

PWS UPDATE

Park West School Newsletter

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Receive the PWS Update electronically! You can receive the PWS Update electronically via e-mail. If you wish to be among the first to receive the latest editions of our school newsletters by having it sent to your e-mail address simply e-mail your request to Mr. Carter at dcarter@hrsb.ns.ca The PWS Update is published approximately every two weeks.

Registration for 2017-2018 School Year: We're getting ready to prepare for the next school year already! Registration for students entering grade primary in September 2017 is being held during the month of February. New primary students must be five years old on or before December 31, 2017, and **live within our school boundaries**. Parents must provide a birth certificate, N.S. health card number, and proof of address (egs. utility bill, lease/rental agreement) when registering. Registration can be done at the school office Monday to Friday, 9:00 am to 3:30 pm. Contact Ms. Johnston or Ms. Landers (our admin assistants in the school office) or Ms. Aucoin (our Guidance Counselor) at 457-7800 for more information or to make an appointment. Please pass the word around the community so everyone gets registered on time. Our staffing allotment for next year depends on the number of students registered. **PLEASE NOTE:** only students who live within the Park West School boundaries are eligible to attend this school. As our school and class sizes continue to grow we will be monitoring this situation VERY carefully. If any of our students are found to be living outside our boundaries it may be necessary for them to leave Park West and register at the school serving the neighbourhood in which they live. Parents may apply to have out-of-area students attend Park West by first registering at their neighbourhood school, obtaining an HRSB "Out-of-Area" form from that school, and submitting the completed form to Park West on or after April 1, 2017, at 8:00 am. Decisions regarding acceptance of out-of-area students at Park West for the 2017-2018 school year will not be made until the end of June.

Ask Me About: Lots of quality teaching and learning has continued to occur in our classrooms over the last several months. It's been our priority! Teachers have had more time to spend focused on their students and their classrooms, and on teaching. Below are some of the current topics in our classrooms. Do you want to know what's going on in your child's classroom? What has your son or daughter been learning/working on at school recently? Just ask him/her about.....

- Reading fluently with expression. (P-Dorey)
- Length, capacity, showing numbers 1-10 in many ways, and beginning sounds. (P-MacIntyre/Sparkes)
- Tally charts and graphing in math. 'Gratitude Journals'. (3-MacDonald)
- How many times can YOU fold a piece of paper? (gr. 3). "I Have A Dream" class book (gr. 4) (3/4-Kelly)
- Science projects on sound - musical instruments, how sound is made and how it travels. (4 - Walsh/MacIntyre)
- Addition (part-part-whole), how-to writing, using schema (background knowledge) to make connections. (1-Kostac)
- French: My family (gr. 4). Types of movies (gr. 5). Animals (gr. 6) (Ms. Mockler)
- How to write a persuasive essay (4/5 - Chute)
- Reading/writing: creating mental images. Math: different types of story problems. (1-Morine)
- Creating, organizing, and implementing group work activities based on a non-fiction article of their choice. (Ms. Martin - Gr. 9 English)
- Culture: How has teen culture changed since their parents have been teens? Why has it changed?
- Discuss the types of music they listened to, entertainment, trends, fads, ways of communicating, expression, opinions, etc. (Ms. White - Gr. 9 Social Studies)
- Mental Health and Mental illness. Particularly anxiety and depression, and means of coping and identifying when it becomes a problem. (Ms. White - Gr. 9 Healthy Living)
- WW2: Japanese internment; Pearl Harbor; D-day ;VE day; the atomic bombings in Japan; Canada's role; and the impact on the future for Canada in the world. (Ms. White - Gr. 8 Social Studies)
- Famous African Canadian singers; instruments of the orchestra; styles of music. (Ms. Servant - elem. music)
- Digital Citizenship (Healthy Living), and creative writing (English Language Arts). (Gr. 7 - Stewart/Hickey)
- Cells, viruses, and bacteria. (Ms. Riddell - Gr. 8 & 9 Science)
- Interviewing friends and writing friendship cinquains. They are learning another type of poem and more about nouns, adjectives and verbs along the way. (2/3 - Moore)

How You Can Support Your Child's Learning: An analysis of 37 studies that included over 80,000 students from grades primary to 12 in Educational Research Review found parent participation in school activities had the least effect on student achievement. What had the most? Parental expectations, discussions about school activities with children, and helping with reading topped the list.

A Canadian Winter: The Halifax Regional School Board does not have an official policy on wind chill/cold weather with regards to students being sent outside for recess and lunch breaks, or whether or not students are kept outside in the morning prior to the first bell. However, schools are provided with information to assist them in making decisions at individual school sites. Generally speaking, when the temperature reaches -10 degrees Celsius or below we assess the appropriateness of sending children outside. We also consider wind chill factors. Wind chill is the cooling sensation caused by the combined effect of temperature and wind. Environment Canada advises there is an “increased risk” of frostbite and hypothermia with a wind chill below – 27o C. School administration consults the Environment Canada weather website frequently and uses common sense in determining whether or not students should be outside on a given day. We also consider the length of time students will be outside, their activity level (heat generation), and exposure to wind and sun (the sun does have a warming affect, even during the winter months). Whenever possible we do like to see our students being given the opportunity to get outside at some point during the day to get some exercise, fresh air, and have the opportunity to socialize with friends, rather than being confined to their classrooms for extended periods of time. Student safety, health, and well-being are always paramount. **Parents should ensure their children are sent to school dressed appropriately for the weather and possible outdoor play.**

Protocol for Late Students: Our students need to be here on time. 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, going to lockers, etc.). Entrance bells ring at **8:25 am and 12:35 pm**. Students should be on school grounds and ready to enter the building at those times. Students must be in their classrooms by 8:30 am and 12:40 pm. 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. Our society values punctuality.

JUNIOR HIGH (7-9)

- If a student is late (after O Canada in the morning at 8:30; after 12:40 pm after lunch; arriving to the next class) then he/she will serve a 20 minute after-school detention with the homeroom teacher on the day the student is late.
- If a JH student arrives late for school (morning or afternoon) he/she must sign-in at the office before proceeding to class.
- The detention may be served on the following day at the discretion of the teacher if circumstances dictate that prevent the student from serving the detention on the day of being late (e.g. student had urgent family commitment, doctor’s appointment, etc.).
- If a student is late both in the morning and after lunch then arrangements will be made for he/she to serve two detentions.
- Serving the detention will take precedence over the student participating in extra-curricular activities (egs. sports teams, clubs, rehearsals, etc.). Participation in extra-curricular activities is a privilege, not a right.
- If the student doesn’t show up to serve a detention parents will be contacted and the detention served the following day.
- Before a detention is served parents will be contacted to inform them their son/daughter will be detained after school.
- “Excused” lates must be for legitimate reasons. Legitimate excuses may include, but not be limited to: medical appointments; family emergency; or other unforeseen circumstances. A written note, phone call, or email must be provided by the parent and submitted to the school secretary explaining the reason for being late.

ELEMENTARY (P-6)

- If a student is late (after O Canada in the morning at 8:30; after 12:40 pm after lunch) then he/she will serve a 15 minute recess detention on the day the student is late.
- Serving the detention will take priority over the student participating in extra-curricular activities at recess.
- The students serving detention will be permitted to eat a snack, and use the washroom.
- Parents will be informed if a student is to serve a detention for being late.
- If the student doesn’t show up to serve a detention parents will be contacted and the detention served the following day
- “Excused” lates must be for legitimate reasons. A written note, phone call, or email must be provided by the parent to the classroom teacher explaining for the reason for being late. Legitimate excuses may include, but not be limited to: medical appointments; family emergency; or other unforeseen circumstances.

Grade 9 Trip Payments: Planning for the grade 9 trip to **Toronto/Niagara Falls** continues. The trip is on! The payment plan is as follows: January 27 (\$210); February 24 (\$210); March 24 (\$210), and April 21 (\$210 or remainder). An information meeting for participating students and their parents will be held in May.

Lost & Found Is Overflowing: Are you missing something from your life? We have MANY unclaimed items in our Lost & Found collection. Please drop by the school to check it out and search for 'lost treasures'. On **March 10** all unclaimed items will be donated to charity.

PTA Fundraiser: Tuesday, February 28 is “Pancake Day”. Consider going to **The Lower Deck** (Clayton Park Plaza) for a pancake dinner between 11:00 am and 8:00 pm. \$5.00 from every meal purchased will be donated to Park West School to support teaching and learning.

Dates to Remember:

February		
28	Pancake dinner fundraiser at The Lower Deck	11 am – 8 pm
March		
13-17	Schools closed for March Break	
22	Assessment & Evaluation Day (no school for students)	
31	Term 2 Report Cards go home	
April		
6	Professional Development (morning); Parent – Teacher Interviews (afternoon and evening) - no school for students	All day
14	Good Friday (no school for students)	
17	Easter Monday (no school for students)	

