

PWS UPDATE

Park West School Newsletter

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Principal: Mr. D. Carter Vice Principals: Mr. B. Melanson and Ms. D. Olson

September 5, 2018

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Friends of Park West School;

Today we opened our doors for another school year. We welcomed over 800 students in 32 classes, in grades primary to nine. When our students enter Park West School they are: *scientists, authors, leaders, explorers, readers, thinkers, problem solvers, peace makers, creators, and friends*. They are **important**. They are **loved**. They are the reason we are here. We pride ourselves on being a "home for the heart and the mind."

Our dedicated classroom teachers, specialist teachers, and support staff are comprised of skilled, talented, and caring leaders. On a daily basis we both consciously and unknowingly affect lives in most extraordinary ways. What an opportunity for us! What a privilege! We are not perfect, but we care about our kids, and promise to do our very best to ensure they are successful. We are determined that every one of our students will feel cared for, wanted, included, understood, accepted, and successful. And so....our new school year begins.

Our administrative team (Ms. Olsen, Mr. Melanson, and I) is committed to providing dynamic leadership to this school community so that our ultimate goal of ensuring that every student succeeds can be met. We look forward to working with our students, their parents, our staff, and the school community of Park West to accomplish our mission. We want to be an administrative team that makes a difference here at our school and in our community.

As we embark on a new school year there are a few changes here at PWS we'd like to share with you:

- *We have a new vice principal, Ms. Donna Olsen (replacing Ms. Masih);*
- *We have increased staff support and services this year (resource, physical education, guidance, EPAs);*
- *We welcome 18 new staff members to our team;*
- *We have an additional portable classroom. We now have six chalets in our village.*
- *There will be no student fees or band fees for this year.*
- *We have a dedicated speciality classroom for elementary music classes.*

Parents, and students, are reminded that class lists and class placement are tentative at this time. It is highly likely many students will be moved to other classes, and teacher assignments at some grade levels will change in the coming days and weeks. These changes may be necessary due to increased (or decreased) enrollment at some grade levels, and in order to conform to class size caps mandated by the EECD. Class lists will not be finalized until early October. Parents should also be aware that portable classrooms and combined grade classes are unavoidable realities here at Park West.

We extend a special welcome to those students and their families who are new to Park West School. You've chosen a great place to live (and go to school)! I'm eager to meet new and familiar faces in the coming weeks.

We depend on our parents/guardians as we strive to meet the daunting responsibility we have to our students. Parental engagement and support are vital to student success. Engaged partnerships enrich the lives of our students. Together...let's move forward...and accomplish the extraordinary.

Best regards,

Mr. Carter

Annual Park West PTA "Welcome Back" Family BBQ: The Park West School Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) is celebrating the new school year by hosting a family barbeque here at our school on **Thursday, September 20, 5:30 – 7:30 pm**. There will be lots of good things to eat at minimal prices, including: beef hamburgers, veggie burgers, chicken hot dogs, cold beverages, popcorn, and frozen treats. Bring your family, friends, and neighbours. *We are in urgent need of volunteers to help with set up, ticket sales & serving.* If you are able to help please message our PTA Facebook page or contact the PTA at pwspta@gmail.com All proceeds from this PTA event will support teaching and learning here at PWS.

Pink T-Shirt / Bully Awareness Day: Several years ago an article appeared in the Chronicle Herald regarding a bullying incident at a high school in the Annapolis Valley. The victim was a grade 9 male student who was mocked and threatened by his peers for simply wearing a pink t-shirt to school. In response, other students in the school, who found this to be unacceptable, organized a school-wide 'wear pink to school day'. Students at that high school wore pink clothing to school

on that designated day to send out a strong message that bullying of any kind for any reason is not acceptable. The pink phenomenon has spread internationally! As a result of this bold move by students the Premier of Nova Scotia, at the time, declared the second Thursday of each new school year to be "Anti Bullying Day". On **Thursday, September 13** it will be **Pink Day and Bully Awareness Day** at Park West School. Students, staff and visitors are encouraged to wear pink clothing, jewelry, hats, footwear, arm bands, temporary hair dye, etc. Teachers will be taking this opportunity to discuss bullying with their students and the significance of 'pink' for this occasion. Although bullying is not a major issue here at our school, it does exist. Some of our students (and even parents) have participated in bullying. Some of our students have been the victims of bullying. We want to continue to be proactive. Many teachers will be planning for their students to participate in some kind of lesson or activity in their classrooms with a focus on bullying. Our goal is to make our students more bully-aware by presenting information about bullying to them in a meaningful way. We are hoping this day, with a focus on bullying, will have a positive impact on our students and our community. At Park West we will continue to address bullying throughout the year by being proactive: educating our students and their parents, striving to provide a supportive, safe and respectful environment, and addressing incidents of bullying in the most appropriate manner. Together we can change the world!

Coming and Going: What you and our students need to know about **entering and exiting our building.**

- This year we have over 800 students (in grades primary to nine) entering and exiting our school.
- All students in grades P – 9 are dismissed at 2:45 PM. At that time over 800 students are exiting the building through **four** doors.
- Parents who choose to meet students at the exit doors at dismissal times are asked to please refrain from crowding around the doors. Please remain back from the doors at a respectable distance to allow our students room to exit safely.
- Students **must always use their designated entrance/exit doors** to avoid congestion and chaos. The doors are designated as follows:

Grades	Designated Door
Grades primary and 1	Primary playground doors
Grades 2 and 3	Main doors
Grade 6	East doors (to the left of main doors)
Grades 7, 8, and 9	Back doors
Grades 4, 5 and 5/6	Use appropriate chalet doors

- If students arrive **late** for school (i.e. after 8:25 am) they should enter the building via the **main doors** and report to the office.
- If students are *permitted* by school staff to enter the building **early** in the morning (beginning at 8:15 am) due to inclement weather (i.e. rain or excessive cold) they may **enter** using their **designated doors or the main door**.

Scooter/Skateboard/Bicycle Policy for Park West School:

- Bicycles are **never permitted** to be used on school grounds during school hours.
- Scooters and skateboards should not be used on the school grounds in the morning as students are arriving for school (8:00 – 8:25 am) due to congestion caused by pedestrians and vehicular traffic.
- Students in **grades P – 3** may not use scooters or skateboards on school grounds at recess or lunch time due to lack of space.
- Students in **grades 4 – 6** may use scooters and skateboards during recess at the back corner of the parking lot on the south side of the building (i.e. music room side)
- Students in **grades 4 – 9** may use scooters and skateboards during the lunch period at the back corner of the parking lot on the south side of the building (i.e. music room side)
- Scooters and skateboards may not be used at the front of the building (traffic loop, etc.)
- **Helmets** must be worn at all times if using scooters or skateboards.

Dates to Remember:

SEPTEMBER		
5-7	1 st Fire Drill	
09	Rosh Hashana	begins at sunset
13	Pink T-Shirt / Bully Awareness Day	
17	Late protocol for students begins > <i>students are expected to be on time for school @ 8:25 AM</i>	
18	Yom Kippur	begins at sunset
19	SAC & PTA Meetings	6:00 & 7:00 pm
20	PTA Back-to-School Community Barbeque	5:30 – 7:30 pm
26	School Photo Day	
27	Curriculum Night (<i>for parents/guardians...not students</i>)	6:30 – 8:00 pm
28	PD Day (<i>no school for students</i>)	
OCTOBER		
08	Thanksgiving Day (<i>schools closed</i>)	
16	Symphony N.S. concert @ PWS (grades P – 9)	1:30 – 2:30 pm
18	PD Day (<i>no school for students</i>)	
23	Photo Retakes / Family Photos	
25	PTA Hallowe'en Family Dance	evening
26	Provincial Conference Day (<i>no school for students</i>)	
31	Hallowe'en	

