

PWS UPDATE

Park West School Newsletter

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

September 24, 2020

Receive the **PWS Update** electronically for the 2020-21 school year. All parents/guardians/families will receive our school newsletter, **PWS Update**, via email using the SWIFTK12 automated messaging system. Paper copies of the newsletter are available upon request from the school office. The newsletter is published **approximately every two weeks**.

Staff of Park West School for 2020-2021

Principal	Mr. D. Carter	Elem. Core French	Ms. M. Mockler
Vice Principal	Mr. B. Melanson	JH Core French	Mr. S. St-Louis
Vice Principal	Ms. D. Olsen	JH Core French/Phys. Ed.	Ms. J. Wayne
Admin Assistant	Ms. B. Landers	Tech Ed./Phys. Ed.	Mr. J. d'Entremont
Admin Assistant	Ms. E. Johnston	Phys. Ed.	Mr. J. Piercey
Primary	Ms. C. Campbell	Phys. Ed.	Ms. K. McNeil/Ms. E. Taggart
Primary	Ms. C. Cavanaugh	EAL	Ms. K. Brewer
Primary/1	Ms. E. Kostlac	EAL	Ms. S. Haikings
1	Ms. L. Griswold	EAL	Ms. R. Joseph
1	Ms. C. Francis/Ms. A. Fuscek	Resource	Ms. P. Morine/Ms. L. Landry
1/2	Ms. J. Moran	Resource	Ms. L. Hayes
2	Ms. J. English/Ms. S. Matheson	Resource	Ms. N. Gouthro
2	Ms. J. Lohnes	Learning Centre	Ms. V. Allen/Ms. D. Allan
2	Ms. R. Ssebazza	Learning Centre	Ms. S. Brennan
2/3	Ms. D. MacIntyre	Learning Centre	Ms. K. Oxner
3	Ms. C. Bennett	Reading Recovery	Ms. C. Francis
3	Ms. L. Thurston	Reading Recovery/Early Literacy	Ms. C. Walker
3/4	Ms. K. McNally	JH Intervention	Ms. J. Murphy
4	Ms. J. Ross/Ms. S. Matheson	EPAs	Ms. K. Babin
4	Ms. J. Beaton		Mr. P. Beaulieu
4/5	Ms. J. Kelly		Ms. H. Boutilier
5	Ms. L. MacDonald/Ms. E. Graham		Ms. J. Brown
5	Mr. G. Shupe		Ms. K. Corbett
5	Ms. J. Greenwood (for Ms. M. McNamara)		Ms. H. Darwish
6	Ms. H. Collins		Ms. A.M. Graham
6	Ms. K. Tracey		Ms. D. Hannedige
6	Ms. C. Armstrong		Mr. S. Hopkins
7	Mr. A. Driscoll		Ms. J. Keating
7	Mr. D. MacDonald (for Ms. K. MacBurnie)		Ms. R. Misra
7	Ms. M. MacLellan		Ms. R. Momen
7	Ms. J. Pelc		Ms. K. Mutinda
8	Mr. J. Hickey		Ms. C. Nash
8	Ms. S. Petrie		Mr. B. O'Connor
8	Ms. J. Tasker		Ms. E. Sims
9	Mr. G. Beattie		Ms. M. Sharafi
9	Ms. S. Martin	Library Support	Ms. A. Comeau
9	Ms. D. Theriault	EXCEL Leader/Lunch Coord.	Ms. W. Nizam
9	Ms. T. Riddell	African N.S. Support Worker	Ms. A. Rao
Guidance Counselor	Mr. T. Cobean	Caretaker	Mr. J. Kingsbury
Guidance Counselor	Ms. H. Cusack	Custodians	Mr. Bill MacDonald, Mr. Brad MacDonald, Mr. B. Vincent
Music	Ms. D. Kerr	YMCA Newcomer Support Worker	Ms. Prehan Shousha
Music/Band	Mr. K. Pasher	SchoolsPlus Community Outreach	Ms. E. Grinnell
Strings	Mr. B. Joyce	Cafeteria Mgr.	Mr. W. Carter

No School Tomorrow (Friday, September 25): Tomorrow is a P.D. (professional development) day at at PWS for all staff members. There will be **no school for students**. Teachers and support staff will be engaged in preparing to better meet the needs of our students.

Practicing to be Safe: The safety and security of our students and staff is a top priority for Park West School and the Halifax Regional Centre for Education (HRCE). In recent years we have been implementing a number of measures as part of a comprehensive plan aimed at ensuring our school remains a safe place. One of the procedures schools have been employing is a **lock down** drill. During a lock down regular school operations are suspended. All exterior doors are locked, and no one is permitted to enter or leave the building. Classroom doors are secured, and teachers and students remain hidden inside classrooms until instructed by school administration to resume their activities. Students are isolated within the school when circumstances make it safer to stay in the classroom rather than evacuate the building. Just as we prepare our students to properly respond to a fire drill, they also need to be aware of the proper response during a lock down drill. Another drill we practice is **hold & secure**. During a hold & secure situation all exterior doors to our facility are locked; no one is permitted to enter or exit. Our regular routine continues within the building, but students remain in their classrooms. This type of drill is

initiated if there is a safety concern for our students within our school neighbourhood, or within our school (eg. In the hallways or common areas of the school). These drills should be treated with the same level of importance as fire drills. School staff will be discussing the importance of these procedures with students prior to running the drills. We will also take time after the drills to remind them that it was only a practice and there was no danger. Please take the time to speak with your son/daughter about these procedures and reinforce their importance. We practice these drills to ensure our school remains a safe place for teaching and learning. **A lock down drill will be conducted during the week of Sept. 21-25. A hold & secure drill will be conducted during the week of Sept. 28-Oct. 2.**

Curriculum/Meet the Teacher Night: Due to the COVID-19 restrictions we are not able to host our traditional Curriculum/Meet the Teacher Night here at our school with parents/guardians present. Instead, teachers and school administration will be sharing information with you via email and/or the SWIFTK12 automated messaging system at the end of next week (Oct. 1 and 2). If you have any questions about curriculum (topics and outcomes for each grade level and subject), assessment practices, expectations and responsibilities, school routines and policies, etc. please contact the appropriate teacher or a school administrator (VP Melanson for grades pre-primary to 4, and VP Olsen for grades 5 – 9).

No Vehicles On School Property: Vehicles are no longer permitted on school property during the school day (8:00 AM – 3:00 PM, Monday to Friday). The exceptions are: staff vehicles, vehicles displaying official handicap permits, school buses, and service/delivery vehicles. All other vehicles are prohibited, with no exceptions, including on days when it's raining, snowing, and/or extremely cold. If you wish to drop-off and/or pick-up your children using vehicles then you must make arrangements to do so on neighbouring streets. A reminder that the speed limit in school zones when children are present is **only 30 km/hr**. Why are we restricting vehicle traffic on our school grounds this year?

- For the safety of our students, staff, and community.
- To alleviate congestion on our school grounds, especially at busy times of the day (morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up).
- To create more space on our grounds for social distancing.
- To create more space for classes to do outside learning during the day.
- To create more space for outdoor physical education classes.
- To accommodate students who are playing and socializing on our school grounds during numerous recess times and two lunch periods.
- To create enough parking spaces for our staff to park when they come to work.

Knowing these reasons, and that this is to ensure the safety and well-being of our students, your children, we expect ALL parents/guardians to fully cooperate and comply.

Masks On: For the protection of our students and staff we **require ALL adults to wear masks** when on our school grounds at any time during the school day. This includes when dropping-off and/or picking up students.

Littering: Too many of our students are throwing garbage on our school grounds....mostly at recess and lunchtime. We continually encourage them to put litter in the garbage cans provided outdoors or keep it until they have returned inside the building before discarding it. Some of our neighbours, and those who walk the trail adjacent to our school, have complained; surprised and dismayed by our students' disrespect for the environment. Parents: please assist us in rectifying this. Teach your children to be good "earth keepers". Encourage and remind them to dispose of their garbage in a responsible manner. Garbage belongs in garbage cans...not on the ground.

No Child Without: The Canadian MedicAlert Foundation is a charitable organization which is the leading provider of emergency medical information services linked to customized medical bracelets and necklaces. They are pleased to be able to offer MedicAlert memberships to students (from age 4 to their 14th birthday) through the No Child Without program at Park West School. The financial support of the Government of Canada and Lions Clubs allows students to receive the MedicAlert membership for FREE. For more information and to register your eligible child visit www.nochildwithout.ca

Scooters, Skateboards, and Bicycles at PWS: At this time students are **NOT permitted to ride scooters, skateboards, or bicycles on school property at any time during school hours.** If students choose to ride these to school they must dismount upon entering the school grounds and walk or carry them. Students are encouraged to secure bicycles and scooters to the bike rack using locks. Students who bring their scooters, skateboards, and bicycles to school do so at their own risk. PWS is not responsible for damage or theft.

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 child 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 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.

Non-Essential Visitors: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic Public Health has directed us to limit public access to our school building (including our chalets). In most situations we cannot permit non-essential visitors (including parents/guardians) inside. If you have questions or concerns you need addressed, or need assistance, you can contact our admin assistants, teachers, support staff and school administration using email or telephone. All contact information is posted on our school website. Our school phone number is 902-457-7800. If you feel it is **necessary** to meet with an administrator in person you will have to contact the school to possibly make an appointment. Walk-in meetings with administrators, without a prior appointment, are not possible at this time.

We Need Some Important Information Back: We need some important information back from you (parents and guardians) about our students. On **Monday (Sept. 28)** all students in grades P – 9 will bring home a package of forms for you to review, complete and return to school. The following forms will be included in the package: **(1) 2020-2021 Registration form; (2) Media Release form; (3) Early Dismissal form; (4) Lunch Registration form.** Please ensure all completed forms are returned to the school (ie. your children's teachers) by **Thursday, Oct. 1.** It's essential we have this information for each student. Also, if your child has a medical condition or concerns (including allergies), of which we should be aware, please ensure we have the most up to date information. You may need to complete a Medical Awareness form.

