

PWS UPDATE

Park West School Newsletter

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Receive the PWS Update electronically! You can receive the *PWS Update* electronically via e-mail. If you wish to be among the first to receive the latest editions of our school newsletters by having it sent to your e-mail address simply e-mail your request to Mr. Carter at dcarter@hrce.ca The *PWS Update* is published **approximately every two weeks**.

Let's Talk About Student Progress: Parents and Teachers will meet to discuss student progress on **Thursday, December 6** (1:00 – 3:30 pm & 5:30 – 7:30 pm). There will be **no school for students** on that day. During the morning teachers will be engaged in professional development. Teachers, including specialists (French, music, band, resource, phys. ed., guidance, learning centre, EAL, etc.), will be available to meet with you to discuss your child's progress. **Elementary** teachers will meet in their classrooms with parents by appointment. Parents of elementary students have the opportunity to request appointment times with their child's teacher. To accommodate all parents most appointments will be for a maximum of ten minutes each. Information for parents of elementary students (including appointment request forms) will be sent home with elementary students on **November 26**. **Junior High** teachers will meet with parents in the gymnasium on a first-come/first-served basis. Jr. High parents are encouraged to take advantage of the availability of afternoon meeting times when possible, as the evening tends to be busier. If more time is required to discuss your child's progress then a longer appointment can be made for another time. We look forward to seeing you.

Come to the Fair: Park West School is having a Scholastic Book Fair in our library just in time for the holiday season. The dates of the fair are **Tuesday, December 4 to Thursday, December 6**. The Fair will be open during the day for students and their classes to view and make purchases, as well as any parents who would like to drop by. It will also be open for the afternoon and evening of Parent-Teacher Student Progress meetings on **December 6**. Books make great gifts (for Hanukkah, Christmas, or anytime!) and promote literacy. All profits from the Book Fair are used to purchase new books for our library. Parents/ guardians who would like to volunteer at the fair can email Ms. Comeau (our school librarian) at Arlene.comeau@hrce.ca or call 902-457-7800 (ext. 5271039).

Christmas Concerts: Our Christmas concerts will include students in **grades primary to three** this year. Our wish is for ALL students in grades P - 3 (and their parents) in the Park West Family to participate in this special school event. Let's all celebrate our special holidays **TOGETHER**, regardless of our beliefs and cultural backgrounds. Christmas and Hanukkah selections will be featured in celebration of these holidays. Concerts will be held on **December 11 and 12** (storm date: Dec. 13).

DATE	CLASSES PARTICIPATING
Tuesday, Dec. 11 @ 1:30 PM	Grade Primary and Grade 2 + Grades 4-6 Choir
Wednesday, Dec. 12 @ 1:30 PM	Grade 1 and Grade 3 + Grade 3 Choir

Concerts will be presented in the afternoons (1:30 PM) on those dates. Concerts will be 30 - 45 minutes in length. Dress rehearsals will be held in the mornings. **Tickets for admission will not be required.** All family members and friends are invited to attend. Once again this year our PTA will be conducting a "Front Row Seat Raffle" to raise money for our school. You may want to purchase a raffle ticket for a chance to win **two reserved front row seats** for one of the concerts. Students in grades 4 – 6 will have the opportunity to participate in a 'musical event' in the spring.

Keeping Our Students Safe: As always, we are striving to keep our students safe at all times while at school. At a school our size this can be an extraordinary challenge; particularly outside during busy times (between 8:00 am and 8:25 am and at 2:45 pm dismissal). At these times we have lots of pedestrian and vehicular traffic on our grounds. Many parents in this community choose to drive their children back and forth to school, rather than allowing them to walk. Part of keeping our students safe is to teach them to be responsible, independent, and to use good safety practices. Please review with your children the following safety practices:

- Use sidewalks at all times, when available.
- Use crosswalks at all times to cross roadways on our school grounds.
- DO NOT cross the traffic loop (especially when vehicular traffic is present) unless using a crosswalk to do so.
- DO NOT cut through the staff parking lot (walking between cars) at any time.

Teachers have reviewed these with their students and have encouraged them to remind their parents of these safety practices.

Early Entrance: If the weather is inclement (raining, storming or *extremely* cold) in the morning students will be **invited** to enter the school early (at 8:15 am), using their usual entrance doors. They will be sent directly to their classrooms to be supervised by teachers until classes begin at 8:25 am. **Students should only come inside the building early when given permission to do so.** Parents should only enter the building using the main doors and may not proceed to classrooms with their children.

Junior High Improv/Drama Club: Halifax Regional Arts department is facilitating an improv/drama club here at Park West School for our interested students in grades 7 – 9 for three sessions only: November 28, and December 5 and 12 (11:35 – 12:35). The club will meet on the stage, and participants should bring their lunches. This club is being facilitated by a professional actor. Plus.....PWS students will have the opportunity to participate with other students from Halifax schools in an IMPROV JAM at Dartmouth High School on December 18 @ 6:30 – 8:30 PM. There is room for only 30 students in our club. If interested...sign up now in the main office.

Are You Ready for Winter Weather and Possible School Closures?

- Student safety is the first priority of the *Halifax Regional Centre for Education (HRCE)* when making school cancellation decisions. HRCE staff begins to gather information from various sources beginning at 4:30 am. Staff consults with Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) staff on road conditions, local weather services, and Stock Transportation. By 5:30 am, staff makes a recommendation to the Superintendent based on the information gathered. If it is safe to have students on the roads and sidewalks, then schools will be open. If not, **all or some schools** may be closed depending on the weather and road conditions in different areas of the board.
- For **full day closures** of **all or some** schools, the decision will be announced as close to 6:00 am as possible. Announcements will be:
 - Posted on the HRCE's website (www.hrce.ca);
 - Posted on the HRCE's Twitter account [www.twitter.com/HRCE_NS](https://twitter.com/HRCE_NS);
 - Recorded on the HRCE's School Cancellation Information Line 902-464-INFO (4636);
 - Emailed or texted to subscribers. Receive notice of school and bus cancellations by **e-mail or text** message by following the link on the front page (left side) of the HRCE website;
 - Communicated to local media outlets.
- If conditions deteriorate throughout the day the Superintendent may **close schools early** when weather or road conditions are considered to be a threat to the safety of students. In the event of an **early school closure**, the announcement will be made by 11:00 AM. School busses will be dispatched to schools two hours earlier than their normal regularly scheduled pick-up for the afternoon dismissal. **Walking students** will be dismissed at the start of their regular lunch time (**11:35 AM at Park West**).
- On school days when weather conditions exist that it is not safe to open schools at the regularly scheduled time, but it is predicted that conditions will improve, a **2 hour delayed opening** may be considered. Delayed openings would be considered when a severe weather event has concluded but snow clearing or other operations require additional time. Delayed opening may also be considered when the school building is experiencing an issue (power, water) and additional time is required to prepare the facility for opening. In the event of a delayed opening the following will apply:
 - School opening will be delayed 2 hours (**that will be 10:25 AM at Park West**)
 - School bus pick up times will be delayed 2 hours
 - Excel child care will be cancelled for the morning only
 - Each school will alter morning schedules to best address their timetables.
 - Lunch times will not change (**11:35 AM – 12:35 PM at Park West**)
 - Afternoon class schedules will not change
 - Dismissal time will not change (**2:45 PM at Park West**)

HRCE encourages parents and guardians to use their own discretion when it comes to sending their child to school when the weather is inclement. Students who are unable to attend school due to the weather and/or bus cancellations will not be penalized if assignments are given that day. The weather in Nova Scotia can be unpredictable. Schools can be closed unexpectedly. HRCE encourages parents to have plans in place for their children. That includes making sure your child knows where to go if school is cancelled early, making sure children are dressed properly for the weather conditions, and having a back-up plan in place for childcare if schools are closed or delayed in opening. To learn more about the process on how decisions regarding closures and cancellations are made, visit: <https://www.hrce.ca/about-our-schools/parents/inclement-weather> .

Junior High Intramurals: Intramurals will be held on **Tuesdays from 11:50am-12:30pm for girls in grades 7-9** and on **Thursdays from 11:50am-12:30pm for boys in grades 7-9**. Participation is limited to the first 30 students. Students will eat their lunches and then quietly wait outside the gym doors to be invited in. The activities will vary, so students should listen to the morning announcements for more details.

A Safe School: In an effort to keep our school safe and secure we continue to closely monitor individuals entering our building during school hours. Anyone (that includes parents, other family members, maintenance workers, volunteers, and other visitors) entering our school during school hours must do so through the **main doors only** and then **MUST** report to the office to register. At this time you may be requested to register in our Visitors Sign-In Book and wear a "visitor" or "volunteer" ID tag. This must be displayed while you are in our building. All permanent staff members at Park West now wear official HRCE photo ID tags. Substitute teachers, volunteers, and visitors are provided with appropriate ID tags as well. Any adults found in our school without an ID tag and/or authorization may be questioned. Other than normal student entry times, entry to the building is via the main doors only. We appreciate your support and cooperation as we strive to maintain a welcoming yet safe and secure facility for our students and staff.

Grade 9 Trip to Toronto and Niagara Falls: Plans are well underway for the anticipated grade 9 spring trip. This year the destinations are Toronto and Niagara Falls on May 29 to June 1. The cost of the trip is \$1475.00 per student. **The next payment (\$220) is due on November 28.** For more information contact Mr. Carter (dcarter@hrce.ca).

Keep Your Head Warm: Limited edition "Park West School" **wool toques** (in our school colours) are now for sale. They are \$10.00 each. They fit adults and children. Purchase them from our school office (cash or cheque) **while supplies last.**

Dates to Remember:

November	
23	PTA Popcorn sale (\$1 a bag)
24	Information re. Parent-Teacher Student Progress Meetings go home with elementary students
28	Report cards go home
28	Grade 9 Trip payment #2 due (\$220)

