



Hawthorne Elementary School

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Office Hours: 8:30 am -3:30 pm

School website: ha.deltasd.bc.ca

Principal: Mr. J. Hope Vice-Principal: Mrs. B. Bryan

Administrative Assistants: Ms. W. Hunt and Ms. D. Richardson

Twitter @ElemHawthorne

February 5, 2021

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Hawthorne Families:

It's hard to believe almost a month has past since my arrival. I am getting to know so many more students and their families as well as my staff colleagues in the building. For those of you taking the time in the morning to chat and ask questions, thank you very much; it's a great way to know what is going on in the community and how I can best support people.

We have made some strides in getting the building spruced up a bit. Repairs are underway on the inside ramp to the portables and we are getting badly-worn flooring replaced in classrooms. The primary swings are being upgraded to eliminate the huge puddles that form underneath them so kids can access them easier. Exterior work will be underway in preparation for a coat of paint in the spring/summer as well as a new roof for the gym and changerooms. The work that can not be done on holidays or breaks is being done with the safety of students in mind and with as little disruption as possible.

Again, I thank you for the nice welcome I have received to the Hawthorne community and look forward to meeting more families.

Mr. J. Hope
Principal

COVID-19 Updates

Recently, revised health guidelines were announced for schools which we will incorporate into our practices. At Hawthorne we still continue to rely on the staff and the community to perform daily health checks and to stay at home with any symptoms present as the most effective way to keep the school safe. We continue with our staggered start and end times, staggered breaks, cohort assignments, increased cleaning of high touch areas, directional arrows for travel in halls and hand sanitizing protocols. We also ask our community members to assist with aspects of the site safety plan including having kids line up when they arrive for their start time (maintain distance if they have to wait for the next time), remain off the playground before and after school, vacate the school yard immediately upon dismissal, keep doorways clear to maintain physical distancing as students come out. Some of the new guidelines for elementary schools include:

1. Non-medical masks are now **required for all staff** in all K-12 schools. The only exceptions are when:

- They are sitting or standing at their workstation in a classroom.
- They are eating or drinking.
- There is a barrier in place.

The updated guidelines reiterate that masks are not a replacement for physical distancing. Students will be reminded to try and maintain social distance from people outside their learning group as much as possible.

2. Elementary school **students are not required** to wear masks and it remains a family decision. (*Please note: This is a change as previously the guidelines stated that masks were 'not recommended' for elementary school students.*) They are certainly invited to do so and choices will be honored.

3. For Physical Education and Music:

- High-intensity physical activities need to maximize physical distancing, reduce physical contact and be held outdoors as much as possible.
- Students playing instruments should be spaced at least two meters apart. We will work with our band teacher to solve this challenge.
- Masks are to be used when singing.
- Shared equipment like musical instruments or PE equipment can be used only if they are cleaned between use, according to the school's strict sanitization guidelines.
- Extracurricular activities including sports will remain on hold as a precautionary measure.

Schools are considered to be controlled environments with multiple layers of protection in place like the ones mentioned above. We have a consistent group of adults inside following safety protocols and consistent groupings of students who are doing their best to follow the expectations most of the time. This is what continues to make schools safer than public areas such as stores or transit.

With our best efforts in place, exposures are still a possibility. Fraser Health is working with the school districts to implement better communication strategies that enable accurate notices to get to the correct people in the shortest amount of time.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION – February 16-23, 2021

Kindergarten registration for the 2021/2022 school year will be held from February 16-23, 2021. Please register ONLINE for your catchment area school. Due to COVID, we are not able to accept in-person or paper applications. **Please have the following documents ready to upload with your child's registration (all documents must be received for registration to be accepted):**

1. Proof of birth date for the student (birth certificate or passport) (registration will not be accepted until proof of birth date is received).
2. Proof of citizenship for both the parent and the student (Canadian birth certificate, citizenship card, passport, landed immigrant document, permanent resident card).
3. BC Services Card.
4. Proof of Residency (Property Taxes – current receipt, purchase/rental agreement or rental receipt).

Incomplete information and documents will delay the registration process. Please ensure that all documents included with your child's registration are legible. For more information, please visit:

<https://www.deltasd.bc.ca/schools/student-registration/kindergarten/>

Non-District and Non-Catchment Applications For 2021-2022

Starting **Monday, February 1 at 8:30**, Non-District and Non-Catchment applications were accepted on-line. Please keep in mind these are applications and do not guarantee a child will be accepted into the school applied for. All children need to be registered at their own catchment school for the coming school year.

Valentine's Day



Kids look forward to Valentine's Day every year and we want to make sure that we still recognize it within the COVID guidelines set up at the school. For classes that are participating in Valentine's Day, there are some common expectations to follow. Students will be able to bring hand-made or store-bought cards only. **There will be no treats, candy or other items** to be given out to classmates. The cards will be brought in a couple days earlier to 'quarantine' before opening. This is a practice that the library has been using with books so it makes sense to extend the same cautionary approach here, even though there is no evidence of risk from paper. Look for additional information from classroom teachers.

Saleema Noon Sexual Health Education Workshops

Our PAC has kindly offered to cover the cost of workshops for parents and students. Each year, students in all elementary grades throughout BC receive instruction in sexual health education. This information is included in the Physical and Health Education program mandated for all BC students by the Ministry for Education. From time to time, schools bring in experts in the field to address this topic with the school community. We are excited to inform you that this year, **Sarah Maitland** of Saleema Noon Sexual Health Educators will be joining us via Zoom to work with parents and students. The Zoom session orientation for parents will be held on March 1, 6:30-8:30 pm. The sessions for students will take place over the course of the school day on March 4 and 5. More information will be sent home in the coming days. Thank you to the PAC for sponsoring this informative learning opportunity.

Traffic at the Front of the School

Thank you to those who have been following the traffic guidelines as outlined in the last newsletter. Our new signs have gone up on the posts and we are waiting for one more for the staff parking lots. With the signs up, school administration will be able to be outside providing reminders to drivers to adhere to the traffic guidelines. As a quick reminder, visitor parking is located to the right as you enter the traffic circle, staff parking only is in the gravel lot closest to the dumpsters and the paved lot at the end of the gym is for staff parking only. The roundabout in front of the office is for a quick drop off and pick up only; it is a no parking zone. There is also dedicated parking for day care operators only nearest to the garden. For caregivers with valid passes for disabled parking, an exception will be made to access the two spots available in the staff lot. Your cooperation on this matter is greatly appreciated as it provides for a safer environment for students, visitors, and staff.

Grade 4 and 7 FSA and MDI survey

Our Grade 4 and 7 students are often called upon to offer their views and opinions through a variety of surveys and assessments. This is due in part to the age groups being at transition periods in their education. For example, the grade 4's are transitioning from primary to intermediate and the grade 7's are getting ready to go to high school. In the coming weeks all grade 4 and 7 students will be completing a Reading, Writing, and Math assessment for the Ministry of Education called the Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) as well as the Middle Years Developmental Index survey for UBC. In the spring, the same groups will also be participating in the Student Learning Survey to gauge their views on how well school meets their needs.

Student Phones at School

Many of our older students have their own phones to help with safety as they walk to and from school. These devices also have the potential to be great learning tools when used correctly, but they also have the potential to cause harm when not used appropriately. To help mitigate that, we ask students only bring devices to school if necessary and they do so at their own risk of theft and damage. When a student enters the school grounds and they have contacted home to notify them of safe arrival at school, the devices are to be turned off and put into the backpack for the day. If a teacher asks it to be used as a learning tool, in a supervised environment, then it may be activated then. At the end of the day, the phones may be turned on to indicate to families they are on their way home. Students are not to be using them for other purposes while on the school grounds in order to help maintain the privacy of other students.

DOGS ON SCHOOL GROUNDS

Please be considerate of our school property and clean up after your dog. We are dog friendly and want to keep our grounds a safe place for our students to enjoy.

ARRIVAL AT SCHOOL – AM I LATE?

The school district code of conduct indicates that students are to attend school regularly and punctually. Students can take steps to ensure they fulfill this obligation by:

- 1) Making their lunch the night before.
- 2) Ensuring homework is complete and packed in their backpacks the night before.
- 3) Selecting clothing to wear the night before to reduce decision times in the morning.
- 4) Set an alarm to wake up early enough to ensure they arrive on time.
- 5) Plan for enough time to walk from home or from a drop-off spot near the school.



With the staggered start times and additional stress caused to families by the global pandemic, we understand that sometimes it is challenging to arrive on time. However, when a student arrives late it interrupts the learning of classmates, the flow of the teacher's lesson, and puts the student behind in their understanding of the day and initial activities. It often doesn't seem like much to be a few minutes late or to miss a day here or there, but please look at the chart below to see what kind of potential impact it can have:

1 or 2 days a week doesn't seem like much but...

If your child misses...	That equals...	Which is...	And over 13 years of schooling that's...
1 day every 2 weeks	20 days per year	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1 ½ years
1 day per week	40 days per year	8 weeks per year	Over 2 ½ years of school
2 days per week	80 days per year	16 weeks per year	Over 5 years
3 days per week	120 days per year	24 weeks per year	Nearly 8 years

How about 10 minutes late a day? Surely that won't affect my child?

He/she is only missing just...	That equals...	Which is...	And over 13 years of schooling that's...
10 mins per day	50 mins per week	Nearly 1 ½ weeks per year	Nearly ½ year
20 mins per day	1 hr. 40 mins per week	Over 2 ½ weeks per year	Nearly 1 year
30 mins per day	Half a day per week	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1 ½ years
1 hour per day	1 day per week	8 weeks per year	Over 2 ½ years

EVERY DAY COUNTS

If you want your child to be successful at school then, YES, attendance does matter!

There has also been some confusion about the start times in the morning with the two timetables. For clarity purposes here is a summary of the start and end times:

	Group A (DIV# 5,6,7,8,9,11,13,14,16,20)	Group B (DIV# 1,2,3,4,10,12,15,17,18,19)
START OF DAY: First bell and doors open in the morning. Kids should be lined up approximately 3-5 minutes before this time.	8:50	9:05
Kids are dismissed out of their classrooms and are to head straight home.	3:00	3:15



CALENDAR REMINDERS

Tuesday, Feb 9	Fire Drill at 1:30
Tuesday, Feb 16	Kindergarten registration opens online
Wednesday, Feb 24	Pink Shirt Day
Monday, March 1	Saleema Noon Parent Night on Zoom
Thurs/Fri, March 4,5	Student Saleema Noon presentations
Friday, March 12	Spirit Day- Look-alike day
March 15-26	Spring Break