



Hawthorne Elementary School

5160 Central Ave, Delta BC V4K 2H2

Phone: 604-946-7601/ Fax: 604-946-3016

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

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

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

School website: ha.deltasd.bc.ca

Twitter @ElemHawthorne

January 13, 2021

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Hawthorne Families:

I hope all of you had a wonderful winter break and have settled back into the routine of school. As you may know, I joined the staff at Hawthorne on Jan 4 as the new principal. I would like to thank Mr. Thompson and Ms. Bryan for getting the school up and running in September, allowing me to come in and learn about the processes in place, the school and the community.

I have really enjoyed the conversations I have had so far with kids. They have been very kind, regaling me with stories about their pets, sports, video games and all the other interests they have. I am slowly getting to know the staff which can be tricky when faces are covered with masks. I have seen that they are a dedicated group wanting to do what is best for the kids in our care.

Much of my first few days has been spent learning and reviewing protocols, particularly around COVID-19 and the safety of the students, staff, and parents. I understand that there is a lot of anxiety around kids attending school during the pandemic, but I will work to keep the school as safe as possible with the cooperation of all stakeholders.

I look forward to meeting more parents and kids as time goes on. If you see me outside on the grounds, please feel free to come up and introduce yourselves. I have already encountered a few familiar faces which has helped add to the welcoming feel of the school and I anticipate building strong connections with the Hawthorne community in the years ahead.

Mr. J. Hope
Principal

SCHOOL INFO & REMINDERS

Update on Covid-19 School Protocols

As I mentioned in my opening message, safety is a top priority. A large part of that is navigating the pandemic. With new vaccines available offering some hope, we are still seeing increasing case numbers in the province. Although South Delta appears to have fewer cases, we can not become complacent in our attention to these matters. As a school we are guided by the Provincial Health Officer, our District safety plan, and our Hawthorne-specific safety plan which all form the processes we follow to ensure the school is as safe as possible.

When it comes to our children, safety is everyone's job. To that end, I have reviewed processes with staff that we need to follow in the school and have asked for their ongoing commitment to the actions outlined in them. We will be reviewing with students the role that they play in keeping the school safe which includes completing the Daily Health Check, cleaning hands, maintaining physical distance where possible, staying in classroom and playground cohorts, and utilizing masks if they so choose.

I am also asking for support from the parent community. Please continue to keep your children at home if they have any sign of illness. The best way to keep the kids safe in the school is to prevent any germs and viruses from coming in in the first place. I request all adult visitors to the school property to wear a mask, and if someone forgets, please maintain physical distance from others. We have staggered start and end times to reduce the gatherings of groups on school grounds. For that to be an effective measure, I ask everyone to please vacate the school grounds immediately after their assigned time. The only exception will be folks that need to pick up or drop off kids at both start and dismissal times. If this pertains to you, please wait away from exit doors so kids can have a clear exit. Another requirement is the District has asked that the playground be off limits for kids to play on immediately before and after school. The uncontrolled gatherings break down the cohorts we try to maintain throughout the day and increase the risk to our community.

In the morning, please arrive as close to entry time as possible and have kids head directly to their assigned line ups. I know there will be some disappointed kids who appreciate the time with friends but it does undermine the processes we have in place to keep them as safe as possible. I look forward to a return to 'normal times' when the school can once again be a hub of social activity and community gathering. With the pandemic we have to

put that on hold, at a time when we are really needing to see our fellow parents and friends. Thank you in advance for your cooperation on these matters as we all have a role in maintaining the health of our community.

Parking, Pick Up and Drop Off of Students



All schools are very congested with traffic at the start and end of the day since many were designed and built when more people walked to school than drove. Over the years with the changes in administration at the school there have been changes to the traffic and parking expectations for staff and visitors. In my first days here I observed how busy traffic can be out the front of our school and noted some inconsistencies where people can park, drive, and drop off kids. With the inconsistencies can come safety risks for the kids and adults alike. I have done a review of the parking and traffic situation at Hawthorne with district facilities staff to figure out the best way to manage the traffic volume.



We encourage people to park on Central Avenue or on other streets and walk into the school grounds. If the need is there to drive into the parking area, our traffic circle is a one-way ring with vehicles heading to the right upon entering. We will continue to have crossing guards at the driveway entrance and across Central Avenue. We will ask pedestrians to keep doing as they are and only crossing the access street at the crosswalk closest to the school. It seems to be working well.

Parking will be altered a bit and signage will be put up to clarify. The paved lot at the end of the school by the gym will be reserved for STAFF ONLY as will the one stretch of gravel parking closest to the dumpsters. This will keep students from walking through the tight space of the parking where drivers can not easily see them and traffic leaving that area creates an additional choke point that slows the flow of traffic as they try to merge out of it.

We will designate the gravel lot closest to the round-about entrance as Visitor parking on a first-come, first-served basis for those who need to stay on site. Additional parking is also available at the tennis court end of the park. There has been a temporary path set up to access the school from that area. Ideally, we encourage everyone to drop their children off without parking in the dedicated drop off area in the roundabout. The roundabout in front of the school is a lane only for **drop off** (a quick exit of the vehicle) and **pick up** (students who are ready to enter the car). **Please do not park and leave your car in this lane or sit and idle for long periods of time.** Cars can pull over to the curb to let kids out quickly with their bags all ready to go and then they will vacate the space for the next people to maintain the flow of traffic. New signage will be in place for this.

The designated parking closest to the garden will continue to be for DAY CARE OPERATED vehicles only. They are on a tight schedule getting kids to and from school and need to have quick access so kids at other locations are not left unattended.

A reminder also that students are required to use their assigned doors and are not to be using the front entrance. Please arrange designated pick up locations with your children where you will meet them after school to help reduce the need to have to go searching for them and vice versa.

Outside Days and Changes of Clothing

It is extremely important for students to get fresh air and movement throughout their school day. For that reason, and with additional need to be outside during COVID, students will be outside for recess and lunch every day unless there is a serious weather threat to their safety. Students are asked to come to school dressed for all kinds of weather, particularly the wet as we get a lot of rain in the lower mainland. Boots, coats/jackets, and umbrellas are recommended to keep kids dry and warm as they spend their time outside. Because the school grounds are low-lying, there is quite an accumulation of puddles and mud. Although this can be a source of fun for some of our kids, it is problematic when they slip and fall. Families are encouraged to keep a change of clothes for students of ALL ages at school in case there is a need to change.

Medications for Students



Schools are required to maintain a safe procedure for dispensing medications. If your child is required to take medication at school, please request a 'Request for Administration of Medication at School' form from the office if you have not already done so in order to ensure we have the most up-to-date information possible. These forms must be completed each year and are required to be signed by your physician.

Announcements of District-wide Closures and/or Delayed Openings of Schools

As winter weather has arrived, we want to remind you of the Delta School District's winter weather procedures and announcements. All schools in the Delta School District will remain **OPEN** if at all possible during winter weather, including snowfalls. Any district-wide closure will be decided by 7:00 a.m. at the latest and will be announced through the media as well as through the District and school websites. Please note that no announcement will be made stating that schools are open. Only closures and delayed openings will be announced.



Should we get an accumulation of snow, only access roads to the Staff parking and a pathway to the main entrance are required to be cleared under the district operating procedures. School playgrounds will not be cleared although school administrators will do their best to shovel some pathways if needed.

Pets on the School Grounds

I see that many families enjoy bringing their ‘fur babies’ with them when they accompany their children to and from school. Moving forward, I ask that our four-legged friends be kept back from entrances and narrow pathways to ensure ample distance between the kids and pets. Even if the pets are well-behaved there are some kids who are quite fearful and nervous. If you walk your dog to the school, please arrange to meet your child at a place where there can be enough room between students and animals. Thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation.

Work Progress- Park and Pathway

The City of Delta is in the process of fixing up the old tennis court area in the park at the back of the school. We have contacted the city and have been informed the project will be complete in late Spring, based on the current information. The parking lot is still accessible and there is a temporary pathway that leads from there, past the ball diamonds, and onto the regular path at the side of the property should people still wish to access the school that way.

Grade 7 to Grade 8 Transition

Hold the date. On Thursday, Feb 25 at 7:00, DSS will be hosting a ZOOM meeting for parents of students currently in Grade 7 who will be heading to high school in September. More information will go out as we get it.

Parent Connect Update Please

Parent Connect is one of the school district’s online student information management systems for parents. It can be accessed using a link on the top right corner of the school website. The login is done with the email address currently on file with the school. If you have forgotten your Password press “Forgot My Password” and the system will send you an email with this information.



At the start of the year, we ask that all families log into each child’s account to check off important permission forms. These permissions are for Daily Health Check, walking field trips, demographic information updates, outside media and other important functions. Looking over the records, we see there are still some children who do not have all the permissions complete. These are found under the “FORMS” tab in parent connect. There you will be able to view the document and set the response. When done, don’t forget to press the “SAVE” button on the screen. We ask that you revisit your child’s account to make sure everything is complete.

If you find there is outdated information such as an email address, phone number, address, emergency contacts or emergency release contacts, please give Mrs. Hunt an email or call her in the office to update the records. Logging in to Parent Connect will also give access to a child’s attendance record, demographic information, emergency contact information, grades, and report card history.

PAC NEWS

PAC Meeting – Monday, January 18, 2021

The next PAC meeting will be Monday, January 18 at 6:30 pm via Zoom the Executive is a terrific group of parents who work hard to support school activities. In addition, they are a nice group of people to get to know. Every parent who has a child at Hawthorne Elementary is part of the PAC! Please join us, even if you have never been to a PAC meeting before!



CALENDAR

CALENDAR REMINDERS



January 14	Spirit Day- Blue
January 15	Spirit Day- Purple
January 21	Duck, Cover, Hold Earthquake Drill- no evacuation
January 22	Professional Learning Day- Students Do Not Attend School
January 29	Spirit Day- Jersey Day