



# Nelson Whynder Elementary May 2024 Newsletter

## IMPORTANT DATES:

- **May 3rd - Positive Participation Award Assembly**
- **May 5th - Red Dress Day**
- **May 15th - Black Excellence Day**
- **May 17th - Grade P-3 field trip**
- **May 22nd - Symphony Nova Scotia**
- **May 24th - Fluoride Varnish Program**
- **May 26 to June 1 - National AccessAbility Week**
- **May 29th - Band, Choir, and Violin joint concert at**
- **May 31st - Field trip to Victoria Park**

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear NWES Families,

We hope this newsletter finds you well and thriving in this beautiful month of May. Spring is in full swing, and with it comes a flurry of exciting events and opportunities for our school community.

Our school has continued to actively engage our students in the pursuit of excellence. The grade three class are preparing for the Provincial Literacy and Mathematics Assessments. These assessments will be administered the week of May 13 to 24. We have reviewed and updated our Cycle 3 Student Success Plan goals and strategies for Literacy, Mathematics and Well-being. Staff have been involved in professional development sessions around gathering evidence of learning, trauma, and learning about various community organizations to support students and staff.

We will celebrate Black Excellence Day on May 15. Black Excellence Day provides an opportunity to celebrate the achievements, contributions, and successes of Black individuals within the community. All schools in Nova Scotia are mandated to highlight the brilliance, achievements, and talents of students of African ancestry and applaud members of our community who have for generations contributed with purpose and intention to elevate our Nova Scotian community. Here at Nelson Whynder, we celebrate and embody Black Excellence on a daily basis.

Plans are on the way for our Annual Well Being Day. Spiritual, intellectual, social, emotional and physical activity are all dimensions of a child's wellbeing. On Friday, June 7, 2024, students and staff will be participating in a special day geared towards the development of their whole well-being. Students will engage in sessions highlighting their faith, art therapy, physical activity and mindfulness. Our theme for our event is - ***Empathy "walking in someone else's shoes."*** We have invited special guests to participate and lead various sessions on the dimensions of well being.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in your child's education. Together, we can ensure that every student at Nelson Whynder reaches their full potential.

Warm Regards,

## EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

**P-4 Field Trip to the Museum of Natural History :** Our students attended a field trip to the Museum of Natural History to discover the answers to questions by exploring Nova Scotia's forest, ocean, observe live reptiles and amphibians, learn about Earth and space with Science on a Sphere, and discover thousands of years of history with Mi'kmaq artifacts.

**Grade 5, 6 Field Trip to the COVE:** COVE is a high tech innovation hub for the global marine technology sectors. We were also given a tour of the retired ship called **CSS Acadia**

**Grade 4-6 Field Trip to Halifax Library for Funny Pages:** Our students headed to Halifax Library for the day to meet with authors and learn about how they write their stories.

**Presentation of Arnold Johnson Plaque:** Our school had the pleasure of being invited to take part in the unveiling of the Arnold Johnson Plaque.

**Dental Awareness Presentation:** Ms. Juliette and students worked very hard in their preparation for the Dental Awareness puppetshow. Our students loved it and we wanted to extend a huge thank you to everyone involved!

**UDFC Soccer Demonstration:** United DFC Soccer Club was in to provide a demonstration and teach some skills to our students.

### Upcoming Events

We are excited to announce a **Band, Choir, and Violin concert** on Wednesday, May 29th at 7:00 pm. Please plan on joining our first ever combined concert in the gym at Nelson Whynder Elementary School. We look forward to seeing you there.

Also, see above dates for more upcoming events and details to follow.

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## May 15 is Black Excellence Day

Celebrating Black Excellence Day on May 15, 2024, within Halifax Regional Centre for Education is important for several reasons:

1. **Representation and Recognition:** Black Excellence Day provides an opportunity to celebrate the achievements, contributions, and successes of Black individuals within the community. It highlights the talent and accomplishments within the Black community, ensuring that Black students have an opportunity to highlight all their positive contributions within the educational system.
2. **Empowerment and Inspiration:** By celebrating Black Excellence, students are inspired and empowered to pursue their own goals and dreams. Seeing examples of successful Black individuals from various fields, such as science, arts, politics and sports, can motivate students to strive for their own excellence.
3. **Education and Awareness:** Black Excellence Day serves as an educational opportunity to raise awareness about the rich history, culture, and achievements of Black people. It provides a platform to share stories of resilience, innovation, and leadership, helping to combat stereotypes and promote understanding and appreciation of Black heritage.
4. **Equity and Inclusion:** Recognizing Black Excellence fosters a culture of equity and inclusion within schools. It sends a message that all students, regardless of their background, have the potential to excel and make valuable contributions to society. By celebrating diversity and promoting inclusivity, schools create a more welcoming and supportive environment for all students.
5. **Community Engagement:** Black Excellence Day can serve as a platform for community engagement and collaboration. It provides an opportunity for schools to partner with local organizations, leaders, and activists within the Black community to organize events, workshops, and discussions that promote dialogue and understanding.

Overall, celebrating Black Excellence Day within HRCE schools is important for fostering a culture of inclusivity, empowerment, and appreciation for the diverse talents and contributions of Black individuals.



## Positive Participation Awards

### Positive Participation Awards for the Month of April:

<p><b>Classroom Awards</b></p> <p>Pre Primary: <a href="#">Kehlani Glasgow-Beals</a></p> <p>Primary: <a href="#">Nalah Willis-Grant</a></p> <p>Grade One/Two: <a href="#">Zayzell Smith</a></p> <p>Grade Three: <a href="#">Eerina Downey</a></p> <p>Grade Four: <a href="#">Missy Chase-Willis</a></p> <p>Grade Five/Six: <a href="#">Nahara Johnson</a></p>	<p><b>Music</b></p> <p>Primary: <a href="#">Lisshyah Provo</a></p> <p>Grade One/Two: <a href="#">Damarrei Smith</a></p> <p>Grade Three: <a href="#">Lavonia Beals</a></p> <p>Grade Four: <a href="#">Zy'Zayian Provo</a></p> <p>Grade Five/Six: <a href="#">Shmar Downey</a></p> <p><b>Art</b></p> <p>Grade Primary: <a href="#">Nova Cain</a></p> <p>Grade One/Two: <a href="#">Damarrei Smith</a></p> <p>Grade Three: <a href="#">Tre'Laina Downey</a></p> <p>Grade Four: <a href="#">Zy'Zayian Provo</a></p> <p>Grade Five/Six: <a href="#">Quinton Fournaud</a></p>	<p><b>Phys.Ed.</b></p> <p>Primary: <a href="#">Lisshyah Provo</a></p> <p>Grade One/Two: <a href="#">Na'Ondre Smith</a></p> <p>Grade Three: <a href="#">Elayce Clayton</a></p> <p>Grade Four: <a href="#">Missy Chase-Willis</a></p> <p>Grade Five/Six: <a href="#">Dallaz Downey</a></p> <p><b>French</b></p> <p>Grade Four: <a href="#">Maliki Brownie</a></p> <p>Grade Five/Six: <a href="#">Jah'Siyah Glasgow Upshaw</a></p>
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## Notes from Your School Counsellor

Grief is a complicated feeling to deal with at all ages and can show up in different ways for children depending on their developmental stage. I had the opportunity to take a course on childhood grief and wanted to share a few takeaways with parents.

### Common misconceptions about childhood grief

**MYTH:** Don't talk to children about death....

**REALITY:** Conversations about death can begin at any age if the child is curious. By 9 or 10 kids have a full understanding of the complexities of death.

**MYTH:** Don't say words like "death" and "dying"

**REALITY:** Using these real terms (rather than "passing" or "gone") creates less confusion for younger kids. Use simple language to explain death (ex. "their body stopped working and will never work again")

**MYTH:** Children shouldn't be around someone dying or go to funerals

**REALITY:** If a child is curious and wants to be involved in a death or funeral, it is suggested that adults honor this wish.

**MYTH:** When someone is sick or dying children think about it all the time

**REALITY:** Children grieve in "chunks" over the short and long term. They can go from extreme grief to happiness very quickly and may experience grief bursts for short periods of time and then nothing again for years. This leads to adults thinking a child is "over it" before they really are. Don't be afraid to check-in with them. With adults there is often a fear that if you experience the grief you won't come out of it. As caregivers we can slowly build confidence that we can live with grief. Grief can't be fixed or distracted from.

If you are interested in children's books that talk about death and grief, reach out to the school and we can share some titles or lend some books.

#### Helpful Websites:

<https://www.grievingchildrencanada.org/index.php/resources> (Tips to help a child navigate through grief and death of a loved one)

[https://www.virtualhospice.ca/Assets/Dr%20Jay%20-%20Attending-Funerals-Nov-2015\\_20161208114454.pdf](https://www.virtualhospice.ca/Assets/Dr%20Jay%20-%20Attending-Funerals-Nov-2015_20161208114454.pdf)  
(Supporting kids attending funerals)

<http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/new-patients-site/Documents/SeriousIllnessConversationGuideCard.pdf> (Talking to kids about serious illness conversation guide)

Take care,

Ms. Alicia Barrett

[alicia.barrett@hrce.ca](mailto:alicia.barrett@hrce.ca)

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## Homework Hub: Finish the year off strong!

Did you know your student has access to Homework Hub? Finish the year off strong with the help of experienced tutors!

- GNSPES Access: Easy access to online resources and tutoring through your GNSPES account (gnspe.ca) by clicking on the Nova Scotia Homework Hub icon.
- 24/7 Access: Anytime access to video tutorials, practice questions and vocabulary review.



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- **24/7 Access**  
Anytime access to video tutorials, practice questions and vocabulary review.
- **Bilingual Tutors**  
Tutors available for students in:
  - Grade 7-12 on school nights 5:30 to 9:30 p.m.
  - Grade 4-6 Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Find the Homework Hub at [gnspe.ca](http://gnspe.ca) or call 1-888-444-6607



Halifax  
Regional Centre for Education



NOVA SCOTIA  
NOUVELLE-ÉCOSSE

## HOT LUNCH DAYS

May 1 Pizza	May 2 R&B
May 8 Pizza	May 9 R&B
May 15 Pizza	May 16 R&B
May 22 Pizza	May 23 R&B
May 29 Pizza	May 30 R&B



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## DENTAL CLINIC NEWS

### Dental clinic news:

The Adult dental clinic is now finished and the children clinic will soon be closing in June for summer break. Both clinics to re-open again in the fall.

If you have any questions or concerns about your child's dental treatment, please don't hesitate to contact us #902-462-2041.

We would like to thank NWES Administration, Teachers, Staff, Students and guest for attending and supporting our Dental Puppet Show, but more importantly the students who participated, Corvae Clayton, Rekyah Cain, Shmar Downey, Tyricco Freel, Ni'kylen Beals and for audio/sound, Keke & Natalia from Kekebeatz, it was so much fun to work with you all.

It is said that "Laughter" is the best medicine, so keep on smiling:-)

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## PHOTO GALLERY



