

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.

Let's Talk About Student Progress: Parents and Teachers will meet to discuss student progress on **Thursday, December 1 (1:00 – 3:30 pm & 5:30 – 7:30 pm)**. There will be no school for students on that day. Teachers, including specialists (French, music, band, resource, phys. ed., guidance, learning centre, EAL, etc.), will be available to meet with you to discuss your child's progress. Elementary teachers will meet in their classrooms with parents by appointment. Parents of elementary students have the opportunity to request appointment times with their child's teacher. Junior High teachers will meet with parents in the gymnasium on a first-come/first-served basis. Jr. High parents are encouraged to take advantage of the availability of afternoon meeting times when possible, as the evening tends to be busier. To accommodate all parents most appointments will be for ten minutes each. If more time is required to discuss your child's progress then a longer appointment can be made for another time. We look forward to seeing you. **Information (including appointment request forms) will be sent home with elementary students on November 21.**

Come to the Fair: Park West School is having a Scholastic Book Fair just in time for the holiday season. The dates of the fair are **Tuesday, November 29 to Thursday, December 1**. The Fair will be open during the day for students and their classes to view and make purchases, as well as any parents who would like to drop by. It will also be open for the afternoon and evening of Parent-Teacher Interview sessions on December 1. Books make great gifts and promote literacy. All profits from the Book Fair are used to purchase new books for our library. Parents/ guardians who would like to volunteer at the fair can email Ms. Comeau (our school librarian) at Arlene.comeau@hrsb.ns.ca

No Smoking: Smoking on or near school property is **against the law** in Nova Scotia. The Smoke Free Places Act of Nova Scotia prohibits smoking in enclosed places (including schools), and within 4 metres of windows, air intake vents and entrances. Furthermore, HRSB policy (Tobacco-Free Schools and Workplaces Policy A.006) prohibits the use of tobacco products in schools, on all school grounds, and within 4 metres of any school property. This policy also prohibits smoking in all vehicles while on school property, at all school-related events, on school trips, and by anyone transporting students to or from a school event, and while in the presence of students during those events. Thank you for your cooperation.

Early Entrance: If the weather is inclement (raining, storming or *extremely* cold) in the morning students will be invited to enter the school early (at 8:15 am), using their usual entrance doors. 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.** Parents should only enter the building using the main doors and may not proceed to classrooms with their children.

Seeking Donations: We're seeking donations of new or gently used items to support teaching and learning here at Park West. We're looking for the following: *Lego (for our Lego Club), board games, playing cards, knitting supplies, colouring books, children's picture books, puzzles, magnetic letters, dinky cars, farm with farm animals, and G-rated DVD or VHS movies (for EXCEL and lunch time use)*. These items will be used in classrooms, by our EXCEL program, and during lunch time supervision. All donations will be gratefully accepted at the school office. Thank you for your support.

What I Like About My School: We asked Park West students what they like about their school. Here's what they had to say:

- All the clubs and how everyone helps each other get better at everything. (Alya – 5/6)
- It is really awesome and fantastic. It has nice teachers. (Paul – 2/3)
- People are friendly and stand up against bullying. (Roman – 3)
-all the amazing teachers and how hard they work for us. (Roaa – 9)
- I like the school because of the EPAs and teachers at this school. (Chase – 4)
-because I do a lot of good work! (Bahoz – 8)
- I like to play outside with my friends. (Ramla – 1)
-the chances and choices we get each day. I love this school for that and all our opportunities. (Kailyn - 9)
-the helpful teachers and students. I also love that it is a multicultural school, so everyone feels accepted. (Felicity – 5/6)
- I like the drills that keep us safe. (Afraz – 3)
- The school always puts me in a positive attitude. (Zach – 9)
- I like that Park West is a safe place. (Ben – 3)
- The halls and the gym are always clean. (Sam – 9)

- My favourite thing about this school is that there are so many different kids from different places, so you can learn so much about different countries and religions. (Tasneem – 5/6)
- I like the teachers at Park West School. They teach us in different ways so that we can understand. Everyone is so nice and kind and it is easy to make friends. (Dulcea – 3)
- My favourite thing about Park West is how welcoming everyone feels. I feel safe at Park West and I wake up every day wanting to go to school. (Samantha – 5/6)
- I like the people in my school. They are all nice and friendly and I know a lot of them. (Katie – 3)
- I like that there are so many kids and you can easily make new friends. (Reiley – 3)

You Might Want to Know:

- Students who are on time and ready to take part in a routine, learn to manage time better and display better organizational skills than students who are arriving late. Missed work leaves gaps in a child's learning.
- In the summer our "chalets" received some renovations: fresh coats of paint on the interiors, and new floors.
- Our PTA generously supports teaching and learning at our school. They work hard throughout the year to raise funds through various initiatives. Our recent Fall Community Barbeque raised \$2500.00! Last year they raised almost **\$19,000.00**. Items purchased for our students and teachers using these funds include: registration fees for math competitions, books for classroom libraries, resources for math, games and puzzles, musical instruments, portable electronic piano, EAL learning resources, butterfly kits, cooking & baking supplies, digital camera, microscope slides, fees for visiting authors, microscopes, technology (apps and software subscriptions), scientific calculators, book cases, computer speakers, spelling bee registration, pedometers, outdoor activity equipment, etc. Presently the PTA has a number of fundraising projects available for parents and community to support. For more information about these visit our school website at www.parkwest.ednet.ns.ca Thank you to the members of our PTA for their outstanding contributions to our school. And...thank you to you for supporting them and their initiatives.

B-I-N-G-O!!! Our PTA is having another fundraising event to support teaching and learning here at Park West. There will be a Family Bingo on **Thursday, November 17, 6:15 – 8:00 pm**. Doors will open at 6:00 pm. Pizza, water, hot drinks, and other treats will be available for purchase. Bingo cards are \$5 – good for all 15 games. There will be lots of great prizes. Bring your dabbers or crayons to mark your numbers. All students must be accompanied by an adult. Donations of cupcakes are needed. Please contact Angie Decoste (angiedecoste@gmail.com) if you can donate cupcakes or prizes, volunteer to help out, or have any questions.

Elementary Christmas Concerts: Our annual elementary Christmas concerts will be held on **December 6 and 7 (1:00 pm and 6:30 pm)**. This year's presentation will include familiar carols, songs of celebration from around the world, and a special tribute to Elvis (by the 5/6 and 6 classes). All students in grades primary to six are participating. Our wish is for **ALL** students (and their parents) in the Park West Family to participate in this special community event. Let's all celebrate our special holidays **TOGETHER**, regardless of our beliefs and cultural background. *Over the last several years we have experienced a drastic decline in the number of students participating with their classes in the evening concerts. Many students seem to participate in the afternoon (1:00 pm) dress rehearsals, but do not show up for the evening concerts. After weeks of preparation and rehearsal this is extremely discouraging for all involved (classmates and teachers). Because of this we are considering eliminating the evening concerts next year. We are requesting all parents to ensure their children commit to participating with their classes in both afternoon and evening presentations.* The performance schedule for classes is as follows:

| | |
|--|--|
| Tuesday, December 6 @ 1:00 pm and 6:30 pm | Grades: primary, two, 2/3, four, 4/5, five |
| Wednesday, December 7 @ 1:00 pm and 6:30 pm | Grades: one, three, 3/4, 5/6, six |

Grade 9 Trip: 46 grade nine students have signed up for the grade 9 trip to Toronto and Niagara Falls in the spring. The next payment of \$210 is due on **November 25**.

No School: There will be **no school** for students on **Thursday, December 1**.

Is it bullying?

- When someone says or does something unintentionally hurtful and they do it once.....that's **rude**.
- When someone says or does something intentionally hurtful and they do it once.....that's **mean**.
- When someone says or does something intentionally hurtful and they keep doing it, even when you tell them to stop or show them that you're upset.....that's **bullying**.

Dates to Remember:

| November | | |
|-----------------|------------------------------|----------------|
| 16 | SAC and PTA Meetings | 6 pm & 7 pm |
| 17 | PTA Family BINGO | 6:15 pm |
| 18 | Terry Kelly concert at PWS | 1:00 pm |
| 22 | Parents as Career Coaches | 6 pm |
| 24 | JH Dance (\$5 admission) | 6:30 – 8:30 pm |
| 25 | PTA Popcorn sale (\$1 a bag) | |
| 25 | Report cards go home | |