

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**.

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

Last Thursday Park West opened for another school year. We welcomed over 800 students in 33 classes, in grades primary to nine. This will be a year full of opportunities and possibilities for our students.....and for all of us. We're excited and full of optimism.

Our staff *team* members, consisting of administrators, classroom teachers, specialist teachers, support staff, and other professionals are all leaders and experts. Collectively, we bring an impressive wealth of knowledge, skills, experience, and expertise to our school. We are caring and dedicated. We are committed to working together to ensure our students, your children, succeed.

We are about:

- Caring about our students, and one another;
- Doing our best;
- Building relationships;
- Being innovative, trying new things, and finding new ways to reach our students;
- Seeking answers when students are not succeeding;
- Not settling for mediocrity....but, rather, *striving for excellence, not perfection*;
- Being leaders....every one of us!
- And...nurturing other students to be leaders (they are our future).

We, as leaders, are passionate about our "WHY"; to support our students to achieve their best...to reach their potential...to become happy and contributing citizens and leaders of the world. They are our reason for being here at Park West. They are our motivation. They are our WHY.

This year at PWS we have a new cafeteria service provider. Chartwells is Nova Scotia's largest provider of food services to students; currently providing food services to 69 schools across our province, and to 27 schools in the Halifax Regional Centre for Education. Chartwells is offering PWS students and parents new menus (with a variety of healthy and tasty items to purchase; including hot food, sandwiches, salads, snacks, baked goods, ethnic foods, drinks....and more), new and convenient ways to make purchases, and special promotions throughout the year. More information is available on our school website: www.pws.hrce.ca

Parents, and students, are reminded that class lists and class placement are tentative at this time. It is highly likely some 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. 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 and our community. You've chosen a great place to live (and go to school)! We're eager to meet new and familiar faces in the coming weeks.

"Leaders are responsible for creating an environment in which people feel they can be their best." (Simon Sinek). That is our ongoing goal here at Park West. Your support and engagement is essential as we strive to reach this goal. *We're better together!*

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 19, 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, frozen treats, and more. 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 12** 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		
9-13	1 st Fire Drill	
12	Pink T-Shirt / Bully Awareness Day @ PWS	
16	Late protocol for students begins > students are expected to be on time for school @ 8:25 AM	
18	SAC & PTA Meetings	6:00 & 7:00 pm
19	PTA Back-to-School Community Barbeque	5:30 – 7:30 pm
23-26	Lockdown Drill (one day during that week)	
26	Curriculum Night (for parents/guardians...not students)	6:30 – 8:00 pm
27	PD Day (no school for students)	
29	Rosh Hashanah	Begins at sunset

