



Hawthorne Elementary School

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

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

Administrative Assistant: Ms. W. Methven

Office Support: Ms. D. Richardson

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January 4, 2023

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Hawthorne Parents and Guardians,

Happy New Year! We hope everyone had a safe, healthy, and happy holiday with their close friends and family. Although the snow provided some transportation challenges, it was nice to have a few snowy days to do some sledding and snowman making. Our staff always look forward to hearing about the students' holidays and seeing the students re-connect with friends they maybe haven't seen for a couple of weeks.

We finished last term on a high note with the wonderful Winter Concert the staff and students put together. Thank you to everyone who came out to enjoy the show and thank you to Ms. Cherry for coordinating the event. The next term of school is often the shortest and the busiest. Please look for teachers to be sending home copies of their Term 2 Previews by January 13. These documents are approximations of what learning they intend to facilitate in their classrooms over the coming weeks. They provide parents with a 'heads up' of what the kids will be learning and therefore better prepare them to support the kids as they progress.

As always, if you have questions about your child's education or there are some changes in your child's life that may impact them, please keep an open dialogue with the teacher. They are here to support and are often good sources of information and advice.

J. Hope
Principal

Wellness Reminder

Now that school is back in session, germs and viruses will spread more easily. Please remember to keep your child home if they are showing signs of any illness. Also, please have a plan for picking your child up during the school day if it is necessary for them to go home ill. Updating emergency contacts on Parent Connect is a good way to do this. Please contact the school office if you are having difficulty making the changes.

Grade 6 and 7 Basketball

We are in the early stages of planning for the next round of interschool sports. Basketball will run from January 23 to February 16. Notices and schedules will come home with interested students later next week. Grade 6 teams will play after school Mondays, Grade 7 boys after school on Tuesdays and Grade 7 girls after school Thursdays. If we don't have enough players, grades may be combined and then compete in the older grade group.

Lost and Found

Please take a glance at the Lost and Found rack in front of the school. The items on it will be packed up and donated at the end of this week.

Student Learning Survey

Students in grades 4,7,10, and 12 participate in the Student Learning Survey to provide the Ministry of Education with some feedback about their experience in school. The survey is also available to parents. If you have a child in grade 4 or 7, feel free to complete the survey using the link below and selecting Parents>Direct Access. You can select District 37 Delta, choose the school, and preferred language.

http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/sat_survey/access.htm

Saleema Noon Health Workshops

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 of Education. At Hawthorne, we bring in experts in the field every other year to address this topic with the school community. We are excited to inform you that this year Saleema Noon Sexual Health Educators will be visiting our school to work with parents and students in Kindergarten to Grade 7. This is a program provided by the financial support of our school PAC.

In their Body Science presentations, Saleema Noon and her team of experienced educators work with children of all ages, teaching them about healthy bodies and healthy sexuality in ways they find non-threatening and entertaining. In their own language, children learn about how their bodies change, and what those changes mean.

Based on research and many years of experience as sexual health educators, they identify three reasons why providing this information starting in kindergarten is crucial:

1. Most importantly, studies from all over the world consistently show that children who are educated about healthy bodies, healthy boundaries and healthy sexuality are at reduced risk of child sexual abuse. Even if children are not asking questions yet (some never will) we need to give them information about their bodies and help them to develop strong personal boundaries. Sexual offenders (the majority of which are known to the victim) prey on children who aren't educated about their bodies and therefore lack the skills to differentiate between appropriate and inappropriate touching. These children find it hard to say "no", especially to an adult, and may not report abuse for fear of getting in trouble.
2. Young children are easiest to teach. They are excited to be body scientists, and accept the information very matter-of-factly. Older children and teens, however, often find it difficult to talk about sexual health openly, especially with their parents! This means we have to navigate the embarrassment barrier before they can accept the information they need. The good news is that young children only absorb information they are ready for...everything else just goes over their head. More good news, studies show that children who learn about healthy bodies at an early age from reliable adults in their life delay sexual activity.
3. Children today are exposed at earlier and earlier ages to all things involving sex and sexuality. We, as responsible adults, need to stay one step ahead of this by arming our children with accurate information about sexual health before they get their questions answered on the playground, by older friends or online. We need to teach them to think critically about what they hear, and this allows parents need to establish themselves early as their child's number one source of sexual health information throughout their development.

PARENT OVERVIEW SESSION

The Parent Workshop is via **Zoom** on **January 16, from 6:30-8:00pm**. In this session, Julie from Saleema Noon's team will give an overview of student presentations and will show parents how easy it is to convey healthy, meaningful messages about sex and growing up to young children. Here is the link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81067708461?pwd=NTk0L3FvdHhkeXJlR1BSVXBqZVRkQT09>

Meeting ID: 81067708461

Passcode: 360063

STUDENT SESSIONS

Student sessions will take place in-person during the school day **January 18 and 19**. Some of the topics Saleema Noon Sexual Health Educators cover in their workshops extend beyond the content of the BC Physical and Health Education curriculum. For this reason, parents may choose to have their children OPT OUT of the Body Science workshops. If you do not wish your child to attend, we ask that you notify the teacher no later than Tuesday, January 17. Attendance at the parent presentation before making this decision is strongly encouraged. Here is a link to the description of the elementary program:

<https://www.saleemanoon.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Body-Science-Elementary-Workshop-Outlines-2022.pdf>

UPCOMING EVENTS	
Thursday, January 12	PAC Meeting 7:00 pm
Wednesday, January 18	Walk to School Day
Friday, January 20	SPIRIT DAY – Superhero Day
Friday, January 20	PAC Hot Lunch
Friday, January 27	Professional Learning Day – No School for Students