

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**.

African Heritage Month: February is African Heritage Month in Nova Scotia. Check out the next edition of our *PWS Update* to read about how we are celebrating and observing it here at Park West.

Registration for 2019-2020 School Year: We're getting ready to prepare for the next school year already! Registration for students entering grade primary in September 2019 is being held during the **month of February**. New primary students must be five years old on or before December 31, 2019, and live within our school boundaries. Parents must provide a birth certificate, N.S. health card number, and proof of residence documentation when registering.

Acceptable documents for proof of residence include:

1. **ONE** document from the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA), such as Notice of Assessment, Receipt of Child Tax Benefit, or Social Assistance. Documents submitted to CRA will not be accepted, as such documents are not confirmed by the CRA.
OR...
2. **TWO** of the following documents: residential insurance policy (home owner or tenant), water bill, power bill, and property tax assessment. The names and addresses on both documents submitted must be identical.

Registration can be done at the school office Monday to Friday, 9:00 am to 3:30 pm. Contact Ms. Johnston or Ms. Landers (our admin assistants in the school office) or Mr. Cobean (our Guidance Counselor) at 457-7800 for more information or to make an appointment. Please pass the word around the community so everyone gets registered on time. Our staffing allotment for next year depends on the number of students registered. **PLEASE NOTE:** *only students who live within the Park West School boundaries are eligible to attend this school*. As our school and class sizes continue to grow we will be monitoring this situation VERY carefully. If any of our students are found to be living outside our boundaries it will be necessary for them to leave Park West and register at the school serving the neighbourhood in which they live. Parents may apply to have out-of-area students attend Park West, or any other HRCE school, by first registering at their neighbourhood school, obtaining an HRCE "Out-of-Area" form from that school, or the HRCE website, and submitting the completed form to Park West, or other requested HRCE school, **on or after April 1, 2019, at 8:00 am**. Completed out-of-area forms can be received by the school in hard copy, fax/scan, or via the online process through the HRCE website (www.hrce.ca). The online link opens at 8:00 AM on April 1, and will remain available for 10 days (April 1 – 12). Decisions regarding acceptance of out-of-area students at Park West for the 2019-2020 school year will not be made until the end of June. Parents will be contacted by the school with the decision.

Order Your Yearbook Soon: Only one book helps you capture this year's incredible events and experiences at Park West School...and that is your 2018-2019 Yearbook. Remember all the friends, trends, fashion, fun, favourite teachers and classes, music, art, teams, clubs, events, and everything in between. Our professionally produced full-colour Yearbook includes **all students and all grade levels** (primary to nine). Preserve your child's memories for the 2018-2019 school year at Park West by purchasing a Yearbook for **only \$30**. Order forms have been sent home with students, and are also available in the school office. You can place your order by dropping by our school office (Monday to Friday - 8:00 am to 3:30 pm) or sending your completed order form and payment to school with your child. Make cheques payable to *Park West School*. You may also order online at: <https://ybstore.friesens.com/stores/774507> A free Canadian memory capsule by MacLean's Magazine will be included if your order is placed by February 3, 2019. **Only a limited quantity will be produced, so place your order now before it's too late.**

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.

Digital Citizenship: As a 21st century educational institution Park West School promotes the appropriate and meaningful use of pocket technologies (such as cell phones, iPhones, iPods, iPads, etc.) to support curriculum and learning activities. It is at the discretion of each individual teacher to determine if and how she/he wishes to incorporate the use of these technologies into their classrooms. Integration of such technologies into teaching and learning is encouraged. It is not acceptable for students to use these devices during instructional time for non-academic purposes (such as texting, placing or receiving phone calls, using social media, games, etc.). Students may use these devices during non-instructional time for

such purposes. **Unauthorized video recording and taking of photos is prohibited. Non-academic use of pocket technologies by students at inappropriate times may result in consequences.**

Happy Chinese/Lunar New Year: Many people of Asian descent will be celebrating Chinese or Lunar New Year beginning on **February 5**. Chinese New Year is the longest and most important festivity in the Chinese calendar. The origin of Chinese New Year is itself centuries old and gains significance because of several myths and traditions. Chinese New Year is celebrated in China and in countries and territories with significant Chinese and/or Asian populations, including Hong Kong, Japan, Macau, Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Taiwan, Mauritius, Philippines, and also in Chinatowns elsewhere. Chinese New Year is considered a major holiday for the Chinese and has had influence on the Lunar New Year celebrations of its geographic neighbours. Within China, regional customs and traditions concerning the celebration of the Chinese New Year vary widely. People will pour out their money to buy presents, decorations, material, food, and clothing. It is also traditional for every family to thoroughly cleanse the house; in order to sweep away any ill-fortune and to make way for good incoming luck. Windows and doors will be decorated with red colour paper-cuts and couplets with popular themes of "good fortune" or "happiness", "wealth", and "longevity." On the Eve of Chinese New Year, supper is a feast with families. Food may include such items as pigs, ducks, chicken and sweet delicacies. The family will end the night with firecrackers. Early the next morning children will greet their parents by wishing them a healthy and happy new year, and receive money in red paper envelopes. The Chinese New Year tradition is to reconcile, forget all grudges and sincerely wish peace and happiness for everyone. According to the traditional Chinese calendar 2019 is the **year of the pig**. At **Park West School** we will be observing and celebrating Chinese / Lunar New Year in a variety of ways....with decorations, class presentations and activities. On **Wednesday, February 6**, students celebrating Chinese/Lunar New Year are invited to *dress in their traditional festive clothing*. Other students may wish to *wear red and/or gold* on that day in honour of the occasion. We will also be having a Chinese New Year parade throughout the school (complete with dragons, instruments, and music) on that date at 10:30 AM. As well, every student in the school will receive a fortune cookie. Park West School wishes all families celebrating Chinese / Lunar New Year a happy holiday.

Sociable! A **Junior High Dance & Social Night** will be held for interested students in grades 7 – 9 on **Thursday, January 31, 6:30 – 8:30 PM**. Admission is \$7.00. Come **dance** in the gym to a DJ...and/or hangout in the cafeteria to **socialize with friends** (bring board games, card games, and video games to play...or sit and chat). Drinks and treats will be available for sale at a canteen.

Guidelines for Junior High dances at Park West School:

- Only students in grades 7, 8 and 9 may attend.
- Alcohol and / or intoxication, cannabis use, and the use of illegal drugs will not be tolerated at school dances. This may result in immediate removal from the dance, contact with parents, suspension, and ban from future school dances.
- **Students will not be permitted entrance to the dance after 6:45 pm.**
- Students must be present in school on the day of the dance to be permitted to attend the dance that evening.
- Once students enter the building they will not be permitted to leave until the conclusion of the dance.
- Attending students are expected to show courtesy, respect and appreciation to those school staff planning and chaperoning dances.
- Students must adhere to the school expectation of appropriate and tasteful dress for the dance. Clothing should not be too revealing.
- All students must remain fully clothed (e.g. individuals must not remove shirts)
- Footwear must be worn at all times.
- Appropriate dance is expected: no hands on butts/hands above waist; no grinding or suggestive dancing.
- **No food or drink is permitted in the gym.**
- Place garbage in garbage cans.
- **A maximum of ONE guest (in grades 7-9) may be approved per PWS student per dance.** The sign-in guest must be in grade 7, 8 or 9 and must be a friend of the person signing them in. Guest sign-ins **must be approved in advance** of the dance. **A sign-up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board in the office.** The PWS student must accompany the sign-in guest to the dance and remain on the premises with them for the entire event. School admin has the right to final approval.

Dates to Remember:

January		
25	PTA Popcorn Sale (\$1 a bag)	
31	Junior High Dance and Social Night (dance, board games, card games, socialize) \$7.00	6:30 – 8:30 PM
February		
6	Chinese / Lunar New Year Celebration & Parade at PWS	10:30 AM
6	PWS Music Night at PWS (choirs, bands, and string ensembles) * you are invited!	6:30 – 7:30 PM
7	Junior High ski club	Evening
8	West African Master Drummer Presentation (grades P -9)	10:30 – 11:30 AM
11-15	Lockdown Drill (sometime during this week)	
14	PTA Lollipop Sale	
18	Heritage "Maud Lewis" Day (no school)	
20	Grade 9 Trip Payment #3 due (\$220.00)	

