2025 Newsletter

## IMPORTANT DATES:

- May is Asian Heritage Month
- May is Canadian Jewish Heritage Month
- May is Polish Heritage Month
- May is Speech and Hearing Month
- May 5 is Red Dress Day
- May 8 Field Trip to the BCCNS
- May 11-17 is Education Week
- May 17 is International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia
- May 19 no classes Victoria Day
- May 25 to 31 is Nova Scotia Access Awareness Week

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear NWES Families,

Happy May! As the warmer weather settles in and spring blossoms all around us, we are excited to share some of the wonderful learning experiences, celebrations, and events happening at Nelson Whynder Elementary School.

Our commitment to student success continues to guide everything we do. Grade 3 students are currently preparing for the upcoming **Provincial Literacy and Mathematics Assessments**, Literacy Assessments will be May 13-14, and Math Assessments will be May 21-22. Teachers and staff have been supporting students with strategies to build confidence and reinforce skills in both subject areas.

As part of our ongoing efforts to enhance learning and well-being, we've reviewed and updated our **Cycle 3 Student Success Plan** goals in **Literacy, Mathematics, and Well-Being**. Staff have participated in professional development sessions focused on collecting evidence of learning, trauma-informed practices, and building connections with community organizations that can support both students and educators.

As part of our commitment to providing a safe, welcoming environment for all students, we're proud to share that NWES is actively implementing the **Nova Scotia Safe and Inclusive School Strategy**. This province-wide initiative focuses on fostering respectful, caring school communities where all students feel a sense of belonging and are supported to succeed.

We are proud to celebrate **Black Excellence Day on Wednesday, May 15**. This day highlights the achievements, brilliance, and contributions of people of African ancestry in Nova Scotia and beyond. At NWES, we are deeply committed to recognizing and uplifting Black excellence every day—through our curriculum, school culture, and community partnerships.

The month of May and early June also bring a series of exciting community-building events:

- **Career Day – Wednesday, May 28**  
Students will have the opportunity to hear from a variety of professionals who will share their experiences and inspire students to dream big about their futures.
- **Family Evening Bingo – Wednesday, May 29**  
Join us for a fun-filled evening of laughter, games, and prizes. It's a great way to connect with other families and staff in a relaxed atmosphere.

- **Annual Well-Being Day – Wednesday, June 4**

This special day is designed to support the **spiritual, intellectual, social, emotional, and physical** development of every student. Our theme this year is:

**“Better Together: You + Me = Community.”**

Students will take part in activities such as art therapy, physical movement, mindfulness, and sessions on spirituality—all led by caring staff and community guests.

- **Spring Fling – Saturday, June 14**

A celebration for the whole family! There will be games, food, entertainment, and more. We look forward to seeing you there as we close the school year with joy and togetherness.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support. When families and schools work together, great things happen for children. Let’s continue to build a strong, caring, and thriving school community—**together**.

With gratitude,

*April Desmond*

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### May 15 is Black Excellence Day

What is Black Excellence Day? In essence Black Excellence Day is about acknowledging, celebrating, and uplifting Black contributions while fostering a more inclusive and equitable environment. The following are ways you celebrate the fourth annual Black Excellence Day:

**Celebrating achievements:** 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 education system.

**Promoting 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.

**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.

**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.

**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.**



### Celebrating Education Week 2025

Education Week 2025, May 11 to 17, is a special opportunity to acknowledge educators, school support staff and partners for their outstanding work. This year’s theme, *Empowering Futures: Innovation in Education*, celebrates educators who have gone above and beyond in their efforts to infuse innovation into their classrooms and schools.




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 4-6 Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. and Grade 7-12 on school nights 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. [Watch this video](#) to learn more about Homework Hub!



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  - Grade 7-12 on school nights 5:30 to 9:30 p.m.

**Find the Homework Hub at**  
gnspes.ca or call 1-888-444-6607



Access Awareness Week

Access Awareness Week takes place annually during the last week of May to raise awareness about disability, access and inclusion. This year, Access Awareness Week runs from May 25-31, and the provincial theme is "Our Voices, Our Votes: Disability Rights in Action." The provincial Accessibility Directorate is providing all HRCE schools with posters to help bring attention to the importance of removing barriers for people with disabilities. The posters are being mailed directly to schools from the directorate and should arrive in the coming days. For 38 years, Nova Scotians have organized community events, flag raising, forums, and concerts during Access Awareness Week to bring attention to the importance of removing barriers for people with disabilities. More information can be found [here](#).

Visitors Entering the School

We warmly welcome you to our school and appreciate your involvement in our school community. For the safety and well-being of all students, we kindly request that families and visitors sign in at the office upon arrival. To ensure health and safety measures are upheld and to minimize classroom disruptions, we ask that you please wait at the office while our administrative assistant or a member of the administration assists you.

Friendly reminder if you have a pre-primary or primary child and have not registered for the 2025-2026 school year see information below

Registration for the 2025-26 school year begins on February 3. To ensure we have the right staff and support 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.

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## 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.

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## Upcoming School Events

May 8 - half day field trip to the Black Cultural Centre of Nova Scotia

May 15 - Black Excellence Day

May 28 - Career Day

May 29 - Family Bingo Night

June 4 - Annual Well Being Day

June 14 - Spring Fling

June 26 - Grade 6 Celebration Ceremony

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## Dental Clinic

April marked Dental Health Month, and thanks to the generosity of Dalhousie School of Dentistry, the entire school enjoyed a pizza lunch in honour of Mar Mar. It was heartwarming to have his family and his sister, Nova, with us as they thanked everyone.

The clinic is currently closed and will reopen on May 14th. Please ensure all pink consent forms are completed and returned. If there is a child new to the school or area who has not yet been seen by a dentist, please call and request an initial consent form to be sent home.

The Adult Care Clinic is currently closed and anticipates reopening in the fall, with a specific date to be announced in September. While the clinic is closed, you are welcome to call and add your name to our waiting list. We will contact you when the clinic reopens.

\*Brush twice a day (most importantly before bed) and floss once a day.

Clinic number: #902-462-2041

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School Bus Safety Reminder

More than 33,000 HRCE students take the school bus. Making sure they have a safe and happy trip to and from school is very important to us. Please talk with your child about school bus safety on a regular basis. Students should tell their bus driver and/or school principal if they have any problems.

Here are some important safety tips:

Bus Stop Safety

- Be on time for the bus. Don't run to or from the bus.
- Stand back when the bus arrives and give everyone space. Get on or off the bus one at a time.
- Always cross the road in front of the bus. Walk to a spot where you can see the driver. When they signal it’s safe, walk to the middle of the road. STOP, LOOK, and LISTEN, then cross when it’s safe.
- Never crawl under the bus or cross the road from behind it.

School Bus Safety

- Respect and listen to the driver. Their job is to focus on the road, so avoid distracting them.
- Respect others and your space.
- Keep noise levels down.
- Stay seated while the bus is moving.
- Keep your arms, legs, and head inside the bus.
- Do not throw anything inside or outside the bus.
- Keep the aisle clear.



*Did you know: It's illegal for drivers to pass a school bus when it has stopped with its red lights flashing. Bus drivers will activate their amber lights 150m before they stop as a warning to motorists.*

More information about HRCE student transportation and school bus safety can be found [here](#).

Positive Participation Awards

Positive Participation Awards for the Month of April


<p>Classroom Awards</p> <p>Pre Primary: Juleka Ofoma-Provo</p> <p>Primary/One: Azayla White</p> <p>Grade One/Two: Kaidace Simmonds</p> <p>Grade Three/Four: Tyasia Smith-Casey</p> <p>Grade Four/Five: Nikolai Leaman</p> <p>Grade Five/Six: Nahara Johnson</p> <div><p><b>STUDENT CREED</b></p><p>By Chike Akua</p><p>I am a student seeking to be a scholar. The standard is excellence today and tomorrow. I am disciplined, focused, and on-time. I am organized, respectful, and responsible. I am on a mission to elevate myself, my family, my community, and Humanity.</p><p><small>www.NoTeacherTransformation.com    ©2021 Chike Akua    www.AfricanOrlandoOnTour.com</small></p></div>	<p>Music</p> <p>Primary/One: Jamauri Bundy</p> <p>Grade One/Two: Armon Downey</p> <p>Grade Three/Four: Ka’myrarah Beals</p> <p>Grade Four/Five: Daylon Flint</p> <p>Grade Five/Six: Maliki Brownie</p> <p>Art</p> <p>Primary/One: Gregory Nyenti</p> <p>Grade One/Two: Novah Downey</p> <p>Grade Three/Four: Lavonia Beals</p> <p>Grade Four/Five: Shanaea Beals</p> <p>Grade Five/Six: Migeal Beals</p>	<p>Phys.Ed.</p> <p>Primary/One: Gregory Nyenti</p> <p>Grade One/Two: Kyien Smith</p> <p>Grade Three/Four: Dayvon Flint</p> <p>Grade Four/Five: Shanaea Beals</p> <p>Grade Five/Six: Julmyree Provo</p> <p>French</p> <p>Grade Four/Five: Tyvaiah Smith-Casey</p> <p>Grade Five/Six: Tyler Cain</p>
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PHOTO GALLERY

