

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**.

This issue of our school newsletter is dedicated to the memory of Jane Scrymgeour, who recently passed away. Jane was the cafeteria operator/manager here at Park West for many years. She provided our students and staff with many tasty lunches and snacks. We miss you Jane.

Let's Talk About Student Progress: Parents and Teachers will meet to discuss student progress on **Thursday, April 11 (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. Some teachers will be conducting student-led conferences. 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 ten minutes each. Information was sent home with students on April 1. **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. Junior high teachers will only be available to meet *until 3:30 PM and 7:30 PM*. 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 to discuss your children's progress.

Is Something Missing From Your Life?: Our lost & found is overflowing. All items in our HUGE **Lost & Found** collection (including food containers, lunch bags, coats, jackets, snowpants, hats, mittens, boots, shoes, etc.) will be on display for Parent-Teacher Meetings. Drop by to check it out when you're here and search for 'lost treasures'. After **April 12** all remaining items will be donated to charity or disposed of.

Dig It! PWS presents the musical production **Dig It!** on **April 30 and May 1 at 1:30 PM** in the gym. Travel back in time with the students in grades 4, 5 and 6, and our school choir, who join two inquisitive archeologists, Taki and Tut, as they explore the wonders of **ancient civilizations**. Along with their fossil friend, "Lucy", they take the audience on a journey around the world through music and song. This mini-musical is about 45 minutes in length. Grade 6 students are doing the acting, singing, stage crew and art work. Grade 5 students will play recorders. Grade 4 classes and choir members will sing. All students are requested to wear simple **costumes** of the ancient civilization of their choice. If you do not 'dress up' you are asked to wear solid colours; please no 'present day' logos on shirts. If you have any questions or want to help out please contact our music teacher and musical director, Ms. Kerr (dawn.kerr@hrce.ca)

Registration Info Verification: In preparation for the 2019-2020 school year we recently sent home copies of the original registration forms (green paper) we have on file here in our school office for each of our students (grades P – 8). Parents and guardians are asked to review the information on the forms and make any corrections/changes necessary. There may be errors in the information recorded or information may have changed. It is essential we have accurate information for each student registered in our school; especially contact information for parents/guardians and addresses. **PLEASE NOTE: only students who actually live within the Park West School boundaries are eligible to attend this school.** If you no longer live within our boundaries you must register your child(ren) for September 2019 at the school serving the area in which you now live. You are strongly encouraged to complete the SELF-IDENTIFICATION section of the registration form (if you have not already done so). This information enables the Department of Education and the Halifax Regional Centre for Education to have a greater awareness of the diversity of the student population and the communities served in order to better meet the educational needs of students. Please leave the cover letter attached to the front of the registration form. Complete the bottom section, and provide your signature and date. **Please return the updated registration form, with attached letter, to your child's teacher by Thursday, April 4.**

Order Your Yearbook Soon: You asked for it. It's back! 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 send 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> **Only a limited quantity will be produced, so place your order now before it's too late. There are only a few left to purchase.**

EXCEL REGISTRATION INFORMATION FOR 2019-2020: The EXCEL program will be using a new registration and payment system for the 2019-20 school year. The software offers a secure, convenient, web-based platform on which clients can register their child(ren) **online** for the EXCEL program. To ensure that the new system is fully operational for the registration period, the designated registration dates of **April 29** for current participants and **May 6** for new participants will be **postponed** until late Spring 2019. Despite the delay in the registration dates, it is anticipated that clients will be informed of their acceptance to the EXCEL program no later than June 28. Please visit <https://www.hrce.ca/about-our-schools/parents/excel-child-care/registration> in the coming weeks to receive the latest information on the 2019-20 EXCEL registration process and dates for early and general registration.

About Being on Time for School: Students do their best in school when they attend daily and arrive on time. Teachers in Nova Scotia have reported that poor attendance and late arrivals are growing issues that are impacting the classroom environment for all students. A new Attendance and Student Engagement Policy was recently created by the EECD (N.S. Dept. of Education and Early Children Development).

Strings in Spring: On **Thursday, April 25 @ 7pm** PWS string students in grades 4-9 will be performing in **STRINGS-in-SPRING: A Music of the Movies Sing-Along Spectacular**, with special guests singer Fey Rotimi (grade 6) and trumpeter Shaw Nicholson (grade 11). The performance will be at the Bella Rose Arts Centre (Halifax West High School). Admission by donation.

Excellence at PWS: Representing **Park West School** as one of Canada's newest **Wetland Centres of Excellence (WCE)**, Ms. Riddell and Mr. Driscoll (JH science teachers), along with some grade 7 students (who will act as student ambassadors/mentors for some of our younger grades), and a representative from **Ducks Unlimited**, will be participating in a nation-wide video conference on Thursday, April 4th. During this conference they will be giving a presentation on their new partnership with **Ducks Unlimited**, and outlining activities that they are doing and relationships they are building within the community, as they take stewardship of **Belchers Marsh**. There will be presentations by other **WCEs** from across the country. PWS is only the second **WCE** school in Nova Scotia. Learn more about the program at <https://www.ducks.ca/initiatives/wetland-centres-of-excellence/> Thank you to Ms. Riddell and Mr. Driscoll for their leadership and for providing this opportunity for our students and our school.

Art Classes Teach Kids To...: respect others...start a dialogue...experiment with materials...observe...find their voices...self-evaluate...make connections...express themselves...learn from their mistakes...clean up...reflect on their work...embrace diversity...persevere...have an opinion...appreciate beauty...break away from stereotypes...envision solutions...value aesthetics...see another point of view...innovate.

Teens Need Sleep: The recommended amount of sleep for 13 to 18-year-olds is eight to ten hours per night, according to the Canadian Paediatric Society. Studies suggest more than half Canadian teens get much less, about 6.5 to 7.5 hours per night, says Indra Narang, director of sleep medicine at Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children. "We are in an epidemic of sleep deprivation," said Narang, who foresees cumulative effects that can have an impact on everything from health to work performance. "In 20 years' time, we're going to see a whole generation of adults who are functioning sub-optimally." Indeed, national statistics show millions of Canadian adolescents don't get enough shut-eye, which has experts warning of long-term health consequences — unless we start appreciating the importance of a good night's sleep. "What's intriguing is that sleep loss will have an impact on your ability to retain anything that you learn that's new," Fogel says. (source: CBC News)

Grade 9 Trip Update: The **final payment** for the grade 9 trip (\$245) is due by **April 17**. By that date all accounts should be paid in full. An important information meeting for participating students and their parents will be held on **May 15 @ 8:15 PM**.

Dates to Remember:

APRIL		
03	Parent-Teacher Interview appointment request forms due back to teachers (elementary only)	
04	Completed Registration Verification forms due back	
04	Report cards go home	afternoon
05	Parent-Teacher Interview appointment confirmation slips sent home to parents (elementary only)	
10	First GSA (Gender/Sexuality Alliance) meeting for interested grades 6 – 9 students	11:35 AM
11	Professional Development (PD) for staff – no school for students	morning
11	Parent-Teacher Interviews - no school for students	1 – 3:30 PM & 5:30-7:30 PM
17	Grade 9 Trip payment #6 due (\$245.00)	
18	Project ARC presentation for grades 3 – 9	morning
19	Good Friday (schools closed)	
22	Easter Monday (schools closed)	
24	Administrative Professionals Day	
25	Junior High Dance and Social (admission: \$7.00)	6:30-8:30 PM
26	PTA Popcorn Day (\$1 a bag)	morning
30	School musical: Dig It!featuring grades 4-6 students (also on May 1 @ 1:30 PM) - you are invited!	1:30 PM

