

PWS UPDATE

Park West School Newsletter

Phone: (902) 457-7800 E-mail: parkwest@hrsb.ns.ca Website: parkwest.ednet.ns.ca
Principal: Mr. D. Carter Vice Principals: Ms. S. Masih Ms. T. Foster

October 12, 2016

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.

Newcomers Welcome & Orientation Meeting: One of the most unique and enviable features of Park West School is our diversity. We are proud of this. We embrace it. Families from all over the world, from many different countries, have chosen to make their homes here in our community. These parents and their children face many challenges in such unfamiliar settings. We want all students, and their families, regardless of their origins, to feel at home here at Park West. Our vision is to be a school that is inclusive, safe, accommodating, and welcoming. We are working hard to nurture a culture of acceptance. To ensure this continues in a collaborative manner we would like to invite those parents in our community who may be 'newcomers' to Canada, who may have origins in another country or who in some way represent our rich diversity, to a meeting on: **Thursday, October 13 at 6:30 pm** in the cafetorium. You are encouraged to attend this very important meeting and participate in the dialogue as we review our efforts and progress in becoming a truly inclusive school that recognizes, promotes and celebrates diversity. We also invite those in our community who are not newcomers to help welcome and support our new friends and neighbours. There will be lots of guests from our community who will share how they, and their organizations, can support you. It will also be a time for Mr. Carter (our principal) and Ms. Spencer (our YMCA newcomer support worker) to receive suggestions from you as we plan for the future. We want to move forward in a positive and meaningful way. We want you to be part of it.

SAC Election This Week: Our SAC has a vacant position for a PARENT MEMBER. That individual must have a child presently attending Park West School. The term is for three years. The expectations include attending six meetings per year on a Wednesday evening at 6:00 pm. Nominations have closed for this vacant position. There are five candidates. Visit our school website for a brief bio for each candidate. The election will take place during the week of **Tuesday, October 11 to Friday, October 14**. Any Park West parent may drop by the school office to vote on those dates during office hours (8:00 am to 3:30 pm). Or parents may wish to vote at the school between 4:00 and 6:00 pm by making contact with our after-school EXCEL leader (Ms. Waseema Nizam). She will provide assistance for voting. Voting closes on October 14 at 6:00 pm. Only one ballot per parent/guardian of a Park West Student. The successful candidate will be announced on our school website and in our next school newsletter.

School Board Election: Under the Education Act, an elected school board is accountable to the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD) and responsible for the control and management of the public schools within its jurisdiction. Some of the main responsibilities include developing an annual business plan and budget, establishing policies and ensure that its schools adhere to the provincial program of studies. The elected Governing Board hires a superintendent who is responsible for the day-to-day operation of schools and the supervision of staff. The duties and responsibilities of elected Governing School Boards is covered under Section 64 of the Education Act. The elected Governing Board of the Halifax Regional School Board (HRSB) is comprised of ten elected members (including one African Nova Scotian representative and one Mi'kmaq representative). School board elections occur every four years in conjunction with municipal elections. The next election will take place on **Saturday, October 15, 2016**. Park West School is located in **school board district 6**. The four candidates seeking election for the position in district 6 are: **Laura Claridge, Linda MacKay, Karen Saweczko, and Charlene Tasco**. Are you on the voters list? Do you know where to vote? Do you know how to e-vote? Do you want more information about the candidates? For more information visit: <https://www.halifax.ca/election/> or <http://www.schoolboardelections.ca>

Tweet...Tweet: The **Halifax Regional School Board** is on Twitter. The account is managed by HRSB Communications and is used to share important information about the HRSB, school cancellations, great stories about our schools, etc. They can be found at [Twitter.com/HRSB_Official](https://twitter.com/HRSB_Official). You don't need a Twitter account to view what's posted. You can also view latest postings on the right hand side of the HRSB website (www.hrsb.ca). **Park West School** also shares messages using Twitter. We can be found at [Twitter.com/@ParkWestHRSB](https://twitter.com/@ParkWestHRSB) You can also see our Twitter posts on our school website (www.parkwest.ednet.ns.ca). You can receive our Park West Twitter feed via text on your cell phone. Send to 21212 and type the message "follow ParkWestHRSB".

We Need Some Important Information Back: We need some important information back from you (parents and guardians) about our students. On October 4 all students in grades primary to nine brought home to parents information and forms to read, complete, and return to school by October 7. If you have not yet completed and returned these forms to the school please do so as soon as possible. Thanks. These include the following: SCHOOL CANCELLATION/EARLY CLOSURE FORM.....STUDENT MEDIA RELEASE FORM.....MEDICAL AWARENESS FORM.

Good Food at Good Prices: The Park West School cafeteria serves a variety of hot and tasty healthy meals for our students to purchase at lunchtime. Daily specials include: grilled cheese and tomato soup; beef & macaroni bake; baked chicken with rice and veggies; meatloaf with mashed potatoes; sloppy joes; roast beef dinner; sweet & sour chicken balls with rice and egg roll; chicken cacciatore; lasagna; mini hamburgers and taters; chicken fajitas; meatballs with rice; baked ham and scallop potatoes; shepherd's pie; and chicken fingers. Lots of other choices are available. Hot lunch specials are from \$5.00 to \$5.75. Other cafeteria offerings include: cheese pizza (\$3.75); garlic fingers with donair sauce (\$3.75); nachos and dip (\$3.50); hamburgers (\$3.00); cheeseburgers (\$3.50); chickenburgers (\$3.50); veggie plates (\$2.75); fruit cups (\$1.25); and chicken ceasar wraps (\$3.75). An assortment of freshly made sandwiches are available daily (egg salad, chicken salad, ham & cheese, and tuna salad) for only \$3.75, and salads (garden or ceasar) for \$3.75. During the cold winter months hot homemade soups will be served daily for only \$3.75. Drinks include: bottled water (\$1.25); 100% pure fruit juice (.55/\$1.50); milk (.40); and chocolate milk (\$1.30). A variety of snack for sale include: baked chips (\$1.50); Crispers (\$1.50); Rice Krispie

squares (.60); and cookies (.60). The cafeteria opens at 8 am for pre-ordering and for breakfast. Toast, bagels, and bacon/ham/cheese on toast are available for those who didn't get to eat at home. Two copies of the menu are sent home to all students in grades primary to three every month; one to keep and one to use as an order form. Menus will soon be available on our school website. To request a menu, place an order, or if you have any questions please contact our cafeteria operator, **Jane Scrymgeour**, at **440-7352** between 8 am and 12:45 pm daily.

Who's In Our Christmas Concert?: Our elementary Christmas Concerts for all students in grades P-6 will be held on December 6 and 7 with the following performance schedule:

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

A SPOOKTACULAR HALLOWEEN FAMILY DANCE: Our PTA is presenting a Hallowe'en Family Dance on Thursday, October 27, at 6:00 – 8:00 pm. There's no school on Friday (Oct. 28). Students in grades primary to 6, and their families are invited to attend. Admission is \$10 per family if you register by Oct. 25 / \$15 per family at the door. All students must be accompanied by an adult. Don't forget to wear your costumes. Lots of yummy treats (such as cupcakes, candy bags, ice cream, and popcorn) will be available for purchase. There will be door prizes and 50/50 draw too.

We Love our Volunteers: Many parents like to support their children's schools by volunteering their time and services. These opportunities include: chaperoning a class trip, reading with students, assisting a teacher in the classroom, and coaching a sports team. Prior to volunteering with the Halifax Regional School Board, all volunteers must provide:

1. A completed Child Abuse Register Search or completed Child Abuse Register Request for Search (Form A) which can be found at: <http://www.gov.ns.ca/coms/families/abuse/ChildAbuseRegister.html> This search must be **updated every three years**;
2. A certified and true copy of a criminal records check completed in the three months preceding volunteering. This check must be **updated every three years**.

Copies of both documents must be on file in the school office.

Class Trips: Often teachers like to enhance what is being learned in the classroom with class trips for their students. Class trips are not required, but provide program enrichment opportunities and a wide range of experiences for our students. Teachers have been provided with funds (\$5 per student) from student fees to supplement the cost of such trips. Nowadays, school bus charters and entrance fees to facilities can be quite expensive. These trips cannot be possible without parents willing to volunteer their time to help supervise students. Parents wishing to do so much have successfully completed the Child Abuse Register search and a Criminal Records check. Parent chaperones are expected to give their full attention to the supervision of students, under the direction of teachers. That is the first priority; ensuring the safety and well-being of our students. If adequate supervision cannot be provided due to a lack of parents volunteering to chaperone, then, unfortunately, class trips will be cancelled. We need your support to ensure this does not happen.

NSTU Conference Day: **Friday, October 28**, is NSTU Professional Conference Day. There is **no school for students on that day**. Teachers and support staff will be engaged in professional development opportunities to improve teaching and learning.

Walking & Running for Terry: Park West School will hold its Terry Fox Run on **Tuesday, October 14th** (rain date – Thursday, October 20th). Parents and guardians are welcome and encouraged to join the children on the walk/run. This event will start with an assembly in the gym @ 12:45 p.m. The children may need an extra water bottle that day and they will need to have proper footwear. The grades P-3 will walk/run around the back field. The grades 4-9 participate in the community run and follow this route: exit from the front of the school, proceed down to Langbrae Dr., cross at the crosswalk and continue north on the Linear Pathway, cross at Farnham Gate and proceed to the end of the path at Parkland Dr. near Castlehill Dr. (near the Quality Inn). The children will turn back towards the school and stay on the sidewalk. They will cross several streets and must listen to the specialist teachers, Mr. Carter and the police officer who will be at these crossings. When they get back to the corner of Langbrae Dr. and Parkland Dr., they will cross the street and proceed back to the school. We will have staff members present at all intersections and crosswalks. Constable Joseph, our HRM police liaison officer, will also be present at one of the intersections. Please have your child pass in their pledge sheets to their classroom teacher as soon as possible. We hope to see you on the 14th. Thank you in advance for your support.

No Child Without: The Canadian MedicAlert Foundation is a charitable organization which is the leading provider of emergency medical information services linked to customized medical bracelets and necklaces. They are pleased to be able to offer MedicAlert memberships to students (from age 4 to their 14th birthday) through the No Child Without program at Park West School. The financial support of the Government of Canada and Lions Clubs allows students to receive the MedicAlert membership for FREE. For more information and to register your eligible child visit www.nochildwithout.ca

Relocation Site: In the unlikely event we have to vacate our school building during the day all students and staff will be evacuated to the **Canada Games Centre** on Lacewood Drive. We would walk there in classes using paths, 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.

Blessed Yom Kippur: To all our Park West students and families observing Yom Kippur today we wish you "Good yontif" and "G'mar Tov."

Dates to Remember:

October		
13	Newcomer Welcome and Orientation Meeting	6:30 pm
14	PTA Popcorn Day (popcorn for sale for \$1 a bag)	
14	PWS Terry Fox Walk / Run	12:45 pm
19	SAC and PTA Meetings	6 pm and 7 pm
19	Grade 9 Trip Information Meeting (for interested students and parents)	8:00 pm
25	School Photo Retake Day	
27	PTA Hallowe'en Family Dance	6 – 8 pm
28	NSTU Conference Day (no school for students)	