



Nelson Whynder Elementary September Newsletter

IMPORTANT DATES:

- **September 3:** First day of school for students
- **September 7:** Labour Day-No classes PP-12
- **September 10:** Stand Up Against Bullying Day
- **September 10:** Karaoke and BBQ Meet and Greet
- **September 25:** Professional Development Day – No classes PP-12
- **September 29:** Observe Orange Shirt Day (wear orange)
- **September 30:** National Day for Truth and Reconciliation – No classes PP-12

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Greetings NWES Families,

Welcome to a new school year! We are excited to welcome our students and families back to Nelson Whynder Elementary School and begin another wonderful year of learning, growing, and connecting together.

At Nelson Whynder, we are committed to creating a safe, welcoming, inclusive, and culturally responsive learning environment where every child feels a strong sense of belonging, identity, and purpose. We want every student to know that they are valued, supported, and capable of success.

Our partnership with families and our community is an important part of our students' success. Together, we will continue to build a school community where students are encouraged to learn, lead, dream, and achieve.

We look forward to an exciting year filled with learning, laughter, new experiences, and many opportunities to celebrate our students.

Welcome back—we are so glad you are part of the Nelson Whynder family!

Warm regards,

April Desmond

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.

School Hours & Arrival/Dismissal Information

We are looking forward to welcoming our students back to Nelson Whynder Elementary School! To help ensure a safe, smooth, and positive start and end to each school day, please review the following information.

School Hours

- Arrival :8:10 a.m.
- Entry: 8:15 a.m.
- Instructional Day Begins: 8:30 a.m.
- Dismissal: 2:30 p.m.

Morning Arrival and Dismissal Doors

Students should enter the school through the designated doors for their grade level:

- Pre-Primary: Front door by the Office
- Primary/One , Grade 1/2 , Grade 3, Grades 4/5 and Grade 6: Front Doors by school mural

We appreciate families following these arrival and dismissal procedures. Using the designated doors helps us supervise students effectively, reduce congestion, and ensure a safe transition into and out of the school each day.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support!

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.
- **Pick Up:** Dismissal time is 2:30pm, students can be picked up at the front of the school.

- **Parking Lot Safety:** For the safety of our students, families, and staff, the school parking lot will be closed to vehicle traffic during morning arrival and afternoon dismissal. Vehicles will not be permitted to enter or access the parking lot during these times. Thank you for helping us keep our students safe and ensuring a smooth arrival and dismissal for everyone.

We appreciate your cooperation in helping us create a safe and welcoming environment for all students.

PowerSchool Opens for Families on September 2

PowerSchool will open to families on Wednesday, September 2 at 3 p.m. In PowerSchool, you'll be able to view your child's teacher(s) and/or class schedule.

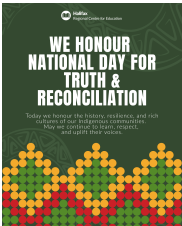
School Vision and School Matrix



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.



National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

On September 30, we honour the children who never returned home from residential schools, and the survivors, families and communities who continue to live with their lasting impacts. Orange Shirt Day is an Indigenous-led movement that reminds us that Every Child Matters and encourages all of us to learn, reflect and support truth and reconciliation. As there are no classes on Wednesday, September 30, we invite students and staff to wear orange, if they're able, on Tuesday, September 29.

Stand Up Against Bullying Day is September 10



On Stand Up Against Bullying Day, we come together to promote kindness, inclusion and respect in our school communities.

Every student deserves to feel safe, supported and welcome at school. On Thursday, September 10, we invite students and staff to wear pink, if they're able, and help show that bullying has no place in our schools.

Together, we can help create school communities where everyone feels they belong.



Using BusPlanner

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, bus delays or cancellations.

To sign up, go to BusPlanner at hrce.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 through the Transportation Inquiry Form [here](#).

Nova Scotia School Lunch Program: Ordering is Now Open!



We're looking forward to the 2026-27 launch of the Nova Scotia School Lunch Program! Beginning this school year, the program will be available in all public schools across the province.

Start date

Lunches at your school will begin on **Tuesday, September 8.**

Key dates for the first ordering cycle:

- Ordering opens: **Friday, August 28**
- Ordering closes: **Wednesday, September 2, at noon**

Registering and ordering

All lunches must be ordered through the online ordering system. To get started, visit www.NSLunch.ca and click "Order Now." Returning users can sign in using their existing account.

More information, including instructions on how to create a diner account, is available at www.NSLunch.ca.