



Nelson Whynder Elementary March Newsletter

IMPORTANT DATES:

- **March 8:** International Women's Day
- **March 13:** Assessment & Evaluation Day (no classes - Ele/JH/Middle only)
- **March 16-20:** March Break
- **March 21:** World Down Syndrome Day
- **March 21:** International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
- **March 31:** International Transgender Day of Visibility
- **Mar 23-Apr 2:** Report cards

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear NWES Families,

As we step into March, I want to thank our families for your continued partnership and flexibility during the recent winter weather. Snow days can be disruptive, and we appreciate your ongoing support in helping students stay connected to their learning routines.

March is shaping up to be a busy and exciting month at NWES. Classrooms are engaged in rich learning experiences, and we continue to focus on strong literacy and numeracy instruction, positive school routines, and supporting student well-being. Our staff remain committed to creating inclusive, welcoming environments where every student can thrive.

Our Who Am I Fair is a special celebration of identity, culture, and community at NWES! Students will showcase who they are, their heritage, their families, and their dreams through creative displays, projects, and presentations. This exciting event encourages every student to take pride in their learning, express themselves, and celebrate the diversity that makes our school community so strong.

Join us on **Wednesday, March 11 at 1:00 PM** as we come together to celebrate our students and their unique stories!

We will be celebrating with a special Spirit Week (March 9–12) focused on identity, heritage, and celebrating our NWES community. We encourage all students to participate and have fun:

- **Monday, March 9** — Who Are We Through Our Families & Ancestors?
Theme: Family Celebration: Wear something that reflects your family, culture, or traditions.
- **Tuesday, March 10** — Who Are We in Our Heritage?
Theme: Celebrating African Nova Scotian Pride : Honour African Nova Scotian excellence by wearing red, green, black, gold, or cultural attire.
- **Wednesday, March 11** — Who Are We at School?
Theme: Our School Pride: Wear school colours or NWES gear to show our strength as a school community.
- **Thursday, March 12** — Who Are We Becoming?
Theme: Future Me / Dream Big
Dress as who you hope to be or something that represents your goals and strengths

Thank you for being such an important part of our NWES community. When schools and families work together, our students benefit the most.

Warm regards,

March 21 is International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

Today we recognize International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination to build awareness, empathy, and respect among students of all backgrounds. The United Nations established this day in 1966 to call for a global commitment to ending racial discrimination in all its forms.



By learning about the impacts of discrimination and celebrating diversity, children gain social skills and knowledge to be inclusive both within school and home community. Families are our students first educators and through your continuous conversation valuing equity and the elimination of racism, we will continue our shared goal of a society where racism no longer exist.

March 21 is World Down Syndrome Day

World Down Syndrome Day, celebrated each year on March 21, gives us the chance to recognize those with Down syndrome and the awesome contributions they make to our school communities. It's an opportunity for families, students, and staff to strengthen inclusion, acceptance, and belonging. By celebrating differences and promoting understanding, our schools help create welcoming environments where every child feels valued and supported.



On this day, many schools encourage students and staff to wear mismatched socks as a colourful symbol of diversity and solidarity. Activities such as assemblies, classroom discussions, and creative projects highlight the abilities of individuals with Down syndrome, fostering empathy and friendship throughout the school. These efforts ensure that everyone has a voice and a place in our communities, reinforcing the importance of respect and kindness.

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 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

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

March is Nutrition Month: Make the Most of the Nova Scotia School Lunch Program

March is celebrated across Canada as Nutrition Month, a perfect opportunity for families to focus on building healthy eating habits together. Nutrition Month allows us to explore sustainable eating patterns, food literacy, and learning about the benefits of balance and variety in everyday meals. By highlighting the connection between nutrition and long-term health, Nutrition Month empowers everyone to build habits that benefit both individuals and the planet.



Use Nutrition Month as a reminder to take advantage of the [Nova Scotia School Lunch Program!](#) With nutritious, balanced meals prepared daily, the program ensures students have the energy and focus they need to succeed in the classroom and beyond. The School Lunch Program is designed to provide accessible, affordable, and appealing meals that feature a variety of foods from all food groups, following Canada's Food Guide. By participating, families can help their children develop lifelong healthy habits while making mornings a little less hectic.

Together, we can make small changes that lead to healthier futures for our families and communities.

Power Outage Information for Families

As we move into the winter months, we want to share how decisions are made when a school experiences a power outage.

Our priority is always to keep schools open safely when possible. A power outage does not automatically mean classes are cancelled – even if it happens during the school day. The decision depends on when power is expected to be restored.

Here's what happens:

- When a school loses power, HRCE's Operations Team contacts Nova Scotia Power to gather available details on the cause and an estimated restoration time.
- Once we have this information, we consider:
- Before school starts: Have buses begun their routes? If so, we wait until students arrive before making a decision. If classes are cancelled, elementary families will be contacted before dismissal.
- During the school day: How close is dismissal? What is the temperature in the building? Does the school rely on power for water or septic systems? These factors, among others, help us decide whether to stay open or close. Often, power returns faster than we could safely send students home.

If classes are cancelled:

- HRCE will notify families by email and text.
- Families of elementary students will also receive a phone call before dismissal.

Deciding to close schools during a power outage is never simple, but safety is always our top priority. We understand that cancellations can be inconvenient, and our goal is to keep students learning in class whenever possible.

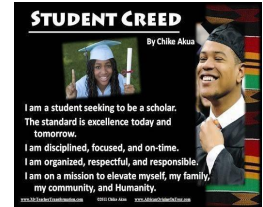
More information about school cancellations for any reason can be found [here](#).

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.



Positive Participation Awards For the Month of February



Classroom Awards	Music	Phys.Ed	French
Pre- Primary Ticcarra Fraser Primary Ree'Niyan Downey-Galbraith Grade 1 Zakai Sparks Grade 2/3 Alijah Smith Grade 4/5 Lynzell Smith Grade 6 Julmyree Provo	Primary Ahmyus Downey Grade 1 Kehlani Glasgow-Beals Grade 2/3 Alijah Smith Grade 4/5 Damarrei Smith Grade 6 Rayvon Thomas	Primary Juquel Provo Grade 1 Nazari Gray Grade 2/3 Armon Downey Grade 4/5 Egypt Simmons-Lamb Grade 6 Lynajiah Smith	Grade 4/5 China Cain Grade 6 Lynajiah Smith

Photo Gallery

In February we celebrated African Heritage month with an African Heritage Book Cafe in our library and drumming circles with Mr. Fells.



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 30th March 2026.**

Future meetings

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