

PWS UPDATE

Park West School Newsletter

Phone: (902) 457-7800 E-mail: parkwest@hrsb.ns.ca Website: pws.hrsb.ca
Principal: Mr. D. Carter Vice Principals: Mr. B. Melanson Ms. D. Olsen

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Year End Edition

We continue to live in an era of uncertainty. Our school system has been extensively impacted by COVID-19. We are hopeful we will be able to open our school for our students to return for a new school year on **September 8**. However, nothing is guaranteed at this point in time. It is impossible to predict what teaching and learning will look like in the fall. There are still many unknowns. Plans for school operations for 2020-21 are supposed to be released by the Nova Scotia provincial government in August. In the meantime, teachers and school administrators continue to plan, as best we can, for a new school year. Be aware that any announced plans could change at any time due to evolving COVID-19 circumstances. The health, safety, and wellbeing of our students, families, and school staff remain the top priority as plans are developed for the resumption of school in September. You are encouraged to regularly check out Park West School (www.pws.hrce.ca) and Halifax Regional Centre for Education (www.hrce.ca) websites during the summer months for up-to-date information. We will continue to use SWIFTK12 (our automated message system) to send you emails and voicemail messages to keep you informed throughout the summer, as necessary. You may not hear from us until the end of August. You must ensure we have on file your most current email addresses and phone numbers, so you receive all future communications from us.

Happy Retirement: As this school year comes to a close we pay tribute to two PWS teachers who are retiring from the teaching profession:

Ms. Margaret Webber, grade 2 teacher, retires at the end of this school year, after a 28-year career in education. She began teaching at a small school in the suburbs of Halifax County. Over the course of her career she has taught grades one to five, in nine different schools. Ms. Webber has been on the staff at Park West for the last seven years. She loves to travel the world. Her retirement dream is to eventually return to visit Russia and take a trip on the Trans-Siberian Railway. Her travel plans also include the Netherlands, Ireland, Wales, and Scotland, as well as Italy and the Scandinavian countries. She is a life-long learner; with plans to return to university to study archeology, Russian history and literature, and political science. Her passion for reading will continue, with more time to devour a pile of books she has accumulated. Ms. Webber feels blessed to be completing her teaching career at Park West School, where, she states, "Coming to work was a pleasure and a great and fulfilling experience. I will miss the children and staff." We wish Ms. Webber all the best in her retirement, and thank her for her years of dedicated service to the teaching profession. It sounds like she is going to be very busy reading, learning, and travelling the world. Congratulations Ms. Webber from everyone at Park West School.

Ms. Donna Allan, a long time teacher here at Park West, retires on June 30. She has been a teacher for almost 30 years. Teaching is her second career; having previously worked in the banking industry. She has been teaching at Park West for 18 years; making her one of the longest-serving staff members

still at our school. Over the course of her career she has worked in several other schools located in Sackville and Bedford. She has taught grades primary, one, two, three, and five. Her current assignment is resource teacher here at PWS. In her retirement she is looking forward to spending more time with family and friends; especially her three grandchildren, with another one on the way in August. Other plans include more golfing, relaxing at her cottage, gardening, walking, visits to the library, and lots of reading. She's going to be a busy and active grandma. Ms. Allan leaves Park West with a heavy heart, stating, "It has been a gift to work at Park West with such amazing colleagues throughout the years. I have made so many lasting friendships along the way." As she comes to the end of her career we thank her for her years of dedication to the teaching profession, and to the children and parents of Park West School. She has touched many lives in a positive way. Congratulations Ms. Allan, from everyone at Park West School. You will be missed.

Farewell: The Park West School community is bidding a fond and sad farewell to some of our staff. We thank them for helping to make a positive difference here at Park West School. We wish them well in their future assignments and endeavours. We're going to miss them. The following 'members of our family' will not be returning in the fall:

- Ms. Garland (grade P teacher)
- Ms. Kidd (grade 1 teacher)
- Ms. Webber (grade 2 teacher) * she's retiring
- Ms. Seminatore (grade 3 teacher)
- Mr. Levine (grade 4 teacher)
- Ms. Conrad (grade 5/6 teacher)
- Mr. Vienneau (grade 6 teacher)
- Mr. Corbett (grade 6 teacher)
- Mr. MacBurnie (junior high teacher)
- Ms. McKnight (junior high teacher)
- Ms. Aikenhead-Bain (guidance counselor)
- Ms. Balan (guidance counselor)
- Ms. Oxford (band teacher)
- Mr. Lewis (phys. ed. teacher)
- Mr. MacLellan (EAL teacher)
- Ms. Peters (EAL teacher)
- Ms. Thibault (resource teacher)
- Ms. Allan (resource teacher) * she's retiring
- Mr. McMackin (junior high support teacher)
- Ms. MacIsaac (EPA)
- Ms. Yeadon (EPA)
- Ms. Rafuse (EPA)
- Mr. Lee (custodian)
- Mr. Turcotte (custodian)

The End of an Era for PWS: On August 31 the 20-year lease agreement between Scotia Learning Centres (the owners of our building and property) and the Government of Nova Scotia will come to an end. The Government of Nova Scotia has purchased our school. It will no longer be a P-3 school, and will be owned and fully operated by HRCE. This will be the end of an era for Park West School.

We Need Them Back: Students and parents....please make sure 'our stuff' gets returned us. We're looking for textbooks (they're expensive!), team uniforms (our athletes need to look good!), and overdue library books (many of them are missing from our shelves!). PLEASE return them to us in early September.

Report Cards: All report cards were emailed to parents/guardians/students on Wednesday, June 24. If you have any issues or questions about report cards you should contact the appropriate teacher, or VP Mr. Melanson (for grades P – 4) or VP Ms. Olsen (for grades 5 – 9). If you did not receive a report card please contact the appropriate vice principal. Issues and questions regarding report cards will only be addressed up until June 30, and then again in early September. School personnel are not available during summer vacation (July and August).

Late Registration: If you live within our school boundaries and wish to register your child/children for the 2020-2021 school year visit the HRCE website: www.hrce.ca/registration. **Children who live within the Park West School boundaries are eligible to attend this school.** If new neighbours with elementary/junior high aged children move into the area over the summer please encourage them to register online. Proof of address, a birth certificate, and a Nova Scotia health card number are required to complete registration.

School Supplies: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the circumstances and uncertainty it has caused, we are providing you with a minimal and basic list of school supplies. At this time we are asking for the bare necessities only; just enough to get the school year started. In September, after school has been open for a few weeks, and we have a better idea of how schools will operate, teachers will send home to you an additional list requesting the remainder of needed supplies your child will require for the year. Our teachers are striving to be considerate of our families, and their extenuating circumstances.

- Please reuse previous year supplies if you can. It's not necessary to purchase new if you have items that are in usable condition (binders, duotangs, pencils, coloured pencils, scissors, kitbox, etc.).
- It is not necessary to provide quantities of requested items for the entire school year on the first day of school.
- Please label all materials before sending to school.
- Don't stress if you can't find specific brands, colours, sizes, etc. requested on the supply lists. Just do the best you can.
- School supply lists for all grades are posted on our school website and on the school office window during the summer months.

Class Lists: Due to reasons of privacy and confidentiality class lists will not be publicly posted on the school premises prior to the first day of school. Students will be assigned to their new classes when our doors open for a new school year on September 8th. Parents and students should be aware that class lists are tentative. It is highly likely some students will be moved to other classes, and teacher assignments at some grade levels will change after September 8. These changes may be necessary due to changed enrollment at some grade levels, and in order to strive to conform to class size caps mandated by the EECD. At this time our enrollment for September, and beyond, is unpredictable. Traditionally we have some students move away over the summer months, and we receive many new students who register during the summer months. In September it may be necessary to reconfigure our classes and assign teachers to new grades/classes. It may also be necessary to make changes to comply with new school operations procedures due to COVID-19. **Class lists will not be finalized until early October.**

Lost & Found: All unclaimed items remaining in our *Lost & Found* will be bagged and donated to charity.

Are you in the Right School? Only children who reside within the Park West School boundaries with parents or legal guardians are eligible to attend this school. Addresses provided to the school may be investigated if there is suspicion the information is not accurate. If a child registered at and/or attending Park West School is found to be **not** residing in our area his/her parents will be directed to register at the appropriate neighbourhood school. This includes students who **were** living in our area and moved out of bounds **during** this school year, but remained at Park West to finish the year.

Are You Moving? If your children attended Park West this year, but you'll be moving away over the summer, please inform us as soon as possible. We need to know if they won't be here in September. Email us at parkwest@hrce.ca

Back to School: The first day of school for the 2020-2021 school year is scheduled to be **Tuesday, September 8**. Students should arrive by **8:25 AM**. Parents and students must not enter the school building until the entrance bell rings at **8:25 AM**. Signs will be posted on exterior doors with directions for entry to the building and assemblies for class placement. Next year we are hoping all students (and their parents) will make it their priority to be **on time for school** on a regular basis. Our *Protocol for Late Students* will continue. *Please note: these dates, times and plans could change at any time due to circumstances of COVID-19. Continue to check the PWS website.

Reminder to all School Volunteers: The HRCE **Student Protection Policy** is now fully implemented. All individuals who wish to volunteer in the school on a regular basis, or who wish to be a chaperone for a school trip, must complete *Police Records and Child Abuse Registry Checks* in advance. The following are required: (1) A completed Department of Community Services Form B2 – *Consent to Disclosure of Information* which can be found at: <http://gov.ns.ca/coms/families/abuse/ChildAbuseRegister.html>. This search must be updated every **three years**. (2) A certified and true copy of a criminal records check completed in the **three months** preceding volunteering. This check must be updated every **three years**. Copies of completed documents for both must be on file in our office. For more details visit the HRCE website at www.hrsb.ca This is something you may wish to do in preparation for the new school year.

Registration for Pre-Primary and EXCEL: Park West School offers EXCEL (before and after school childcare program) and, beginning in September, the Pre-Primary Program. To register for either of these programs visit the HRCE website:

- Pre-primary information and registration: <https://www.hrce.ca/search/node/pre-primary%20registration>
- EXCEL registration: <https://www.hrce.ca/search/node/EXCEL>

For More Information: For information during the summer months don't forget to check out:

- the Halifax Regional Centre for Education (HRCE) website at www.hrce.ca
- the Park West School website at www.pws.hrce.ca

Office Hours: The school office will close for the summer months on **June 30**. Plans are to re-open in late August for the new school year. Dates are to be determined. Regular office hours (8:00 am – 3:30 pm) will begin in the fall.

Staying for Lunch Next Year? All students who wish to remain at school over the lunch period for the 2020-21 school year **must be registered** for the lunch supervision program. Registration forms for all students in grades P – 9 who wish to take part in this program, free-of-charge, will be sent home in early September.

Mr. Carter, Ms. Olsen, Mr. Melanson, and the entire staff of Park West School thank you for supporting us in our efforts to provide your children with the best educational experience possible. We're proud of our students and our school. We all look forward to working with you again next year. We wish the families of Park West a summer that is safe, relaxing and filled with lots of fun.

See you on September 8th.