



Nelson Whynder Elementary April Newsletter

IMPORTANT DATES:

- **April 2:** World Autism Awareness Day
- **April 2:** Elem/Middle/Jr Progress Conferences/Teacher Professional Practice Day & High School Professional Development (No classes - all schools)
- **April 3:** Good Friday (No classes - all schools)
- **April 5:** Easter
- **April 6:** Easter Monday (No classes - all schools)
- **April 22:** Earth Day
- **April 22:** Administrative Professionals Day
- **Apr 19-Apr 25:** National Volunteer Week
- **April 29:** Elem/Middle/Jr Professional Development & High School Progress Conferences/Teacher Professional Practice Day (No classes - all schools)

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear NWES Families,

As we move into April, our school community continues to grow through meaningful learning, connection, and celebration.

We were honoured to welcome Daneesha Provo, whose career-focused and motivational presentation inspired our students to think confidently about their future pathways. Her message encouraged goal-setting, perseverance, and believing in one's potential. We also thank Alicia Kibwaa for leading learning around *Kujichagulia*, supporting our students in understanding the importance of self-determination, identity, and voice.

Our students were excited to take part in the Earth Rangers program, where they explored ways to protect the environment and learned how small actions can make a big difference. It was encouraging to see their commitment to caring for our planet.

In athletics, we celebrate our North Star Basketball Team for their hard work and sportsmanship. They represented our school proudly in games at home and at St. Joseph's A. MacKay, showing teamwork, perseverance.

We are also looking forward to our upcoming Gift Card Bingo on April 30. To support this event, we are kindly asking families to donate gift cards. These contributions will help make the event a fun and successful experience for our students and community. We appreciate your generosity and support and school spirit. Stay tuned for more information

April is a time of renewal and continued growth. We look forward to the learning, achievements, and connections still to come.

Warm regards,

April Desmond

Principal, Nelson Whynder Elementary School



April 2 is Autism Awareness Day

Autism Awareness Day is an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the many strengths and experiences of autistic children and youth in our school communities. For families, it's a moment to reflect on the importance of feeling seen, heard, and supported – not just today, but every day.

In our schools, awareness is only the beginning. True inclusion comes from acceptance, understanding, and a commitment to meeting each student where they are. When educators, students, and families work together to build empathy and reduce barriers, we create environments where every child can thrive.

Recognized globally on April 2, World Autism Awareness Day, led by the United Nations, highlights the importance of improving quality of life and upholding the rights of autistic individuals. This year's theme, "Autism and Humanity – Every Life Has Value," reminds us that every person deserves dignity, respect, and the opportunity to thrive, both in school and beyond.

Try Carpool Conversations with your Kids

Looking for an easy way to talk with your child about their digital world? Carpool Conversations from Common Sense Media offers short, engaging prompts and mini podcasts designed to spark family discussions about technology, media use, and online behaviour. Many episodes are only a couple of minutes long, perfect for a car ride or while waiting for practice to start. Explore the conversation starters [here](#).

The "Amazing" Adventure Guide

[Unplugged Canada](#) encourages families to reclaim childhood by creating more opportunities for outdoor adventure, independence, and real-world responsibility. Research shows that children thrive when they spend more time exploring their neighbourhoods, solving problems with friends, and contributing meaningfully at home and in their communities. Simple steps like walking to a neighbour's house, biking to a local park, helping plan a family meal or running small errands help kids build confidence, resilience and practical life skills.

Families can support this shift by intentionally creating space for free, unsupervised play and increasing responsibility over time. That might mean designating "no-adult" play zones, encouraging kids to gather in groups of three or more for creative play, or giving them meaningful household roles such as helping with groceries, cooking or caring for pets. It can feel challenging to step back, but children build independence by practicing it. Families can make it easier by teaming up with other parents in their neighbourhood to create shared boundaries for safe roaming and outdoor play. For more ideas and practical steps, see the full guide: [The "Amazing" Adventure Guide](#) from Unplugged Canada.

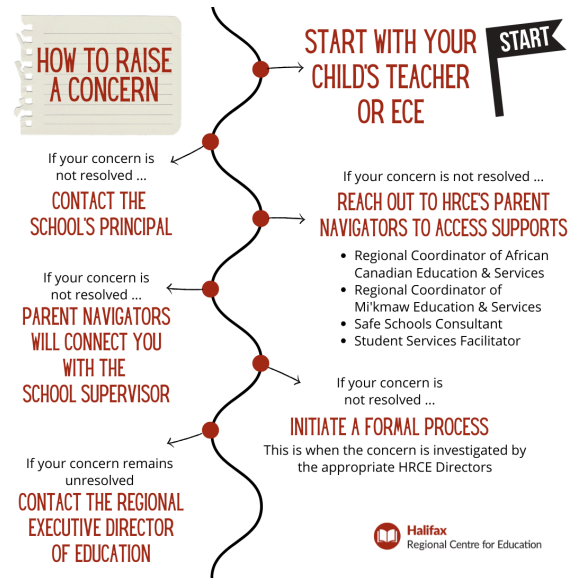
Do you know how to raise a concern?

We want families to feel comfortable reaching out when they have questions or concerns about their child's education or well-being. In most cases, concerns can be resolved quickly by connecting directly with school staff.

If you do have a concern, here are the steps to follow:

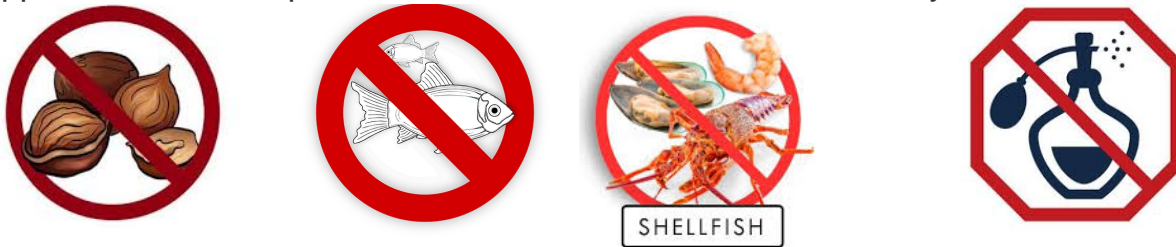
- Start by speaking with your child's teacher or ECE. They are often best positioned to address questions about your child's learning or classroom experience.
- If the concern isn't resolved, contact the school principal to continue the conversation and work toward a solution.
- If you need additional support, HRCE's Family Navigators are here to help. They can provide guidance and connect families with helpful resources and supports. They can be reached at connect@hrce.ca.
- If the concern still isn't resolved, a formal review process can be requested and the matter will be looked into by the appropriate HRCE Director.
- The final step is for the concern to be reviewed by the Regional Executive Director.

You can learn more about the process [here](#) or by reviewing the [Parent/Guardian Concern Policy](#).

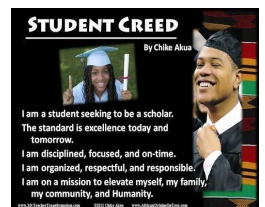


Life-Threatening Allergies

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.



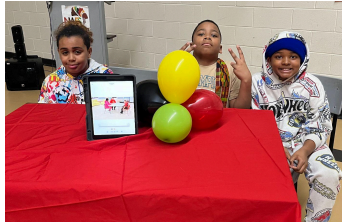
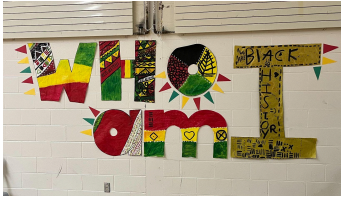
Positive Participation Awards For the Month of April



Classroom Awards	Music	Phys.Ed	French
Pre- Primary TJ Willis_Grant Primary Juquel Provo Grade 1 Damaesiah Smith Grade 2/3 Kyien Smith Grade 4/5 J'ahmai Johnson Grade 6 Denaijah Downey	Primary Juleka Ofoma-Provo Grade 1 Zakyiah Simmonds Grade 2/3 Kaidace Simmonds Grade 4/5 Tre'Laina Downey Grade 6 Ro'Jhaiah Beals	Primary Kalayah Simmonds Grade 1 Damaesiah Smith Grade 2/3 Kyien Smith Grade 4/5 Dayvon Flint Grade 6 Lucius Fourgaud	Grade 4/5 Zayzell Smith Grade 6 Zy'zayian Provo

Photo Gallery

Who Am I Fair



Earth Rangers Assembly



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://sisrsb.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 next meeting is at **6pm Monday 27th April, 2026.**

Future meetings

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