



Nelson Whynder Elementary September Newsletter

IMPORTANT DATES:

- **September 2: Labour Day - No Classes**
- **September 3: Organization day (PP-12) - no classes all schools**
- **September 4: First day of school for students**
- **September 11: Stand Up Against Bullying Day; Curriculum Night**
- **September 24: Terry Fox walk / run**
- **September 26: Orange Shirt Day**
- **September 29: Professional development day (pp - 12) - no classes all schools**
- **September 30: National Day for Truth & Reconciliation - no classes all schools**

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear NWES Families,

Welcome to a new school year at Nelson Whynder Elementary! September has been a busy and exciting month thus far, as we settled into routines, got to know one another, and built a strong sense of community across our school. The first weeks of school are always full of learning, adjusting, and growing, and we are so proud of the positive start our students have made.

A big thank you to our students and families who joined us for the Meet and Greet Karaoke & BBQ. It was a wonderful evening of food, music, and laughter as we came together as a community. A special thank you goes out to Neville Provo for being our DJ—your support and energy made the night a success, and we truly appreciate your dedication to our students.

This month, we proudly celebrated Pink Shirt Day, where students and staff stood together against bullying, reinforcing the importance of kindness and respect. On September the 24th we will be participating in our Annual Terry Fox Run, honoring Terry's legacy of hope and perseverance while raising awareness for cancer research. On September 26th, we will observe Orange Shirt Day to remember the victims of the Residential School System. Through meaningful discussions and curriculum resources, teachers will guide students in learning about the history and impact of residential schools, highlighting the importance of reconciliation and the ongoing journey toward healing.

At Nelson Whynder, we are committed to creating a safe and inclusive environment where every student can learn and grow. Below are our commitment statements that guide our work in ensuring safety, belonging, and respect for all students, staff, and visitors:

Our Commitment to a Safe and Inclusive Learning Environment

- We believe in setting clear expectations for behavior so everyone feels safe and respected.
- Our approach focuses on preventing unsafe incidents before they happen and addressing them quickly if they do.
- We prioritize the safety and well-being of all students, staff, and families in every decision we make.

- When mistakes occur, we support students in learning from them and finding better ways to handle future situations.
- Whenever possible, we use restorative practices to help heal and strengthen our community after conflicts.
- We strive to keep students in class and learning, but if removal is necessary for safety, support will always follow.

The **Nova Scotia Provincial School Code of Conduct Policy** outlines expectations for behavior in schools, ensuring a safe, inclusive, and supportive learning environment for all students, staff, and visitors. It emphasizes respect, responsibility, and safety. If you would like to view the document, please click the following link [Provincial School Code of Conduct Policy](#)

Thank you for your continued support in making Nelson Whynder Elementary a place where every student feels valued, respected, and empowered.

Warm regards,

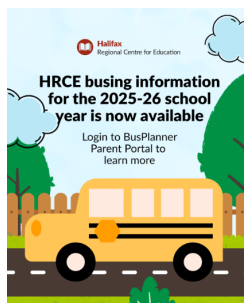
April Desmond

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.



Using BusPlanner

Bus delays or cancellations- Everything you need to know about student transportation including eligibility, stop times and stop locations can be found on BusPlanner. Once you register and subscribe, you can choose to receive email and/or text message notifications on changes to routes,

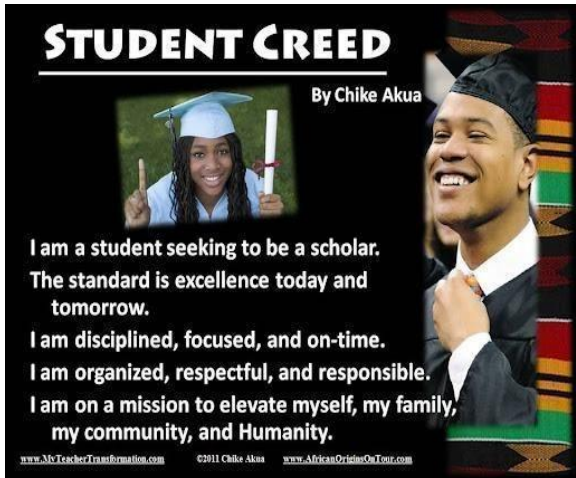
To sign up, go to BusPlanner at <https://hrcetransportation.mybusplanner.ca/> and click on Parent Portal. Follow the instructions to create an account.

Don't have a BusPlanner Parent Portal account? Need help logging in? Please contact the HRCE Student Transportation Team at transportation@hrce.ca or call 902-431-4723.

Positive Participation Awards

We are excited to launch the NWES Positive Participation Awards this month! These awards will highlight and celebrate the character traits outlined in our Student Creed, encouraging positive behavior and strong character development across our school community.

Stay tuned for next month's newsletter to see the first group of award recipients!



School Pictures

Student Pictures School pictures will be taken on **Wednesday, October 22nd, 2025.**



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.



Registration/Demographic Updates 2025-2026

On September 9, the Demographic Updates Form will be available to families in the PowerSchool Parent Portal. This form should be updated by every family to ensure all information about your child is current, including contacts, medical information, consents and demographics. Even if there are no anticipated changes, please still review this information and submit the form. This information will then be reviewed by the school before updates are finalized. **The deadline to submit the form is October 6, 2025.** Please ensure you update your Demographic Form. Additionally, this form will include the integration of the “Publication of Student Personal Information and Student Work” form that is required to be updated yearly.

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.



What is SchoolsPlus?

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. We can help families navigate complicated situations when they are involved with many different services. This helps ensure everyone is communicating clearly and working on shared goals. SchoolsPlus can also help connect families to community resources and offer mental health support in schools. Contact the SchoolsPlus Facilitator for your school to make a referral. You can find additional information [here](#).



Nova Scotia School Lunch Program

The NS School Lunch Program is just around the corner. In anticipation of its launch, we would like to provide you with the link so that you can familiarize yourself with the site, read the FAQs, and take a look at the upcoming menu. <https://nslunch.ca/>

Ordering will open on Friday September 5th, at which time families will be able to login and order meals. The first day of the program will be on Monday September 15th.

Here is a link put out by the EECD with a step by step guide to logging in and ordering. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j_z25C_3YBs



School Vision and School Matrix



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 (Umoja)	Responsibility & Safety (Kujichagulia)	Community (Ujima & Ujamaa)	Striving for Excellence (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.

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.

DENTAL CLINIC NEWS

Welcome Back from The Dental Clinic!

We hope you had a fantastic summer break! The Dental Clinic is excited to welcome everyone back.

We will re-open on September 17th for children's appointments — all children are welcome!

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:
Due to the ongoing university strike, our Adult Care program is currently on hold. This is because the supervising professors are part of the strike. We will notify you as soon as services resume.

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

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



PHOTO GALLERY

In the classroom....



Walking in the hallways!



Work time



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: _____