



Nelson Whynder Elementary May Newsletter

IMPORTANT DATES:

- **May** is Asian Heritage Month
- **May** is Canadian Jewish Heritage Month
- **May** is Polish Heritage Month
- **May** is Speech and Hearing Month
- **May 5:** Red Dress Day
- **May 10-16:** Education Week
- **May 11:** Mi'Kmaq Language Day
- **May 15:** Black Excellence Day
- **May 17:** International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia
- **May 18:** Victoria Day (No classes - all schools)
- **May 31 to June 6:** Access Awareness Week

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear NWES Families,

Happy May! As the warmer weather settles in and spring blossoms all around us, we are excited to share some of the wonderful learning experiences, celebrations, and events happening at Nelson Whynder Elementary School.

Our commitment to student success continues to guide everything we do. Grade 3 students are currently preparing for the upcoming Provincial Literacy and Mathematics Assessments. The Literacy Assessments will take place on May 13–14, and the Math Assessments will be held on May 20–21. Teachers and staff have been supporting students with strategies to build confidence and strengthen their skills in both subject areas.

We are proud to celebrate Black Excellence Day on Wednesday, May 15. This day highlights the achievements, brilliance, and contributions of people of African ancestry in Nova Scotia and beyond. At NWES, we are deeply committed to recognizing and uplifting Black excellence every day—through our curriculum, school culture, and community partnerships. Students and staff are invited to wear black.

The month of May and early June also bring a series of exciting community-building events:

Family Evening Bingo – Thursday, April 30

Thank you to all the families who joined us for this fun-filled evening of laughter, games, and prizes. It was wonderful to connect in such a joyful way!

Annual Wellness Day – Thursday, May 29

This special day is designed to support the spiritual, intellectual, social, emotional, and physical development of every student. Activities will include therapy sessions, physical movement, mindfulness, and opportunities to explore spirituality—all led by our caring staff and community guests.

Spring Fling – Saturday, June 12

A celebration for the whole family! There will be games, food, entertainment, and more.

We are currently looking for volunteers to help organize this event. Please call the school if you are able to support it. If we do not have enough volunteers, we may need to cancel the event. **Please let us know by May 13.**

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support. When families and schools work together, great things happen for children. Let's continue to build a strong, caring, and thriving school community—together.

With gratitude,
April Desmond

May 15 is Black Excellence Day



Black Excellence Day 2026 in Nova Scotia is an opportunity for schools to reflect on the learning and exploration of Black people and culture over the past year. It recognizes, celebrates, and supports learning from the achievements, contributions, and leadership of Black individuals and communities. More than a single-day celebration, Black Excellence is the recognition of meaningful steps toward strengthening inclusive learning environments where all students see themselves reflected in curriculum materials, through the stories we tell and the histories we honour.

The purpose of celebrating Black Excellence in our schools and classrooms is to affirm student's identities, build confidence, and inspire futures by highlighting the role Black people have made in education, science, arts, leadership, and community advocacy. It reflects and celebrates thoughtful conversations in schools about equity, representation, and the ongoing work to remove systemic barriers.

This moment of reflection also invites educators and school communities to consider how Black Excellence is represented within their own classrooms and learning spaces. For some, this may affirm intentional work already underway; for others, it may serve as an opportunity to begin or deepen this practice. Black Excellence Day reminds us that this work is ongoing, and that there is always time to plan, reflect, and be deliberate in ensuring all students see themselves meaningfully reflected in our schools.

We welcome everyone to wear a black shirt, if you're able, on May 15 to show your support for Black Excellence Day!

Free Live Event

UNPLUGGED CANADA

A National Conversation
with Unplugged Canada Ambassadors:

Tania Johnson, M.C.
Co-founder of the Institute of Child Psychology
Researching Author

Dr. Michele Locke, Ph.D.
Clinical Psychologist
Toronto Chapter Co-founder

Kirsten Sweet, M.Ed.
National Program Director
Alberta Chapter Co-founder

- Explore the research: Smartphones and Social Media
- Review the Unplugged Pledge and Resources
- Join our National School Champion Program
- Check out our new resource: Operation Landline
- Invite all parents and caregivers in your school community

Wednesday,
May 6th
5pm PT | 8pm ET



Unplugged Webinar on Smartphones, Social Media and More

Unplugged Canada is hosting a LIVE webinar on May 6 every parent and caregiver needs to hear. We're talking smartphones, social media, the research – and most importantly, what we can do about it.

Hosted by Kirsten Sweet, educator and National Program Director with Unplugged Canada with Tania Johnson, Co-founder of the Institute of Child Psychology and Dr. Michele Locke, Clinical Psychologist, learn about the impact of smartphones and social media on youth and how the Unplugged Canada Pledge and our resources can spark meaningful conversations in your home, school, and community.

We'll also introduce two new initiatives: the National School Champion Program and Operation Landline – a summer campaign helping families delay smartphones and reconnect in simpler, more intentional ways.

Come ready to learn, connect, and be part of the movement. Register [here](#).

Screen Free Summer: Digital Diet Guidance

As summer approaches, many families are thinking about screen time. This article introduces the idea of a “digital diet,” encouraging a focus on the quality and purpose of screen use rather than just limiting it. It offers practical ways to help children build healthier, more balanced habits with technology. Read more [here](#).



Nova Scotia Quality of Life Survey

Engage Nova Scotia is seeking more youth voices in their Nova Scotia Quality of Life Survey to ensure this critical demographic is properly represented in reporting. To ensure youth voices are heard, Engage Nova Scotia is asking parents to encourage youth and young adults in their household, who are age 16 and older, to complete the survey.

Take the survey now!

Please email Engage Nova Scotia at survey@engagenovascotia.ca to take the Nova Scotia Quality of Life Survey. By sharing your story – your day-to-day experiences from affordability and sense of belonging in community to close personal connections and your level of trust in institutions – you can help reveal the full story of your community's well-being.

You can also learn more at engagenovascotia.ca.

Engage Nova Scotia is a non-profit, independent organization that works with partners to advance the quality of life of all Nova Scotia residents. They believe everyone should be included to share their story, seed their future, and influence change to improve their own well-being and the well-being of their communities. Engage works closely with local municipalities and organizations across the province.

Access Awareness Week - May 31 to June 6

Access Awareness Week in Nova Scotia, taking place May 31–June 6, 2026, is an opportunity to recognize the importance of accessibility, inclusion, and the leadership of people with disabilities. This year's theme, "Disability Justice: Stronger Together, First Voice Leading Change for Collective Action," emphasizes the importance of centering lived experience and working collaboratively to create meaningful, lasting change.

In schools, this week is a powerful reminder that inclusion is everyone's responsibility. Classrooms are where understanding begins – through learning, conversation, and action. By listening to diverse voices, removing barriers, and fostering accessible learning environments, educators and students help build school communities where all learners feel valued and supported.

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 will be announced in the Next Newsletter

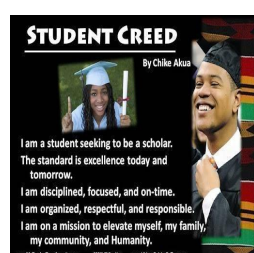
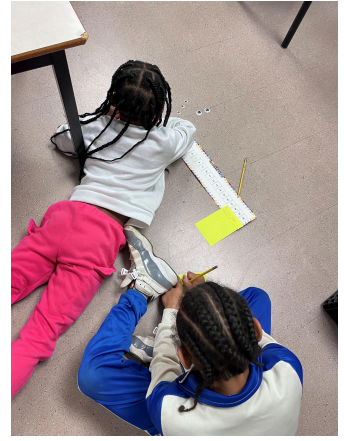
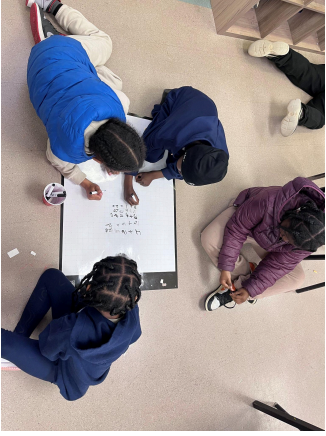


Photo Gallery



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 next meeting is at **6pm Monday 25th May, 2026.**

Future meetings

6pm Monday 29th June 2026
