



# Hawthorne Elementary School

5160 Central Ave, Delta, BC V4K 2K2  
Phone: 604-946-7601 Fax: 604-946-3016

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

**Principal:** Mr. J. Hope **Vice-Principal** Ms. B. Bryan

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

Twitter @ElemHawthorne

**September 15, 2021**

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Hawthorne Parents and Guardians,

Welcome back! It is nice to finally be settled into our permanent classes for the year. I hope the students are happy to be back to the regular routine September brings. I know the teachers are excited to be connecting with their new classes and they have many great learning opportunities planned. I would like to thank the students, parents, and staff for their patience and understanding while we worked through initial school start up. It is always a time of uncertainty, change, and eager anticipation which is not always easy for people, but everyone should be commended for working through it. There is a different feel to this school year already. I have relayed to some of the parents I have spoken with that it was so great to see the playground full of all the Hawthorne kids playing and enjoying the time without many of the restrictions of the last year and a half. There was a very obvious joy that could be heard and seen throughout the school grounds and I look forward to more of that positivity as the year goes on.

Sincerely,

J. Hope  
Principal

## COVID Update

### COVID-19 Exposures

In the event that a family experiences a positive test, or a self-isolation notice related to the COVID-19 virus, we are encouraging families to contact the school to inform us. Letting the school know directly helps us get a head start on contact tracing and information gathering for Health Authorities to effectively follow up in an effort to keep our community safe. Please call 604-946-7601 or email [hawthorne.elem@deltaschools.ca](mailto:hawthorne.elem@deltaschools.ca) if you find yourselves in that situation and are comfortable sharing.

**Please note:** If an individual tests positive and contact tracers determine they may have been infectious while at school:

- Parents, caregivers and staff will be notified by Fraser Health if their child is determined to be a close contact of a COVID-19 positive person.
- Students and staff determined by Fraser Health as **close contacts** may be asked to self-isolate or self-monitor.
- Individuals who are not close contacts are not at increased risk, so don't need to take any additional actions beyond continuing to follow general public health recommendations.
- If there are multiple cases that are confirmed clusters or outbreaks, the whole school community will be notified, and the case will be posted to the Fraser Health School Exposure website.

School notifications to the broader school community, such as letters or exposure notices on regional health authority websites, will be used when public health deems them necessary to support contact tracing or outbreak management.

As a reminder, here is a summary of general precautions in place at the school:

- 1) Completion of Daily Health Check BEFORE coming to school; and all staff and students are to remain at home with signs of ANY illness. Daily Health Check can be viewed [here](#).
- 2) Mandatory masks for ALL staff and ALL students in Grades 4-7. Masks are encouraged, but remain a choice, for students in K-3.
- 3) Continue to have organized line ups of students in the morning, at recess, and lunch to allow for efficient hand sanitization
- 4) Continued emphasis on hand hygiene throughout the day and when entering or leaving a new workspace in the school
- 5) Directional arrows to control traffic in school hallways
- 6) All high-touch surfaces will be disinfected at LEAST once every 24 hours
- 7) Music classes will continue with masks being worn unless necessary to play a wind instrument

**\*\* Medical Health Officers continue to be able to place additional health and safety measures, at their discretion, onto specific communities, groups of schools, individual schools, or school districts if needed.**

## **COMBINED CLASSES**

Combined, or 'split', classes have existed since the days of the one-room school house. In current times, they continue to be rich educational environments as well as an organizational necessity. Speaking to the latter, schools have to create classes that meet class size and composition requirements and fit within the number of divisions allotted to that school. For example, a primary class can have a maximum of 22 students. If a school had 30 students registered in grade 2 it would likely result in a straight 2 and a combined class with 2's in it, or possibly multiple combined classes depending on numbers of students enrolled in the grades around it. From an educational perspective, there is research-supported evidence for the benefits of a mixed-age classroom. These include allowing children to find others of similar abilities, development of independence and leadership, a focus on individual needs rather than leading one large group through a list of outcomes, and heterogeneous groupings of students allow for more creativity and expansion of ideas. It is worth remembering that grade placements are based on chronological age. Sometimes a young student born in December has more in common with a student one month younger, but who would be a whole year behind in school, compared to a student in the same grade who is 10 months older.

It is important to note that a kind, caring supportive teacher is one of the main predictors of student success. I have confidence in our Hawthorne teachers at any grade level to deliver an effective program based on curriculum that supports children in becoming the best versions of themselves.

## **STUDENTS ARRIVING LATE**

In the morning, the first bell goes at 8:52 for students to be let in the building for school to start at 8:57. If any student arrives after 8:57 they are late and are to **report to the front office** to get a "Welcome to School Slip" and to be signed in. There is a digital clock above the front door of the school to assist with this.

\*\*Please note this is different than the COVID procedures we had in place where students would go to their classroom doors/windows and knock for admittance.

## **PLANNERS**

Other than Kindergartens, many classrooms will use student planners. A notice was sent home asking for \$5.00 to cover most of the cost of this helpful tool.

## **INDIVIDUAL PHOTOS-OCTOBER 1**

Hawthorne students are scheduled to have their individual photos taken on Friday, October 1. Don't forget to dress nice and comb your hair that day! Information on how to order photos will be sent out closer to the date.

## **MEDICATIONS AT SCHOOL**

If your child has a medical condition and requires medication to be administered at school, there are forms available at the office that must be completed by a physician. Any medications need to be stored securely in the school office and tracked carefully if administered according to the physician's instructions. Please contact the office for further information.

Please do not send any medication, such as over the counter pain or cold remedies, with your child to school. Not only is there is potential for your child to not take it properly, it could also fall into the wrong hands and lead to some serious consequences for another child.

## **GRADE 6 IMMUNIZATIONS**

In a typical school year, grade 6 students receive doses of vaccines as part of their regular childhood disease protection. Due to COVID, last-year's Grade 6's did not receive those shots. This year, Fraser Health will resume regular vaccinations and will do the current grade 6 cohort AND the grade 7's who missed out. Dates are still to be determined.

## **ALERGIES**

Please inform the classroom teacher or office of any major allergies your child may have. We do have some classrooms with confirmed allergies so we will send a letter home to those specific rooms with some helpful advice and requests. We ask that all families are careful in sending foods to school that contain nuts or other allergens. We try to create a "nut aware" environment. I understand some people feel strongly about their freedom to choose particular foods, but when it is measured against another child's need for a safe, healthy environment we need everyone's cooperation to ensure the well-being of all kids.

## **TERRY FOX RUN**

This Friday, September 17 we will be recognizing the legacy of Terry Fox. With some of the COVID restrictions lifted, we will be able to hold larger group runs; a primary and an intermediate run, but we will still not be able to welcome spectators. Students will be going out with their classes to do a walk/run around school property as a symbolic gesture acknowledging Terry Fox. We ask that anyone who is able to donate to send a "Twoonie for Terry" with their child to school on Friday to be given to the Terry Fox Foundation.

## **HAWTHORNE PARKING**

Parking is a challenge at all schools. Now that we are back to a regular timetable with no staggered starts and end times, it will be more congested in the school driveway. We need the cooperation of all drivers to ensure we have safe access to the school for all our students and families. Please remember:

- 1) School zone speeds of 30km/h are in effect around our school
- 2) Be aware of student and adult crossing guards at our two main crosswalks
- 3) The parking lot by the gym is for STAFF ONLY- the two unpaved areas are for parent parking
- 4) The round-about in front of the school is NO PARKING- it is to pull up to the curb, kids jump out (or in at the end of the day) with their bags and car pulls away- driver's DO NOT exit their vehicle
- 5) The section near the garden boxes is for DAY CARE BUSES only
- 6) KEEP CHILDREN CLOSE when exiting vehicles after parking as they can bolt into traffic

To help with congestion, we ask that parents of intermediate-aged students please try to drop kids off at the Hawthorne Park parking lot or near the path on Grove Avenue. They are responsible enough to make the short walk on their own. To reduce the vehicle traffic, please consider parking on the streets around the school or walking your children to school. Another idea is to have older students in your neighbourhood walk with your younger children to school. At the end of the day, have kids walk home or have a designated meeting place. If it is in front of the school, let kids know to wait by the round-about in front of the office so they can hop in the car as you pull up. With the rainy season coming, please prepare your children with appropriate clothing so they can still meet in their regular places or walk home while staying dry.

## **PARENT CONNECT**

Please login to your Parent Connect account. There is a link in the red box in the top right corner of the school webpage. In each child's account, please go in and check off the permissions for things like walking field trips, use of technology, outside media, and the daily health check. You can read each of the documents in parent connect before giving permission. Doing so in a timely manner will prevent your child from potentially missing out on some opportunities. If you need any assistance with that, please contact the school office.

## **BIRTHDAY RECOGNITION**

Kids usually like celebrating birthdays. COVID protocols prevented the delivery of class-wide treats and this is a practice that we will continue. As a school, we would still like to recognize this special day for kids so on their birthday, or as close as possible to it, we will wish them a happy birthday during morning announcements and then they are invited to the office to collect a birthday pencil and a birthday card from Mr. Hope.

## **OUTSIDE DAYS**

As fall, approaches we will see many more rainy days. It is important for kids to get outside, move around, and have fresh air. It will be extremely rare that kids are kept inside on any given day. To ensure they stay warm and comfortable, please send them to school with appropriate footwear and outerwear. Despite all preparations, there will be times when kids get wet or slip in the mud. For all grades, it is a good idea to leave a change of clothing, labeled with a name, at the school so they can change if needed.

As a safety precaution, we ask students not to bring baseball bats, hockey sticks, lacrosse sticks, or hard sport balls of any kind to school to use on the playground. The school does provide playground equipment to each class to use safely outside.

## **PAC INFORMATION**

All Hawthorne parents are automatically members of the Parent Advisory Council (PAC). An executive gets elected from the parent community to take on various roles during the Annual General Meeting. Our PAC AGM was postponed from May until the start of this school year. I had a great meeting with two PAC representatives today and they let me know the AGM will be held on TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12 at 7:00pm in the school gym. It will be a socially distanced event with all attendees requiring masks, hand sanitization, and a sign in. The PAC is working on a virtual option as well. If restrictions increase, we will change from an in-person event. Our discussion also covered the gradual return of hot lunch, communication strategies, and goals. The PAC will send out an information package to families once they are ready.

## **OPEN HOUSE**

When the school calendar was created in May, we added an Open House on September 23 hoping that COVID would be behind us. Bringing our community together at this point would be unwise so as a compromise the staff will develop a video for the community to be able to put names and faces to our staff so you will know the who's who of Hawthorne. We will put it out for the community to view in lieu of a face to face open house which will be a format we strive to return to in the future.

## COMMUNITY SPORT OPPORTUNITY

Registration for the 2021-22 season is open for the South Delta Basketball Association. Spots are still available in most of our programs. Please visit our website for more information and to book your child(ren)'s spot!!

**\*\*Please note: Opening Day has been changed to Sunday Oct 3rd. This is due to facility availability.** Additional information regarding times and location TBA.

\*\*If you have already registered your child, please take the time to create an account/go into your account and complete the additional fields.

Thank you!



<https://www.southdeltabasketball.org>

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, September 17	Terry Fox Run
Monday, September 20	Federal Election Day
Thursday, September 23	Open House video release
Friday, September 24	Professional Day- No School for Students
Thursday, September 30	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation- No School
Friday, October 1	Individual Student Photos