



# Nelson Whynder Elementary October Newsletter

## IMPORTANT DATES:

- October is Mi'kmaq History Month
- October is Canadian Library Month
- Oct. 1: Treaty Day
- Oct. 7,9,15, 16: Grade Provincial Assessment
- Oct. 13: Thanksgiving - No classes PP-12
- Oct. 16: SAC Meeting 6pm
- Oct. 20: Diwali begins
- Oct 22nd School Picture Day
- Oct. 24: NSTU Conference Day - No classes PP-12
- Oct. 20-24: School Bus Safety Week
- Oct. 27: Community RCMP halloween safety talk
- Oct. 31: Student may wear costumes in afternoon

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear NWES Families,

As we step into October, I want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible start we had to our school year. September was a month full of learning, laughter, and community connection as we established routines, got to know one another, and created a strong foundation for the months ahead.

We began the year with our Meet and Greet Karaoke & BBQ, a joyful evening that brought families, students, and staff together in celebration. A special thank you goes out to Neville Provo for keeping the energy high as our DJ, and to all families who joined in the fun—your participation made the event truly memorable.

Throughout September, our students also demonstrated our core values of kindness, respect, and perseverance through meaningful school-wide events:

- Pink Shirt Day, where we stood united against bullying and reinforced our commitment to creating a safe and caring school community.
- The Terry Fox Run, where students and staff honored Terry's legacy and joined together in the spirit of hope and determination.
- Orange Shirt Day, where powerful conversations took place as we reflected on the history and lasting impacts of Residential Schools and deepened our commitment to truth and reconciliation.

As we move into October, we will be honoring Mi'kmaw History Month, using this time to celebrate, learn from, and uplift the voices of the Mi'kmaq people whose traditional lands we are privileged to inhabit. This year's Mi'kmaw History Month theme is "A'tukwemk aq A'tukowinu'k — Storytelling and Storytellers." [mikmaqhistorymonth.ca](http://mikmaqhistorymonth.ca) Through classroom activities, guest visits, shared stories, and reflections, our students will engage with the rich history, teachings, and resilience of the Mi'kmaq community.

Our Commitment to a Safe and Inclusive Learning Environment:

- We set clear expectations for behavior so that everyone feels safe and respected.

- We work to prevent unsafe incidents before they happen and respond quickly if they occur.
- We prioritize the safety and well-being of all students, staff, and families in every decision we make.
- When mistakes happen, we help students reflect, learn, and grow from those experiences.
- We use restorative practices to build understanding, heal relationships, and strengthen our school community.
- We aim to keep students learning in class, and when safety requires removal, we ensure support and re-entry planning follows.

The Nova Scotia Provincial School Code of Conduct Policy outlines these shared expectations and guides our collective efforts to ensure a safe, inclusive, and supportive learning environment for all. You can access the policy [here](insert link).

We look forward to a month of learning, respect, growth, and community celebration. Thank you for your continued partnership and for helping us make Nelson Whynder Elementary a place where every student feels valued, respected, and empowered to succeed.

Warm regards,

*April Desmond*

Principal, Nelson Whynder Elementary School

Safety Protocol for Families

To help us keep all students safe at Nelson Whynder Elementary, we ask families to follow these important procedures:

- **Morning Drop-Off:** Students should be dropped off at their assigned door at 8:10 am. If they are late, the main entrance. Families are asked not to enter the school building at this time unless absolutely necessary.
- **Entering the School:** For safety reasons, and to limit disruption to classes, parents, guardians and visitors may not go directly to classrooms. All visitors must report to the office.
- **Early Pick-Up (Before Dismissal):** If you need to pick up your child before dismissal, parents/guardians must **sign in at the office**. Please remain at the office until a staff member brings your child to you.
- Dismissal time is **2:30pm**, students can be picked up at the front of the school.

We appreciate your cooperation in helping us create a safe and welcoming environment for all students.

School Mission and Matrix of Expectation of School Wide Behaviours

We invite families to explore our school’s mission with their child(ren) and talk together about the positive behaviors we celebrate, as highlighted in our school matrix. Your support in reinforcing these expectations helps make our school a safe and welcoming place for everyone!



### Our School Vision

At Nelson Whynder Elementary School, we work together to make our school a safe, kind, and welcoming space for everyone. We believe every student has a voice and can make choices to help them learn and grow. We strive for academic excellence by working hard, believing in ourselves (Kujichagulia), and showing unity and care for one another (Umoja). We celebrate what makes each of us unique—our stories, strengths, and who we are. With Ujima and Ujamaa, we take care of our community, share responsibilities, and lift each other up. We use our creativity (Kuumba) to solve problems, set goals with purpose (Nia), and believe in ourselves, our families, and our future

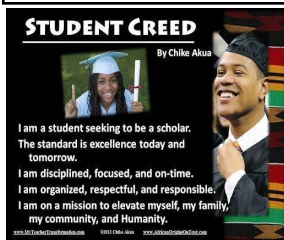
|            | Respect<br>(Umoja)                                         | Responsibility & Safety<br>(Kujichagulia)     | Community<br>(Ujima & Ujamaa)                                                                         | Striving for Excellence<br>(Nia, Kuumba, Imani)            |
|------------|------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| Classroom  | Use kind words and listen to others. Whole body listening. | Focus on your work and follow directions.     | Help your classmates and keep your space clean. Take care of your own belongings and school property. | Try your best, be creative, and believe in yourself.       |
| Hallway    | Walk quietly and give others space.                        | Stay in line and go where you're supposed to. | Respect displays, keep belongings tidy, and keep hands to yourself.                                   | Stay focused on where you're going.                        |
| Bathrooms  | Respect everyone's privacy.                                | Use time wisely and return quickly.           | Keep it clean.                                                                                        | Make healthy choices and do what's right.                  |
| Playground | Include others and play fair.                              | Follow rules and use equipment safely.        | Share and help others.                                                                                | Try new games and show a positive attitude.                |
| Library    | Use quiet voices and listen closely.                       | Choose books and return them on time.         | Take care of books and library materials.                                                             | Read, explore, and grow your thinking.                     |
| Assembly   | Listen to the speaker and clap kindly.                     | Sit still and stay with your class.           | Show respect to guests and performers.                                                                | Think about what you learn and how it helps you grow.      |
| Bus        | Use polite words and voices.                               | Stay seated and follow directions.            | Keep the bus clean and safe for all.                                                                  | Be patient and responsible on your way to and from school. |

**MP'KMAW**  
WIKIWIKU'S HISTORY MONTH OCTOBER

October is Mi'kmaq History Month, a time to celebrate and recognize the rich culture, history, and contributions of the Mi'kmaq people. In our schools, we can honour this month by incorporating Mi'kmaq stories, traditions and teachings into our curriculum. Activities such as guest speakers, art projects and cultural events can help students appreciate and understand the significance of Mi'kmaq heritage. Please join us in offering our respect, awareness and appreciation for the Mi'kmaq community and their enduring legacy.

## Positive participation Awards for the month of September

| Classroom Awards                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Music                                                                                                                                                                          | Phys.Ed                                                                                                                                                                  | French                                  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Pre- Primary <a href="#">Chytiera Provo</a><br>Primary <a href="#">Ree'Niyan</a><br><a href="#">Downey-Galbraith</a><br>Grade 1- <a href="#">Jamauri Bundy</a><br>Grade 2/ 3- <a href="#">Ka'Niajah Beals</a><br>Grade 4 / 5 <a href="#">Elayce Clayton</a><br>Grade 6- <a href="#">Migeal Beals</a> | Grade 1- <a href="#">Avaya Smith</a><br>Grade 2 / 3 <a href="#">Ka'Niayah Beals</a><br>Grade 4/ 5 <a href="#">Urijah McNab-Wright</a><br>Grade 6 <a href="#">Arielle White</a> | Primary- <a href="#">Ahymus Downey</a><br>Grade 2/ 3- <a href="#">Kaidace Simmonds</a><br>Grade 4 /5 <a href="#">Noah Grant</a><br>Grade 6 <a href="#">Rayvon Thomas</a> | Grade 4- <a href="#">Ni'Kalen Beals</a> |



Student Pictures School pictures will be taken on **Wednesday, October 22nd, 2025**. Picture retakes will be taken on **26th November 2025**.



## Celebrating Halloween

On the afternoon of **Monday 27th October** our community RCMP officer will be visiting classes to talk about staying safe this Halloween. Here are a few reminders to stay safe and have fun this Halloween!

- choose visible, well-fitting, flame-resistant costumes
- use a flashlight or glow sticks, and carry reflective tape.
- stick to familiar neighborhoods, stay on sidewalks
- only visit houses with porch lights on, and travel in groups, with younger children accompanied by an adult.
- All candy should be brought home for adult inspection before being eaten, and students should never enter a stranger's home or car.

On **Friday the 31st October** students may change into halloween costumes after lunch. We ask that students do not wear masks or bring in weapons.



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## Lunch Monitors

We are currently recruiting for Lunch monitors. Lunch monitors provide support and assistance to students during lunch time activities under the direction of the School Principal. The lunch monitor will oversee students in a variety of settings in the classroom, lunch area, and outside play. Please contact the school office at 902-462-6030 if you or someone you know may be interested in a position. This is a paid position.



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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.



### October 20-24 is School Bus Safety Week

Student safety is a shared responsibility! During School Bus Safety Week, everyone can work together to ensure the safety of students on and around the school bus.

*Did you know that HRCE has more than 33,000 students who ride the school bus every day?*

## Bus Stop Safety

- Be on time for the bus and please don't run to/from the bus.
- Stand back off the road and don't push or shove when waiting at a stop.
- Always cross in front of the bus. Walk three metres (10 feet) in front of the bus to a point where you can see the driver and wait for the driver's signal to cross. Proceed to the centre of the road, STOP, LOOK & LISTEN and cross the road when it is safe.
- Never crawl under a school bus or cross the road behind the bus.
- Know the danger zones around the bus.

## School Bus Safety

- Please respect and listen to the driver and avoid distracting them.
- Please keep noise levels to a minimum.
- Do not stand or move seats while the bus is in motion.
- Never put your hands, arms, feet or head out of the bus window.
- Ask the driver for permission before you open the bus windows.
- Do not throw anything inside the bus or out of the windows.
- Keep the aisle clear at all times when the bus is in motion.

Remember: In Nova Scotia, it's illegal to pass a school bus when its red lights are flashing and the stop arm is extended. You can find out more information about riding the school bus in HRCE [here](#).

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## O Canada in Schools

In September, the Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Development shared a new provincial policy about the playing of our national anthem in schools. You can read it [here](#).

In keeping with this policy, we play O Canada at the beginning of each school day in our school.

If you have any questions, please reach out to the school office.



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### October is Canadian Library Month

October is Canadian Library Month, a time to celebrate our wonderful libraries and the Library Support Specialists who support our students. The third Friday of the month is Canadian Library Workers Day and the fourth Monday is Canadian School Library Day. Please join us in thanking our school library workers for all they do every day in creating safe and welcoming spaces, encouraging a love of reading and helping students succeed in school and beyond. Learn more [here](#).

We want to say a big thank you to our Librarian Ms. Tattrie for all that she does!



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## School Advisory Council – Expression of Interest

School Advisory Councils (SACs) play an important role in supporting student success at the school and community level. An SAC is an advisory body to the school principal, the Regional Centre for Education, and the Conseil scolaire acadien provincial on a range of issues related to the school and the school system.

Membership generally includes the school principal, parents/guardians, teachers, and other community members.

We are currently looking for new members!  
If you are interested in joining, please contact Renise Cain or the school at 902-462-3060 by October 7.

**Our first meeting will be held on October 17.**

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## DENTAL CLINIC NEWS

### Important for Parents:

Consent forms will be sent home and must be completed in full and returned to the clinic as soon as possible for your child to attend. These forms are necessary for updates and registration.

Oral Health Reminder:  
Good oral hygiene is essential for your child’s dental development. Please encourage them to:

- Brush at least twice a day (especially before bedtime)
- Floss once a day (if they’re old enough)
- Choose healthy snacks and lunches to avoid "sugar bugs"

Note for Adult Patients:  
Service has now resumed for adult patients

Thank you for your understanding and continued support. We look forward to seeing you soon!



Please free to call anytime, #902-462-2041

We will be moving to sending out our newsletter electronically through School Messenger. Please sign below and return this form to the school, indicating that you would like to receive a hard copy.

\_\_\_ Yes, I would like a hard copy of the newsletter.

**Student's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_