



# Nelson Whynder Elementary February Newsletter

## IMPORTANT DATES:

- February is African Heritage Month
- February is Registration Month
- February 16: Heritage Day (no classes - all schools)
- February 17: Lunar New Year
- February 26: Pink Shirt Day

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear NWES Families,

February marks African Heritage Month, celebrated every year to recognize the history, culture, and contributions of individuals of African descent. The 2026 theme is “**Strength in Unity: Moving Forward with Purpose, Prosperity, Power, and Progress.**”

Throughout the month, students will explore African Nova Scotian history through classroom projects, creative art and writing activities, and collaborative group discussions. They will participate in storytelling sessions, hear from community leaders, and take part in school-wide performances and celebrations that highlight culture, leadership, and resilience. These experiences aim to inspire pride, reflection, and a deeper understanding of identity and heritage.

Families are encouraged to explore local events, books, and stories celebrating Black excellence. We will also continue recognizing students through Positive Participation Awards for kindness, leadership, and achievement.

February is also **Registration Month** for 2025–2026. Please see the registration section for details.

Thank you for supporting Nelson Whynder School as a place where every student feels valued, celebrated, and empowered.

Warm regards,

*April Desmond*

Principal, Nelson Whynder Elementary School

## February is Registration Month

Do you have or know a child who will be starting Pre Primary or Primary this fall? It's time to register!

Registration for the 2026-27 school year begins on Monday, February 2. 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 with one of the following: 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, a mortgage contract or a residential lease agreement

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.

## February is African Heritage Month

African Heritage Month in Nova Scotia is a time to recognize and celebrate the rich history, vibrant culture, and lasting contributions of people of African descent in our province. This year's theme, **"Strength in Unity – Moving Forward with Purpose, Prosperity, Power and Progress,"** reminds us of the importance of coming together as a community, learning from one another, and moving forward with shared purpose.



In our schools, African Heritage Month provides meaningful opportunities for students to explore African Nova Scotian histories and experiences, deepen their understanding of our shared past, and reflect on the values of respect, inclusion, and belonging. Through classroom learning, discussions, and activities connected to this year's theme, students are encouraged to appreciate diversity, build empathy, and recognize the strength that comes from unity. These experiences help foster welcoming school communities and inspire students to contribute positively to a more inclusive and equitable future for all.

## Open your home to an international student!

Have you considered opening your home to an international student?

HRCE's International Services welcomes students from all over the world who would like to attend schools in our region. Hosting a student in your home can be an enriching



**BECOME A HOST FAMILY**  
OPEN YOUR HOME AND HEART TO AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT

<b>\$875</b> /month	PER STUDENT (Tax Free)	<b>\$975</b> /month	If you can accommodate a vegetarian or lactose free diet	<b>\$1075</b> /month	If you can accommodate a vegan or celiac diet
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\* Effective in September 2025.

**RECEIVE \$100 FOR EVERY SUCCESSFUL REFERRAL OF NEW HOST FAMILY**  
Share the name and contact details of an interested host. Once they are approved and actively hosting, you'll receive \$100.

Halifax Regional Centre for Education | Learn More: [nisp.ca/host](https://nisp.ca/host) | Email: [hostastudent@hrce.ca](mailto:hostastudent@hrce.ca) or call 902-464-2000 ext. 2548

and rewarding experience. We're looking for warm and caring families like yours to provide them with a home away from home.

Hosting an international student is a once-in-a-lifetime experience that gives your family the opportunity to bring the world home. For students, it's a way to learn about the Canadian way of life.

As a host, your family would be matched with a student who will attend your neighbourhood school and participate in your daily routines.

**What you can expect:**

- Host families receive a tax-free monthly stipend to help cover hosting expenses (\$825 current, \$875 effective September)
- Students stay for periods of three to 10 months
- Ongoing support is provided by an experienced Homestay Coordinator
- You will learn about and communicate with your student before their arrival

Learn more [here](#) or contact:

**HRCE International Services**

(902) 464-2000 ext. 2548

[hostastudent@hrce.ca](mailto:hostastudent@hrce.ca)

Please share this message with anyone who may be interested.

Thank you! Gracias. Merci. Xie-Xie. Danke. Arigato. Grazie. Obrigado. Kamsa-Hamnida. Kawp-Kun-Ka. Shukran. Teşekkür Ederim.

HRCE International Services

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## February 16 is Heritage Day

Nova Scotia Heritage Day is celebrated on Monday, February 16, and provides an opportunity for students and families to learn more about the people, stories, and events that have shaped our province. Each year, Heritage Day honours a notable Nova Scotian, and in 2026 we recognize Joseph William Comeau, an important Acadian poet, writer, and cultural leader.

Joseph William Comeau is remembered for his contributions to Acadian literature and for helping to preserve and promote Acadian language, identity, and culture in Nova Scotia. His work reflected the everyday lives, resilience, and traditions of Acadian communities, and his legacy continues to influence Acadian culture today.

Heritage Day provides us with an opportunity to explore Nova Scotia's diverse history and to better understand how individuals from different backgrounds have contributed to our shared story. Learning about Joseph William Comeau helps students appreciate the richness of Acadian heritage and the importance of preserving culture, language, and community.

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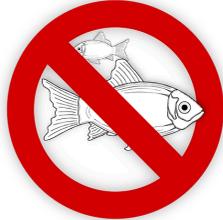
## Two Truths & AI

Two Truths & AI is a free, interactive activity from Common Sense Education that helps students learn how to tell the difference between real and AI-generated content. Through guided examples, students practice asking good questions and thinking critically about what they see online. This resource can also be a helpful way for parents and caregivers to build their own understanding of AI and media literacy alongside their children. Learn more [here](#).

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## Life-Threatening Allergies

Nelson Whynder Elementary School kindly asks that all families continue to respect our Life-Threatening Allergy Policy. Please note that students and staff have life-threatening allergies, including those to **nuts, fish, shellfish, and various scent sensitivities**. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated, as it helps us maintain a safer environment for everyone.



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## Thriving Offline: How Delaying Smartphones Can Help Kids Flourish

Thriving Offline: How Delaying Smartphones Can Help Kids Flourish, a free community event hosted by Unplugged Canada at St. Margaret's Bay Elementary, is available both in person and virtually.

Designed for caregivers and educators, this session will explore how early smartphone and social media use impacts children's development and the latest research, practical strategies, safer alternatives, and age-appropriate boundaries to support healthy childhoods.

### Join us! Thriving Offline: How Delaying Smartphones Can Help Kids Flourish

- Tuesday, February 24, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.
  - St. Margaret's Bay Elementary - 24 Ridgewood Dr, Head of St Margaret's Bay, NS
  - Please register for in-person or virtual [here](#).
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**UPCOMING FREE EVENT!**

**Thriving Offline:**  
How Delaying Smartphones Can Help Kids Flourish

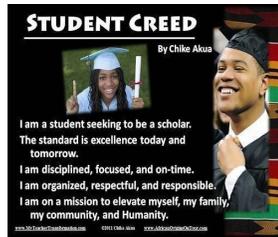
**When:** Tuesday, February 24<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30pm ADT  
**Where:** St. Margaret's Bay Elementary, NS  
(Virtual Zoom option available)  
**Register:** [UnpluggedNSThrivingOffline.eventbrite.ca](https://unpluggedNSThrivingOffline.eventbrite.ca)  
*Connect with other parents in our supportive community!*

un plugged  
How to thrive

The poster features a photograph of six diverse children smiling and hugging each other. The text is overlaid on a dark background at the top and bottom of the image.

## Positive Participation Awards For the Month of January

Classroom Awards	Music	Phys.Ed	French
Pre- Primary <b>Tahreiyah Downey</b> Primary <b>Juleka Ofoma-Provo</b> Grade 1 <b>Ju'Kyi Beals</b> Grade 2/3 <b>Kaidace Simmonds</b> Grade 4 /5 <b>China Cain</b> Grade 6 <b>Maliki Brownie</b>	Primary <b>Chyzier Willis</b> Grade 1 <b>Ju'Kyi Beals</b> Grade 2/3 <b>Armon Downey</b> Grade 4/5 <b>Fredrico Conrod</b> Grade 6 <b>Lynajiah Smith</b>	Primary <b>Kalayah Simmonds</b> Grade 1 <b>Kaiden HB</b> Grade 2/ 3 <b>Antonio Leaman</b> Grade 4 /5 <b>Frederico Conrad</b> Grade 6 <b>Maliki Brownie</b>	Grade 4/5 <b>Daylon Flint</b> Grade 6 <b>Julmyree Provo</b>



### 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.



### SAC News

Our SAC meeting on the 26th of January was cancelled due to inclement weather. These are the dates of our next meetings. Our next meeting is at **6pm Monday 23rd February 2026.**

#### Future meetings

- 6pm Monday 23rd February 2026
- 6pm Monday 30th March 2026
- 6pm Monday 27 April 2026
- 6pm Monday 25th May 2026
- 6pm Monday 29th June 2026