

PWS UPDATE

Park West School Newsletter

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April 21, 2021

Addition to PWS: Something exciting is happening at our school! Park West School is one of five HRCE schools that will be expanding for the 2021-2022 school year, with the addition of modular classrooms to address over capacity issues. At PWS, the modular building will be located on the east side of our main building (i.e. the parking lot on the left side). Our modular building at PWS will be one storey, consisting of: 12 classrooms; wide hallways; washroom facilities for students and staff (2 for males, 2 for females, 2 accessible, and 2 for staff); and a small staff room. The entire modular building is intended to be portable, so that it can be taken apart and moved to another location when no longer needed here at PWS. Each classroom consists of two (2) modular units > 12' X 42" (part of the unit includes hallway space of 10' x 12'). Each classroom is 768 sq. feet > 24' x 32'. The modular units get joined together (like Lego bricks) to form one portable building. The modular building will also include the following:

- Exterior lighting
- Large windows (with blinds) in classrooms
- Ventilation (i.e. heat pumps for heating and cooling)
- A telephone in each classroom
- LED projectors installed on ceiling of each classroom
- New furniture (teacher desk, student desks, flexible seating, chairs, bookshelves and storage units, etc.)
- Coat hooks and shoe benches in hallways
- Exterior door security for restricted access (with swipe pads/door locking system)
- Connection to the school P.A. system
- White boards
- Bulletin boards
- Exterior accessibility via steps and ramps (covered by a canopy)
- "Breezeway" connection to the school. It will be a covered walkway (metal roof with lighting) connected to one of our exterior doors.

There will be six classrooms on each side of the building, with a wide hallway running down the middle. Site preparation has just begun. After site prep is completed, installation and completion of the modular building (interior and exterior) will occur between May 5 - June 30 (approximately). The basic modular units get placed onsite very quickly; each unit is rolled off a flatbed truck and onto the prepared pad. Then services (electrical, water, and sewage) get connected. All safety precautions onsite will be in force during construction. This includes safety fencing. The modular building will be ready for occupancy by the time school opens in September. All seven (7) portable classrooms currently on our site will no longer be needed, and are expected to be removed over the summer. Our three (or four) **pre-primary classes will be at Park West School next year.** They will be relocated from the Kearney Lake Plaza to be included on our site for the 2021-2022 school year. Classes and staff assigned to the new modular building will be determined at a later date.

Our Health and Safety is a Shared Responsibility: As you may be aware COVID-19 active cases are once again on the rise here in Nova Scotia. There were nine new cases confirmed yesterday (April 20). Currently there are 68 active cases in the province. Recently five schools in HRCE were temporarily closed due to COVID cases.

We are not out of the woods yet. We must remain vigilant and continue to practice all COVID-19 safety protocols here at school. All students and staff should be practicing the following:

- Social distancing (whenever possible)
- Student desks spread apart in classrooms as much as possible
- Wearing masks (grades 4-9 when required)
- Hand sanitizing
- Hand washing

- No sharing
- Student's personal belongings should not remain at school (they must be taken home every day).
- Practice good sneeze and cough hygiene.
- Following directional signs in hallways and stairwells.
- Remain in cohorts, as much as possible
- Do not congregate around exit doors at dismissal times. Students should disperse immediately.
- Sanitizing shared equipment (such as Chromebooks) after each use.
- Remain at home if sick.
- No non-essential visitors permitted inside the school building (including chalets).
- All visitors must report to the main entrance to the school (this includes parents), to be received by office staff. No visitors should be going directly to classrooms (including chalets).

This pandemic is not over yet. We still have to exercise caution. Sometimes when things are going well we can become complacent. We are probably all suffering from "COVID fatigue" as well. Nevertheless, we must persevere. We need to protect ourselves, our loved ones, our students and our community. It's a shared responsibility. Our students will need frequent reminders at home and here at school.

Next Year at PWS:

- **Pre-primary classes** will be located here at our school (206 Langbrae Drive). Registration for pre-primary (and primary) is now being accepted.
- We have been informed by HRCE there will be a **new daily bell schedule** at PWS for the 2021-2022 school year, as follows:
 - 8:05 am (entrance bell rings for students/report to classrooms for attendance and national anthem).
 - 8:15 am (instruction/classes begin)
 - 2:25 pm (afternoon dismissal)

**times for lunch have not yet been determined due to unknown COVID circumstances.*

No Cars on School Property: Non-essential vehicles are not permitted on our school grounds between the hours of 8:00 am and 3:00 pm. Only staff vehicles, vehicles displaying accessible parking identification permits, delivery vehicles, and school buses have authorized access. If you see orange pylons blocking the entrance to our property, it means we are closed to traffic. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in staying off the school grounds with your vehicles, and helping make our school a safe place for all. Most parents are complying, and helping us keep our students safe. This new measure has caused traffic congestion, and other issues, on Langbrae Drive, and surrounding streets in our neighbourhood. Some of these concerning issues include: cars blocking driveways, parking in front of fire hydrants, making U-turns, unsafe driving, speeding in a school zone, blocking school driveway entrance (to school buses and authorized vehicles) when dropping off students, stopping in the middle of the street to drop off students/blocking traffic, and stopping and parking in restricted zones (with signage). Drivers are encouraged to be thoughtful, considerate and vigilant, obey posted traffic signs, and make student and community safety a priority. There will be an increased presence of HRM Parking Enforcement officers and HRM Police officers in the immediate future. They may be issuing tickets. *A reminder: students are encouraged to use crosswalks and sidewalks, especially in the extremely busy area on Langbrae Drive in front of our school.*

About Being on Time for School: Too many of our students (in all grades) are arriving late for school in the mornings. Students do their best in school when they attend daily and arrive on time. Teachers in Nova Scotia have reported that poor attendance and late arrivals are growing issues that are impacting the classroom environment for all students. ***We need our students here on time.***

Gardening Anyone? We have 12 small garden plots/boxes on our grounds at the front of our school. This year we aren't using all of them. Once again, this season we'd like to offer the spare ones for use by our friends and neighbours, and community members. If you'd like to use a plot this season to do some gardening please contact Mr. Carter (principal) at dcarter@hrce.ca

No School for Students: There will be no school for students on May 21 (PD Day) and May 24 (Victoria Day holiday).

