

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 27, 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.

No school on Friday: Friday, October 28, is NSTU Professional Conference Day. All teachers will be engaged in professional development. **There is no school for students.**

SAC News: Our new SAC parent representative is Ingy Halouda. Ms. Halouda was the successful candidate in the recent election. She is serving a three year term. Our new **SAC chair** is Karen Saweczko. Ms. Saweczko is serving her second year of a three year term as one of three parent representatives on our SAC.

Parent Concern Protocol:

- If you have a question or concern regarding your child, the channel of communication begins with your child's **teacher**, or the teacher with whom you have the concern. A teacher deserves the first opportunity to address your concerns. Communication can be done via telephone or email, or make an appointment to meet in person.
- If an issue cannot be resolved to your satisfaction with the teacher, please contact the Principal or Vice Principal.
- Parent concerns related to school administration/operation issues should be addressed with the Principal or Vice Principal. Mr. Carter, Ms. Masih and Ms. Foster are very approachable and are happy to address your concerns.
- Email, telephone calls (we have voicemail), and meetings by appointment work best for effective communication.
- **Matters of Discipline:** Minor discipline issues are handled by teachers. Discipline issues of a more serious nature are addressed namely by our **Vice Principals**. Fortunately major discipline issues at Park West are rare. We have awesome students.

Shared Responsibility: Park West is a large school comprised of almost 800 students (in grades Primary to 9) in 30 classes, and 80 people who work in our building on a daily basis. That's almost 1000 people! They all have needs, and require attention and support. In order to provide the support and assistance they need, and operate our school effectively and efficiently, we have divided administrative responsibilities among our principal and two vice principals (our admin team). For instance, some of the responsibilities assigned to Mr. Carter (the principal) include: finances, grade 9 trip, building maintenance and cleaning, primary orientation, and diversity. Ms. Foster's (Vice Principal) responsibilities include: technology, School Improvement (SI), lunch program, substitute teachers, hiring new staff, and assessments. Ms. Masih (Vice Principal) is responsible for health & safety, scheduling, school planning team, PowerSchool, phys. ed & athletics. To better assist and support teachers, their classes, and parents we have divided our homerooms between the two VPs as follows:

Ms. Foster	Grades 2, 2/3, 3, 3/4, 4/5, 5, 5/6, 7, 8
Ms. Masih	Grades P, 1, 4, 6, 9

Please contact the appropriate Vice Principal (depending on your child's grade/class assignment) to assist you at any time, particularly with matters of discipline.

Safety First: Park West is a "walking school". Everyone who attends this school lives within walking distance. However, many parents choose to drive their children to school. We have 800 students attending our school on a daily basis, so this creates a lot of vehicle congestion on our grounds. We have one access point to our school grounds. With that much traffic all heading to the same destination in a confined area there will undoubtedly be congestion issues at certain times during the school day. Drivers/parents must realize this and be prepared for delays, and exercise caution and patience. However, this does not excuse our students for being late for school. When the weather is inclement (rain or snow) or road conditions are not ideal (ice and snow creating slippery driving conditions) the situation worsens. Several years ago we created safety guidelines for those who drive vehicles on our school grounds. They were created to ensure our students and staff are safe, and to minimize traffic congestion. These have been widely publicized to our parents and community. This past summer we also installed improved signage and pavement markings. These are the "Safety First" guidelines we expect all drivers to follow:

- No parking in the traffic loop, except in the designated visitor parking spots.
- No parking in Fire Lanes.
- A "Drop Off" zone is provided in the traffic loop for a QUICK drop-off or pick-up of students. Do not stay stopped or parked in the Drop Off zone. Move to the front of the Drop Off zone as far as possible when dropping off or picking up.
- Drop off and pick up students at curbside in the Drop Off zone, not in the middle of the traffic loop.
- Drive slowly. The maximum speed posted is **15 km per hour**.
- Be aware of the marked cross walks. Stop when necessary for pedestrians to cross.
- Do not park in or drive through the staff parking lot.
- Visitor parking is available at the south end of the building (adjacent to the garbage compound).
- School buses always have the right-of-way in the traffic loop. At no time should vehicles impede the movement and parking of school buses on school property.

Unfortunately, some drivers (and parents) do not feel these guidelines apply to them, and jeopardize the safety of students, and others, and compromise the orderly operation of our school. Some parent drivers still choose to ignore these guidelines (including traffic signs and speed limits) which have been implemented to protect their children, and others. Some parent drivers have chosen to argue with and verbally assault school personnel who have attempted to address safety concerns on our grounds. When school personnel (i.e. principal, vice principal, teacher, staff member) are outside directing traffic, monitoring, and enforcing our safety guidelines please be respectful; do not abuse them. If you are speeding (driving over 15 km/hour), parked in the Drop-Off zone, parked in fire lanes, blocking school buses and entrances to parking lots, driving through or parked in the staff parking lot, then you may be approached by school personnel. They are only trying to keep everyone safe, and prevent traffic congestion. Those being kept safe are your children.

In Remembrance: To commemorate Remembrance Day, to honour our Veterans and those who protect our country, and to appreciate and celebrate peace in a meaningful way, Park West will be hosting a Remembrance Ceremony on **Thursday, November 10, 10:30 am**, in our gym. The assembly will feature music, student participation, readings, and a special time to remember those who have sacrificed for us. Parents and community members are invited to this special event; especially veterans who live in our community. We are encouraging those who are veterans, in the military, members of police forces, firefighters, Cadets, members of Girl Guides of Canada and Boy Scouts of Canada, or others who wear an official uniform to wear them if attending. All students are requested to wear **Red and Black** on that day. The Royal Canadian Legion has provided us with poppies for this occasion. Students and visitors are invited to buy a poppy at the office by making a small monetary donation.

Safe Arrival: Our Safe Arrival phone number is **902-457-7800 (extension 1)**. Call this number anytime (it's operational 24 hours a day) if your son or daughter will be absent from school (for part day, full day, or more than one day). You will be requested to leave the name of your child, his or her class, and the date(s) and time(s) of the absence in voice-mail. This program is operated by the school for the safety of our students. If your child is absent, and we receive a message from you informing us of the absence, we know your child is safe and accounted for. Please call the Safe Arrival line rather than the school office, or other school personnel, to leave absentee information.

Community International Pot Luck Dinner: We have lots to celebrate at Park West School. As a united community let's all gather together here at our school on **Thursday, November 3, 6:00 – 7:00 pm**, to celebrate our diversity, our accomplishments, our friendships, our blessings, and good fortune. The centre of many holidays and celebrations is the sharing of a meal with family and friends. In conjunction with our Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) we are hosting a Park West Community International Pot-Luck Dinner for our families and members of our community. Each family is asked to bring a "pot luck" family-size dish of food to share. It can be a salad, casserole, entrée, or dessert...hot or cold. If it is served hot, please bring it warmed up and ready to serve. Include a serving utensil. Label the dish and utensil with your name so they get returned to you. We are hoping for a huge smorgasbord of tasty food to share from countries all around the world. Please be sure to include a label with a list of ingredients in the dish you bring in consideration of those with allergies and food sensitivities. Food can be brought with you to the event (by 6:00 pm), or dropped off in advance between 4:40 and 5:30 pm. Cutlery, plates, napkins, and water will be provided by our PTA. There will be multi-cultural entertainment throughout the evening. You are encouraged to wear your ethnic clothing to represent your cultural heritage. Last year over 300 people attended this event. We hope to see you this year. Please bring your family and friends. This event is for everyone. If you have questions or wish to help out please contact Lynn Anderson (443-1942 / glennanderson@ns.sympatico.ca) or Melissa Spencer (457-7800 / spencerm@staff.ednet.ns.ca)

Order Your PWS Yearbook: We are now taking orders for this limited edition publication, featuring all our students in grades primary to nine, and the highlights of our school year. It will be filled with lots of memories. Order your Yearbook today at: <http://www.jostensyearbooks.com> You can pay by cash or cheque (payable to Park West School). \$25.00 only until **December 21st**. \$30.00 after December 21st.

Just Say "Cheese": Our PTA is currently offering a selection of fine cheeses for sale. Order forms went home with students last week. More are available at the school office if needed. Order forms and money are due on **Monday, Oct. 31st**. You can browse the catalogue below, if you haven't had a chance. Orders will arrive before December 1st. All money raised from this sale will go directly back to our school to support teaching and learning. <http://www.lamontagne.ca/PDF/Catalogues/61.pdf>

Parents as Career Coaches: Park West School is pleased to offer Parents as Career Coaches Seminar for the parents of our junior high population. Parents as Career Coaches emphasizes the importance of helping your children discover what their passions/interests are. It will assist your children to identify occupations which might help them pursue their passions. Parents as Career Coaches also encourages parents and their children to consider the many practical factors that will impact career decisions, including, for example, skills, the labour market, and education and training opportunities. The Junior High program takes one evening to complete. This year's seminar will take place on **Tuesday, November 22nd**, from 6:30pm to 8:40 pm in the Park West School Library. You can register for an upcoming session at www.parentsascareercoaches.ca. If you do not have internet access or do not wish to register on the website, please contact Ms. Aucoin (taucoin@hrsb.ns.ca or 457-7800 ext.5271005) to place your name on the list.

A Spooktacular Family Hallowe'en 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 \$15 per family at the door. Admission will be \$5 each for child/student attending with a family other than their own. **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 for only \$1 each. There will be door prizes too. We are in need of some volunteers to work at the dance and donations of cupcakes, candy apples and door prizes. If you are able to help out with any of these things, please contact Ulanda by email at ug.sunshine@gmail.com

Dates to Remember:

October		
27	PTA Family Hallowe'en Dance	6 – 8 pm
27	Grade 9 Trip forms (3) and deposit (\$300) due	
28	NSTU Professional Conference Day (no school for students)	