

PWS UPDATE

Park West School Newsletter

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

May 15, 2019

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**.

Something to Think About: **It is not what you do for your children, but what you have taught them to do for themselves, that will make them successful human beings** (Ann Landers)

No School for Students: There will be no school for students at PWS on **Friday, May 17** (Professional Development day for staff) and **Monday, May 20** (Victoria Day holiday). Enjoy the extra-long weekend.

New Primary Orientation: A **Primary Orientation Session** for new primary students (starting school in September 2019) will be held here at the school on **Thursday, May 16, 3:00pm – 4:00pm**. This session is intended to provide your child with the experience of being in school in a primary classroom in preparation for September. A **Parent Information Meeting** for **parents** of children entering grade primary in September 2019 will be held **at the same time** in the **school cafeteria**.

Grade 9 Trip Update: There will be a final **information meeting** for **ALL** participating **students and their parents** on **Wednesday, May 15 @ 8:15 pm**, in the cafeteria. **Attendance is essential**. At this meeting lots of important information will be shared, including: flight details, the final itinerary, contact information, accommodations, what to bring, etc. A reminder that the **final payment** for the trip is now due. The fee for the trip must be **paid in full** for each student before departure. Please contact Ms. Landers (blanders@hrce.ca / 902-457-7800) in our school office if you require information about your trip account (i.e. balance due, etc.).

Gardening Anyone? We have 12 small garden plots/boxes on our grounds at the front of our school. This year we aren't using all of them. Once again, this season we'd like to offer the spare ones for use by our friends and neighbours, and community members. **Some of our garden boxes are damaged and falling apart. Can you help us fix them?** We're seeking parents and/or community members who might be able to help us. We can supply materials if needed. If you'd like to use a plot this season to do some gardening and/or you can help us fix our garden boxes please contact Mr. Carter (principal) at dcarter@hrce.ca

Good Fashion Sense: With the weather getting warmer we want to remind students and parents that Park West School has standards of dress that may be different and/or more stringent than home and other settings. Our school is a 'place of work' for our staff and students. We have a different culture at school than at home. Everyone who 'works' here should dress appropriately and respectfully. As we prepare our students for their rightful places in society we are hoping they make good choices and exercise good judgment. Students should not wear clothes to school that are too revealing. As well, students should not wear shirts that have inappropriate or offensive slogans and messages on them.

Assignment Due Date Protocol for JUNIOR HIGH: Several years ago we created a new protocol for our junior high students. Many students have been submitting assignments to teachers long after the due date without consideration for their teachers and their responsibilities. Often teachers receive assignments for the entire term long past due dates and **after** they have completed calculating marks and writing report cards. This places an unreasonable expectation on teachers. **We want our students to respect due dates and deadlines.** We are preparing them for the real world and to be successful in the work force (where due dates and deadlines are valued). This is part of the learning process. This protocol is in compliance with HRCE Policy C.007 – *Assessment, Evaluation and Communication of Student Learning*. The protocol is as follows:

- All assignments are posted on PowerSchool and due dates are clearly communicated and posted.
- An **up to one week extension** of due date **may** be granted by teacher, providing contact and communication has been received prior to posted due date, and reason for extension is deemed to be reasonable. Students must submit to teacher a completed "*Request for Due Date Extension*" form. Forms are available from teachers.
- Teachers will continue to provide every reasonable support to ensure students have the ability to meet the due date of assignment. Support may include: in-class instruction, extra help sessions, due date reminders, communication with home, access to PowerSchool logins.
- Assignments submitted past due date, or past a one week extension (upon approval), may receive a mark of zero in relation to the term's average mark.
- Any work received past due date, or extended due date, will still be reviewed and evaluated by the teacher, and feedback will be provided to students in relation to learning outcomes.
- A further extension may be granted due to *special circumstances* in consultation with teacher and school administration.
- When a due date is missed teachers will inform parents via email or telephone

Spring Band Concert: Park West is pleased to present a Spring Band Concert on **Tuesday, June 11 at 6:30 – 7:30 PM**. In addition to a number of concert band pieces in the classical tradition, our band students in grades 6 - 9 will be performing some recent pop favourites; including *We Are Young*, *Havana*, *The Greatest Show* (from the musical *The Greatest Showman*), *Rey's Theme* (from *Star Wars*), and *Happier*. If you are a friend or family member of a band student you will not want to miss the culmination of their year's rehearsals. Come out and enjoy the music of our talented musicians.

Staying for Lunch Next Year? Students **must be registered** (free-of-charge) for the lunch program for next year (2019-20) if parents wish for them to remain at school for lunch. Registration forms will be sent home with all students in grades P – 8 on **Monday, May 27**. Completed forms are due back on **Friday, May 31**. Only students registered in the lunch program may remain for lunch on school property under the supervision of monitors. We are **not** able to provide a drop-in service when it is convenient for parents and students (including on days when the weather is inclement). We are staffed with monitors to provide supervision based on the number of students we have registered in the program.

Business As Usual at Park West: The last day of school is **June 28**. On that day students will receive their report cards and be dismissed early (during the morning). **June 27** is an Assessment and Evaluation Day, so students will not attend school on that day. Otherwise, classes will continue as usual right up until the last day. **Students in ALL grades (including junior high) will be expected to be in attendance as learning occurs and subject outcomes are addressed.** A school year in Nova Scotia consists of 195 days. We intend to take advantage of this valuable time by providing meaningful learning opportunities for our students. We do not 'shut down' early. Students will not be told by teachers to stay home because 'nothing will be going on'; nor will teachers suggest that students stay home. If students are to be absent for all or part of a day parents are asked to report the absence on our Safe Arrival line (457-7800 – press 1) BEFORE the absence occurs.

Parents: please support and assist us as we strive to provide your children with the best educational experience possible by ensuring they are present at school.

Seeking Parent Members for our SAC: *"The School Advisory Council (SAC) is a legally recognized body composed of the principal and representatives of teachers and support staff, students, parents, and community members who work together in an advisory capacity to increase the quality of education being provided by the school. The fundamental purpose of the school advisory council is to ensure that all students receive the best possible learning opportunities by engaging all partners in an ongoing process of problem solving and shared decision making."* Our SAC has vacant positions for TWO (2) PARENT MEMBERS. Those individuals must have a child presently attending Park West School. The three year term begins in September 2019. The expectations include attending six meetings per year on a Wednesday evening at 5:45 pm to 7:00 pm. Nominations for these positions are now being accepted. Nomination forms are available from the school office, can be emailed to you, or by clicking on the link on our school website, and are due back to the office by **Friday, May 24**. You may nominate yourself or someone else. If more than two (2) nominations are received there will be an election to fill the positions before the end of June. For more information contact Mr. Carter (principal) at dcarter@hrce.ca or Ms. Karen Sawczko (SAC chair) at lcdr.sawczko@ns.sympatico.ca

Dates to Remember:

MAY		
16	New Primary Orientation and Parent Information Meeting	3:00 – 4:00 PM
17	PD Day (no school for students)	
20	Victoria Day holiday (schools closed)	
24	PTA Popcorn Fundraiser Day (\$1 a bag)	Morning
24	Completed SAC nomination forms (for 2 parent reps) due	
27	Lunch Registration forms for 2019-2020 sent home with all students in grades P – 8	
30	Grade 9 Trip departure for Toronto/Niagara Falls	
31	Completed lunch registration forms due back	
31	Strings Concert for Students (grades 3 – 9) at PWS * you are invited too	10:40 AM
JUNE		
4	Ramadan ends / Eid-al-Fitr	
11	Elementary Field Day (grades P-6) rain date: June 13	Morning only
11	PWS Band Concert (grades 6 – 9 band students) * <i>performing students arrive by 6:00 PM</i>	6:30 PM
14	PTA Popcorn Fundraise Day (\$1 a bag)	Morning
18	Grade 9 Farewell Celebration (dinner and harbour cruise)	Evening
20	PTA Community Summer Barbeque * <i>all are invited!</i>	5:30 – 7:00 PM
21	Elementary End-of-Year Assembly (grade P – 6)	10:30 AM
21	"Canadian Day" at PWS - we're celebrating Canada Day early....wear red & white and the maple leaf to school today	
26	Grade 9 Closing Ceremony * you are invited!	1:00 PM
27	Assessment & Evaluation Day (no school for students)	
28	Last Day of School – summer vacation begins	Early dismissal