

# PWS UPDATE

## Park West School Newsletter

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

**June 9, 2021**

**New Vice Principal Next Year:** HRCE recently announced the new acting vice principal for PWS for the 2021-2022 school year. **Abby Ferguson** will be replacing Ms. Olsen for one year. Ms. Ferguson comes to us from Gorsebrook Junior High School. She has been at Gorsebrook for the last 17 years; as an English/Social Studies teacher and then vice principal (for the last 4 ½ years). We warmly welcome Ms. Ferguson to PWS....and offer her our congratulations and best wishes. Our best wishes are extended to Ms. Olsen in her new assignment as vice principal at Harold. T. Barrett Junior High School in Beaver Bank. Park West will miss her.

**More Successes to Celebrate at PWS:** Some talented students from Park West School were successful in the 2021 African Nova Scotia History Challenge. Congratulations to Felicity Power (grade 9) and NyAsia Gallant-Reid (grade 8) for being selected winners. Their success reflects the time and hard work they both dedicated to their African Nova Scotian History projects. They competed against thousands of students from 100 schools across Nova Scotia. Their knowledge of African Nova Scotian history, heritage, and culture was impressively and artistically demonstrated in celebration of Black History Month. Today, and onward, Black history continues to be acknowledged and celebrated through ongoing discussion, contests, events, films, activities and contributions of people of African descent. The African Nova Scotian History Challenge is an opportunity for our children and youth to better understand, and appreciate, Black history. Most importantly, it serves to spotlight Black achievement and contributions to our province. Thank you to Ms. Angelina Rao, our African Nova Scotian Support Worker, and Ms. Danielle Theriault, junior high social studies teacher, for facilitating this opportunity for our students. We are all proud of Felicity and NyAsia`s success.

### **Mask Wearing at School Requirements:**

- Pre-Primary children and students in Grades Primary to 3 are now required to wear masks at school. (Students in Grades 4 to 12 have been wearing masks since the start of the school year).
- Students must wear a non-medical mask inside schools unless they are seated within their classroom if desks are physically distanced by 2m / 6ft and facing in the same direction, when eating or drinking, and during indoor physical activity.
- Anyone who rides the bus to school is required to wear a mask.
- Masks are not required during outside activities.
- Students are expected to wear a mask within common areas of the school.
- Teachers are encouraged to build in opportunities for “mask breaks” during the school day.
- Schools continue to take direction from the provincial government and public health when it comes to COVID guidelines and protocols.

**Staffing at PWS for 2021-2022:** We have received our staffing allocation from HRCE for the 2021-2022 school year. There’s good news! We are not losing any positions. In fact, we’ve gained additional staff:

- There will be 23 elementary classes, and 10 junior high classes (i.e. 33 classes in total...the same as this year).
- There will be two (2.0) full-time school counsellors (formerly “guidance counsellors”) next year. That is an increase from 1.6 positions.
- There will be three (3.0) full-time EAL (English as an Additional Language) teachers next year. This is an increase from 2.5 positions.
- There will be 20 EPA (Educational Program Assistants) positions next year. This is an increase from 17 positions.

### **Keeping Our Students Safe:**

- Much of Langbrae Drive is designated a ‘school zone’. That means the speed limit is only 30 km/hour when children are present. Please don’t speed.
- 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, construction vehicles/equipment, and school buses have authorized access.

- If you see **orange pylons** blocking the entrance to our property, it means we are closed to traffic.
- Students are encouraged to use crosswalks and sidewalks, especially in the extremely busy area on Langbrae Drive in front of our school.

**Scooters, Skateboards, and Bicycles at PWS:** This year our school grounds is very crowded due to staff vehicle parking, the need for our 800 students to social distance when outside, and construction of our new modular building. We need to keep out students, and staff, safe. So.....students are not permitted to ride their scooters, skateboards, and bicycles on our school grounds during school hours. If they ride these to school they must dismount and walk their scooters, skateboards and bicycles on school property. The law requires helmets to be worn.

**Who Wants to Play?** The Halifax Regional Arts Dept. wishes to inform parents (and students) about their strings program. Students can learn to play an orchestral string instrument (violin, viola, cello, or double bass) for free, beginning in grade 3. Register now for the 2021-2022 school year. For more information contact HRA (Halifax Regional Arts) and/or view the following: <https://youtube/ldUBuBmapro>

**Proud to be Canadian!:** **Monday, June 28,** is “Canadiana Day” at Park West. We’re celebrating Canada Day early....and showing our pride in being Canadians. On that day students are invited to wear the colours (red & white), the maple leaf, and other symbols of Canada to school. Let’s show pride in our country.

**Are You Moving?** If your children presently attend Park West and you will 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. Please call our office (457-7800). Note: only students who reside within our school boundaries are eligible to attend Park West School in 2021-2022.

**Staying for Lunch Next Year?** All students who wish to remain at school over the lunch period for the 2021-22 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.

#### **This & That:**

- This year, due to COVID restrictions, we are unable to have an **elementary field day**. We are hoping this popular pre-summer event can return next year.
- Congratulations to Shreya (a grade 7 student here at PWS) for being selected the winner of the **Apoqmatulti’k Ocean Contest**. Shreya is a talented artist and we are very proud of her. Way to go Shreya! Her winning artwork is now featured on our school webpage at [www.pws.hrce.ca](http://www.pws.hrce.ca)
- Construction is well underway on our new **modular building**. Almost all the modular components have been delivered and attached together (just like Lego bricks). The new modular building will feature 12 large classrooms, heat pump systems (for heating, cooling, and ventilation), large windows, technology, washrooms, and wide hallways. It is expected to be completed in time for the opening of the new school year in September. This new building will replace the seven portable classrooms (“chalets”) currently in use on our school site.
- Schools will be closed (no school for students) on **Tuesday, June 29, for Assessment and Evaluation Day**.
- The **last day of school** before we close for summer vacation will be **Wednesday, June 30**.
- Summer is approaching and the **weather is getting warmer** (*much warmer on some days already!*). Our students are encouraged to bring the following to school with them on warm sunny days: filled water bottles, hats, and sunscreen. Water coolers with bottled spring water are available throughout the school to refill water bottles. Water fountains are closed at this time.
- **We Need OUR STUFF Back:** Students and parents....please make sure ‘our stuff’ gets returned before the end of the year. We’re looking for textbooks (especially from Junior High students). They’re expensive! The average textbook costs the school \$85 each. Many of our textbooks are missing. All library books (many are missing from our shelves!) should be returned too. Please return them to us before you leave for the summer. If a **Chromebook** was borrowed from the school to accommodate at-home learning it must be returned to the school (along with the charging cable) immediately.
- **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. Perhaps you’d like to grow some flowers, vegetables, or herbs. If you’d like to use a plot this season to do some gardening please contact Mr. Carter (principal) at [dcarter@hrce.ca](mailto:dcarter@hrce.ca)

