

PWS UPDATE

Park West School Newsletter

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

November 4, 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**.

Newcomers Welcome & Orientation Meeting: One of the most unique and enviable features of Park West School is our diversity. We are proud of this. We embrace it. Families from all over the world, from many different countries, have chosen to make their homes here in our community. These parents and their children face many challenges in such unfamiliar settings. We want all students, and their families, regardless of their origins, to feel at home here at Park West. Our vision is to be a school that is inclusive, safe, accommodating, and welcoming. We are working hard to nurture a **culture of acceptance**. To ensure this continues in a collaborative manner we would like to invite those parents in our community who may be 'newcomers' to Canada, who may have origins in another country or, who in some way represent our rich diversity, to a meeting on: **Wednesday, November 6 at 6:30 pm** in the cafetorium. You are encouraged to attend this welcoming meeting and participate in the dialogue as we review our efforts and progress in becoming a truly inclusive school that recognizes, promotes and celebrates diversity. We also invite those in our community who are not newcomers to help welcome and support our new friends and neighbours. There will be lots of guests from our community who will share how they, and their organizations, can support you. It will also be a time for Mr. Carter (our principal), and Ms. Tameika Kim (our YMCA newcomer support worker) to receive suggestions from you as we plan for the future. We want to move forward in a positive and meaningful way. We want you to be part of it. Welcome home!

In Remembrance: To commemorate Remembrance Day, to honour our Veterans and those who protect our country, and to appreciate and celebrate peace in a meaningful way, Park West will be hosting a Remembrance Ceremony on **Friday, November 8, at 12:45 PM**, in our gym, for all students. The assembly will feature music, student participation, readings, and a special time to remember those who have sacrificed for us. Parents and community members are invited to this special event; especially veterans who live in our community. We are encouraging those who are veterans, in the military, members of police forces, firefighters, Cadets, members of Girl Guides of Canada and Boy Scouts of Canada, or others who wear an official uniform to wear them if attending. If parents and members of our community will be attending in uniform, please email or call our school office to let us know so we can recognize you for your service during the ceremony. All students are requested to wear **Red and Black** on that day. The Royal Canadian Legion has provided us with poppies for this occasion. Students and visitors are invited to buy a poppy at the office by making a small monetary donation.

We Love our Volunteers: Many parents like to support their children's schools by volunteering their time and services. These opportunities include: chaperoning a class trip, reading with students, assisting a teacher in the classroom, and coaching a sports team. We value the many roles volunteers play in our school. We recognize our responsibility to ensure that all students attending our schools are protected by taking reasonable precautions to screen volunteers who may be working with students without direct supervision of staff. In accordance with HRCE's Student Protection Policy, prior to volunteering in our school all volunteers must provide:

- A completed Child Abuse Register check form.
- A certified and true copy of a Criminal Records Check with Vulnerable Sector Check (from your local Police or RCMP detachment or through online organizations endorsed by Nova Scotia law enforcement agencies).

The Child Abuse Register Search and Criminal Records Checks must be issued in the three months preceding volunteering, and **updated every three years**. **Copies of both documents must be on file in the school office.** More information can be found on at www.hrce.ca

Check Out of School Website: You are encouraged to visit our up-to-date school website at www.pws.hrce.ca Once there you'll find lots of useful information about our school and its operations. On the homepage you'll find: **Daily Announcements; What's New; Upcoming Events;** and our **Twitter** feed. Click on the "OUR SCHOOL" tab for **General Information** (our visions and goals; cafeteria menu and order information; and our diversity); **Policies and Procedures** (homework; assemblies; late students; winter weather; and more); **News** (the current newsletter and past issues); **School Resources** (EXCEL childcare....and more); **School Advisory Council; For Students;** and **For Parents** (including Grade 9 Trip; Safe Arrival; PTA; SAC; Volunteering; Class Trips; Registration; etc.). Other tabs on the homepage include: **Calendars; Staff Directory; and Contact Us.**

Student Attendance and Engagement Policy: The Education and Early Childhood Development Dept. in Nova Scotia (EECD) recently introduced a new policy that sets clear and consistent expectations for regular and punctual attendance at all grade levels. One quarter of public school students in our province miss at least 16 days of school per year. Regular and punctual attendance at school promotes greater student success and achievement. The entire policy may be found at <https://www.ednet.ns.ca/student-attendance-and-engagement-policy> Some highlights of the new policy are:

- As per the Education Act, students are required to attend school regularly and punctually.
- All reasons for absence from school must be communicated to the school by the students' parent/guardian.
- Teachers and school administration may exercise their professional judgment and flexibility in cases of *extenuating circumstances*.
- Teachers are not required to prepare additional materials or release text materials prior to their release to the class.
- Teachers are not required to prepare 'work packages' for students on extended absences from school, unless medically related.

- Parents/guardians are responsible for monitoring and ensuring their children maintain regular attendance and arrive at school on time.
- In instances of *chronic* lateness and/or absenteeism parents/guardians will be contacted by the school.

Bake Sale: Cookies, cupcakes and more! There will be a BAKE SALE available to all grades to purchase at lunch time on **Friday, November 8** in support of the grade 9 trip to Toronto in May, 2020. Some of our students are working hard to raise money for their trip. All items will be \$1.00, nut-free and individually packaged. We thank you for your support!

We Love Our JH Students: This year our junior high teachers have implemented some expectations for students in their classrooms. Students in grades 7, 8 and 9, when in their classrooms, are expected to:

- Put cell phones in the lock box.
- Put away any food and snacks to keep our 'community' safe. (*some of our students have severe food allergies*)
- Leave backpacks and outerwear in lockers.
- Remove hoods when entering the school. (*so we can easily identify our students*)

We appreciate the way our student have been cooperating as we strive to maintain a safe, comfortable and respectful environment for all. Keep up the good work junior highs.

Doggie Doo: We've been finding some doggie-doo on our school grounds lately. This creates unpleasant conditions for our students on their school grounds where they play. We love our dogs...but they can't be messing up our play areas. We're hoping their owners will clean up after them. Please pass the message around the community so all dog owners can be respectful and responsible.

Lunch Time at PWS: All students in HRCE schools may remain at school for lunch free-of-charge. However, **all students (grade primary to nine) who wish to remain at school over the lunch period must be registered for the lunch supervision program.** Registration is for Monday to Friday, not on a day-to-day basis. Once registered it is essential student participation remain consistent day-to-day and week-to-week. This will allow for sufficient staffing of monitors for student supervision on a daily basis. Parents who wish to take their child out of the program on occasion for a given day to take her/him home or out for lunch will be required to **sign-out in the office.** All students registered for the Lunch Supervision Program are expected to **remain on school property during the lunch period.** The provincial *Code of Conduct* for schools and all other school rules are in effect during the lunch period. Students who remain on school property during the lunch period must be supervised. Lunch supervision is provided by monitors, *not teachers.* We strive to meet the recommended HRCE supervision ratios of 1 monitor for every 25 students (elementary), and 1 monitor for every 100 students (junior high). We are allocated lunch monitors by HRCE based on the number of students who are registered. **Due to issues of safety and supervision we are not able to provide random drop-in service at lunch time for non-registered students;** when parents need it, when students decide they want to stay, or when the weather is inclement (i.e. rain, snow, cold temperatures) and students don't want to walk home. We must ensure we have enough monitors on duty to provide adequate supervision to students. Our cafeteria space is limited and can only accommodate a certain number of students. Parents are encouraged to make lunch time arrangements in advance for their children if they are not already registered in the supervised lunch program. We are not trying to be mean or difficult....but...if students remain at school for lunch they must be supervised, and we must be prepared and able to provide that service. Thank you for your understanding.

Updated Information: Have you moved and have a new address? Changed jobs? New cell or phone number? Please let us know so we can update our records. It's important we always have the most up to date contact information. Contact Ms. Johnston or Ms. Landers in our school office (902-457-7800).

HRCE Parent Navigators: *Parents and Guardians – Do you need someone to talk to about...*

- Understanding supports within your child's school and the ways to access these supports?
- Supports available for your child in your community?
- Concerns regarding your child's academic, emotional, and/or social well-being?
- Processes such as school registration, bussing, or the Parent/Guardian Concern protocol?
- An upcoming parent teacher or school meeting?

If so...contact an HRCE Parent Navigator...

Parent Navigators will help guide and connect you with the most appropriate resources to help address your questions. They are willing to connect through email, phone, or to meet in person in a comfortable setting in your community. No appointment or referral process is necessary. Simply reach out.

Parent Navigator Contact: **Tressa Moore** – mooret@hrce.ca 902-464-2000 (ext.4362) or **Stephen Somers** – ssomers@hrce.ca 902-464-2000 (ext. 4361)

Dates to Remember:

NOVEMBER		
6	Newcomer Welcome and Orientation Meeting	6:30 PM
8	Remembrance Ceremony (<i>you are invited!</i>)	12:45 PM
11	Remembrance Day (schools close – no school for students)	
14	Junior High Dance and Social (admission \$8)	6:30 – 8:30 PM
15	PTA Popcorn Sale (\$1 a bag)	
20	SAC and PTA meetings	6:00 and 7:00 PM
21	PTA Family BINGO	Evening
22	Assessment & Evaluation Day (no school for students)	
27	Parent-Teacher Meetings	6:00 – 8:00 PM
28	PD Day for staff (morning) and Parent-Teacher Meetings (1:00 – 3:30 PM) (no school for students all day)	Morning / afternoon

