

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**.

Happy Chinese/Lunar New Year: Many people of Asian descent will be celebrating Chinese or Lunar New Year beginning on **January 25**. 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. Celebrations usually include giving/receiving gifts, decorations, food, and new 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, dinner is a feast with families and friends. Food may include such items as pig, duck, 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 2020 is the **year of the rat**. At Park West School we will be observing and celebrating Chinese / Lunar New Year in a variety of ways. On Friday, January 25, 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. Park West School wishes all families celebrating Chinese / Lunar New Year a happy holiday.

Registration for 2020-2021 School Year: We're getting ready to prepare for the next school year already! Registration for students entering grade primary in September 2020 is being held during the month of **February**. New primary students must be five years old on or before December 31, 2020, 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 during the month of February on 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.

PTA Pizza Fundraiser: Our Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) is partnering with **Domino's Pizza** (located at 480 Parkland Drive) to raise some money to support teaching and learning here at Park West School. During the week of **February 3 – 9** our local Domino's Pizza location will be offering two special combos: *large 3-topping pizza/medium garlic fingers/2L pop or dessert for \$24.99 plus tax* **AND/OR** *medium 5-topping pizza/medium garlic fingers/2L pop or dessert for \$24.99 plus tax*. **\$5.00** from the sale of each combo will be donated to Park West School. So...you can enjoy delicious pizza and support our school at the same time.

Seeking Artists in our Community: Fine Arts specialists Aren Morris (Drama, Dance & Movement) & Robin Jensen (Visual Arts) are interested in connecting with community artists, makers and crafters. Do you dance? Are you a storyteller? Do you have a particular artistry, skill set or experience? Do you practice traditional arts of your culture and would like to share? If so, please reach out to us at AMorris@hrce.ca or 902-457-7800 ext.5271172. No professional training is necessary. We look forward to hearing from you.

Safe Arrival: Our Safe Arrival phone number is **902-457-7800 (extension 1)**. Call this number anytime (it's operational 24 hours a day) if your son or daughter will be absent from school (for part day, full day, or more than one day). You will be requested to leave the name of your child, his or her class, and the date(s) and time(s) of the absence, and the reason for the absence in voice-mail. This program is operated by the school for the safety of our students. If your child is absent, and we

receive a message from you informing us of the absence, we know your child is safe and accounted for. Please call the Safe Arrival line rather than the school office, or other school personnel, to leave absentee information.

Sociable! A **Junior High Dance & Social Night** will be held for interested students in grades 7 – 9 on **Thursday, January 30, 6:30 – 8:30 PM**. Admission is \$8.00. 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.

You Must Be Registered to Stay: Our students and parents/guardians are reminded that students **MUST** be registered in the supervised lunch program to be eligible to remain at school for lunch, and they must remain at school for lunch every day of the week. Students *not* registered in our lunch program **do not have the option** of remaining at school whenever it's convenient for them or when the weather is cold or inclement. Unfortunately, we are not able to provide that kind of one-day as-needed service. We are prepared to supervise only our registered students with the proper number of lunch monitors.

Dressing for Success at PWS: Our school has a dress code. As a place of learning, 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. Everyone who 'works' here should dress appropriately and respectfully. Students should not wear clothes to school that reveal excessive bare skin. Students should not wear any clothing that displays words and/or images that are inappropriate for the school setting or are offensive (messages that are racist, homophobic, discriminatory, profanity, etc.). As we prepare our students for their rightful places in society we are hoping, with guidance from parents and teachers, they make good choices and exercise good judgment when dressing for school.

What Do I Like About My School (continued): Recently we asked our students (in grades primary to nine) what they like about Park West School. Here are some more of their responses:

- Something else that is great about this school is the way the teachers teach us. Because they teach us in a very simple way that really helps. So I think that is AMAZING! The teachers do it the SUPER fun way!
- I truly believe the food at the cafeteria is amazing! I also love how grade 4's, 5's, and a little bit of 6's have the portables. The portables to me are amazing and fun!
- On Friday, or the last day of school, they play music as we leave.
- For me, I must say, Park West School is amazing, because everybody's really kind and trustful.
- My teacher is really kind, funny, and smart. Without her I won't know anything about math. I feel thankful.
- What I really, really, really like about this school the most is the different people. If white people, black people, Asian people...were separated that wouldn't really be fair.
- I think this school is perfect for younger kids.
- This school is one of the best schools I've ever been to. I really like the super nice teachers. They are soooooo pleasant. It's because they always help us with our work. They are always very polite.
- What I love about Park West School is that there is so much culture and diversity. Is it so easy to make a new friend. There is always someone you can count on.
- I love all the teachers. The teachers at Park West are so kind and understanding. They always listen and give the best advice. I don't know what I would do without the amazing teachers here at school.
- I love this school because there are so many fun things, like music, gym, math, and more! I am always encouraged to try new things and take risks. All these things make school a lot of fun.
- There is so much support. If that means a kid out on the playground or a teacher in your classroom....these is always someone there for you.

There's Music in the Air: Winter Concerts for Grades P-3 will be held on **Tuesday, February 25, and Wednesday, February 26th**, beginning at **1:15 PM** each day. The concerts will feature the themes of winter, snow and peace, as well as recognizing African Heritage month and the Chinese/Lunar New Year in song. All students in these grades will be involved, showcasing songs learned in music class. Everyone (family and friends) is invited to attend. Tickets are not required. The following classes will be presenting on these days: **February 25** > Grade 2 Webber, 2 Lohnes / All grade 1 classes / All grade 3 classes. **February 26** > Grade 2 English, Grade 2 Ssebazza / All primary classes / School Choir (Grades 4-6)

* This replaces our December Christmas Concerts, which had to be cancelled due to circumstances.

Dates to Remember:

January		
24	Grade 9 Trip payment due (\$245)	
24	Celebrating Chinese/Lunar New Year at PWS > wear red/gold/traditional clothing to school	
30	JH Dance and Social (\$8)	6:30 – 8:30 PM

