

PWS UPDATE

Park West School Newsletter

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

October 20, 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*.

October is Mi'kmaq History Month in Nova Scotia: Treaty Day (October 1st) marks the beginning of Mi'kmaq History Month in Nova Scotia, as proclaimed in 1993 by then Premier John Savage and Mi'kmaq Grand Chief Ben Sylliboy. Its purpose is to promote public awareness about the Mi'kmaq culture and heritage for all citizens of Nova Scotia. A poster is produced (available on our school website) and numerous events are organized throughout the month in recognition of Mi'kmaq History Month. In 1985, the Supreme Court of Canada affirmed the **Treaty of 1752** was still strong and called upon Her Majesty to honour the Treaty and others made with the Mi'kmaq nation. In 1986, the then Grand Chief Donald Marshall Sr. proclaimed every October 1st as Treaty Day. It commemorates the key role of treaties in the relationship between the Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq and the Crown. The annual ceremony reaffirms the historic presence of the Mi'kmaq who have occupied the land for thousands of years. The Mi'kmaq Nation and the crown also exchange gifts to mark each October 1st. By celebrating Treaty Day, we are giving thanks to the Mi'kmaq and the Crown for signing treaties of peace and friendship. People continue to gather in Halifax on October 1st to participate and enjoy various cultural events in celebration of Treaty Day. It is a reunion for many Mi'kmaq and a time for people to learn a part of Nova Scotia's 12,000 year-old history. For more information about Mi'kmaq History Month visit <https://mikmaqhistorymonth.ca/>

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). If you see orange pylons at the entrance to our school it means the grounds are closed to traffic. 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 arrange 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 allow our school buses easier access to our grounds when dropping off and picking up our students.
- To create enough parking spaces for our staff to park when they come to work.

These measures are to ensure the safety and well-being of our students, your children, so we anticipate ALL parents/guardians to fully cooperate and comply.

Elementary Music Classes at PWS for 2020-2021: Due to Covid-19 restrictions music classes are very different this year. We are not permitted to:

- Sing
- Share instruments or materials
- Sit in a circle and play singing/clapping games.
- Large group dancing or movement activities.

So what will we do in Elementary music?

- Listen and analyze a variety of styles of music. Draw a musical map while listening.
- Read and perform rhythms using body percussion and 'found' objects.
- Read melodies from online sight reading resources and the Musicplay Series. Even though they won't be singing, they will be hearing lots of melodies that are pitched appropriate for their age level. (They will work on developing 'inner hearing, and are allowed to 'hum' with masks on).
- Lots of reading---musical story books; chanting and speaking poems; in chain formation. (one after the other)
- Learn about instruments both orchestral and folk.

Please continue to check Ms. Kerr's website, which is found on the PWS website.

Our Cafeteria: Our cafeteria food service (provided by Chartwells) will **remain closed** until at least January 2021. The protocols required by Public Health to operate a school cafeteria during the COVID era present impossible logistical issues

we are not able to resolve at the school level. Namely, how to safely deliver food/meals to students during the lunch periods. If circumstances and Public Health requirements change significantly between now and January 1 we will re-consider re-opening our cafeteria earlier.

SAC Election Results: An election was held on Monday, October 19, 2020, to elect a parent/guardian representative to our School Advisory Council for a three-year term. There were three candidates: Sheeal Ajay, Jayne Hawkins, and Maneesh Kumar. There were 26 ballots cast in the election. Ballots were counted and verified at 10:30 AM on Tuesday, Oct. 20, in the school office; counted and verified by Derek Carter, Karen Saweczko, Donna Olsen, and Beth Landers. The successful candidate is **Sheetal Ajay**. Congratulations to our new parent representative. Thank you to all candidates for supporting our school and participating in the election.

Protocol for Late Students: When students arrive late for school they are disrupting school and classroom routines, missing out on receiving classroom instruction and important information. Arriving on time allows them the opportunity to prepare for learning (getting their materials organized, removing outdoor wear, etc.). Entrance bells ring at 8:25 am, 12:35 pm (grades 5-9) and 1:30 pm (grades P-4). Students should be on school grounds and ready to enter the building at those times. We are striving to teach our students the value of time management, punctuality, respect for others, and good citizenship. We are preparing them for life. Successful people are on time and value punctuality. Successful students are on time for school.

Early Entrance: If the weather is inclement (raining, storming or extremely cold) in the morning students will be invited (via a PA announcement) to enter the school early (anytime after 8:15 am), using their **usual entrance doors**. On these occasions they will not be required to meet their teachers outside in their usual meeting areas. They will be sent directly to their classrooms to be supervised by teachers until classes begin at 8:25 am. Students should only come inside the building early when given permission to do so.

We'll Get Back to You As Soon As We Can: Park West School is a big and busy operation! We have over 830 wonderful students who need our attention on a daily basis. When they are here at school they are our first priority. On any given school day we are busy teaching them the prescribed curriculum, assessing and evaluating their work, supporting their learning, ensuring they are successful, helping them solve problems and overcome challenges, attending to their well-being, and keeping them safe. Communication with home (parents and guardians) is extremely important to us. During the course of the day teachers, support staff, and administrators receive numerous telephone calls, voicemail messages, email messages, notes, and letters. Most of those require a response. We will strive to respond to you within 48 hours during the school week. If you don't hear back from us right away, please be patient.

Let's Party...At Home: We must insist that parents refrain from sending birthday cakes, treat bags, party invitations (for teachers to distribute) and other party treats/favours to school on their children's birthdays. Please do not show up at the classroom door with these items and assume the teacher will cease teaching and learning to conduct a birthday party for your child. These celebrations should happen at home. What happens in our classrooms is governed by strict guidelines from the EECD. Time has to be dedicated to address curriculum outcomes. As well, we must also abide by strict Healthy Food in Schools Policy guidelines. Some of our students have severe food allergies, so we strictly regulate food consumption in our school. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation.

We Need Some Important Information Back: We need some important information back from you (parents and guardians) about our students. Recently all students in grades P - 9 brought home to their parents information and forms to read, and complete (Early Dismissal, Media Release, HRCE Registration for 2020-21, Lunch Supervision). Please ensure all completed forms are returned to the school as soon as possible. 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.

Relocation Site: In the unlikely event we have to vacate our school building during the day due to some kind of emergency situation all students and staff will be evacuated to the **Canada Games Centre** on Lacewood Drive. We would walk there in classes using the linear path adjacent to the school, accompanied by teachers and school staff. Parents, guardians and our community would be informed of the relocation (via telephone and media) and instructed to pick up children at that site. We strive to be prepared for all emergencies and urgent situations. Our secondary evacuation site (in the event the Canada Games Centre is unavailable) is Halifax West High School.

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; 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 Safe Arrival; PTA; SAC; Volunteering; Registration; etc.). Other tabs on the homepage include: Calendars; Staff Directory; and Contact Us.

Dates to Remember:

OCTOBER		
21	SAC virtual meeting	6:30 pm
NOVEMBER		
01	Daylight Savings Time ends (clocks go back one hour)	
11	Remembrance day (schools closed – no school for students)	
18	SAC virtual meeting	6:30 pm
20	Assessment & Evaluation Day (no school for students)	

