

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.

Introducing.....the PWS UPDATE: This is the first regular edition of our school newsletter, *PWS UPDATE*, for the 2016-2017 school year. It will be published *approximately* every two weeks. It will be the only item sent home from school printed on **yellow paper**. Printed copies will be sent home with the youngest student in each family. It will be posted on the school website. You may also wish to receive it electronically via e-mail. We urge you to read each edition thoroughly and to keep past issues for reference. Here at Park West we value good communication. We are striving to keep you informed and engaged.

Annual Park West PTA Back-to-School Community BBQ: The Park West School Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) is celebrating the new school year by hosting a community barbeque here at our school on **Thursday, September 22, 5:30 – 7 pm**. There will be lots of good things to eat at minimal prices, including: hamburgers, veggie burgers, hot dogs, cold beverages, popcorn, and frozen treats. Bring your family, friends, and neighbours. For more information, or to volunteer to help out, please contact Lynn Anderson at glennanderson@ns.sympatico.ca

School Fees: The following school fees are suggested for 2016-2017:

Grade:	Fees cover:
P- 1 \$20	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Subsidy towards class trips and/or in-class activities (egs. Guest speaker, Mad Science workshop, special craft project)• School presentations: guest speakers and performances (egs. Neptune Theatre, Symphony Nova Scotia, Mermaid Theatre, Terry Kelly)• School Activities: Field Day, Multicultural Festival, etc.• Personalized items: desk plate, name tags, labels for school supplies, photos for classroom activities.
2 - 6 \$20	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Subsidy towards class trips and/or in-class activities (egs. Guest speaker, Mad Science workshop, special craft project).• School presentations: guest speakers and performances (egs. Neptune Theatre, Symphony Nova Scotia, Mermaid Theatre, Terry Kelly)• School Activities: Field Day, Multicultural Festival, etc.• PWS student agenda
7 – 9 \$20	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Subsidy towards class trips and/or in-class activities (egs. Guest speaker, Mad Science workshop, special craft project).• School presentations: guest speakers and performances (egs. Neptune Theatre, Symphony Nova Scotia, Mermaid Theatre, Terry Kelly)• School Activities: Field Day, Multicultural Festival, etc.• Junior High Special Events: Scavenger Hunt, Olympics, Grade 9 Closing events, Emera Oval
Athletic Fees *fee will be based on the team sport	Athletic fees for team members will be determined based on the expenses associated with each sport. Students chosen to play on school teams will each be responsible to pay the fee to cover these expenses for the team. Athletic fees will pay for: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Referee fees• Subsidize transportation expenses• School athletic association memberships• Venue rental expenses• Tournament and event fees
Band Fees \$20	Band fees will be charged to each band student in grades 6 – 9. Band fees will pay for: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Entrance fees for festivals and events• Subsidize transportation expenses• Enhancements (eg. special musical arrangements)• Guest clinicians or presenters

During the school year our students participate in many extra-curricular activities to enhance learning and their overall school experience. We promote and provide these learning experiences and opportunities because we believe they are important for intellectual, emotional and social development. They enhance the learning experience, and are often fun. Many of these activities can only be provided at an extra cost to the school and our students. Therefore, we are requesting funds (school fees) from parents to help defray the costs so we can provide these opportunities and experiences for our students. In most cases student fees will only partially cover the cost associated with certain activities; in particular the class trips in which your child will participate during the course of school year. School fees will be used to subsidize class trips. Sometimes it will be necessary to charge additional fees to cover the entire cost of trips. Some classes take more trips than others. Some trips cost more than others. Bus charters (even when using Stock Transportation, the school board bus provider) have become extremely expensive. For instance, to charter one bus to go from our school to the Nova Scotia Museum on Summer Street in Halifax costs approximately \$200. That does not include the fee the museum charges. We are requesting school and band fees be paid in September by the end of the month, if possible. Athletic fees may be paid throughout the year as team participants are selected. It is not our intention to cause any of our families undue hardship. **Homeroom teachers will be collecting fees and issuing receipts.** Fees may be paid by cash or cheque by **September 29**. Please submit fees in an envelope with the name and class of the student.

Seeking Nominations for SAC: "The School Advisory Council (SAC) is a legally recognized body composed of the principal and representatives of teachers and support staff, students, parents, and community members who work together in an advisory capacity to increase the quality of education being provided by the school. The fundamental purpose of the school advisory council is to ensure that all students receive the best possible learning opportunities by engaging all partners in an ongoing process of problem solving and shared decision making." 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 to 7:00 pm. Nominations for this position are now being accepted. Nomination forms are available from the school office, or can be emailed to you, and are due back to the office on **September 26**. You may nominate yourself or someone else. If more than one

nomination is received there will be an election to fill the position. For more information contact Mr. Carter (principal) at dcarter@hrsb.ca or Mr. Glenn Anderson (SAC chair) at glennanderson@ns.sympatico.ca

Everyone Needs to Know:

- School starts at **8:25 am**. ALL students are expected to **be on time**.
- The speed limit when driving on our school grounds is **15 km per hour**.
- Students and parents should use the **sidewalks and crosswalks** when walking on our school grounds.
- Parents and visitors to our school must use the **main doors** when entering our building.
- Parents and visitors must **sign-in at the office** and display a **“visitor” or “volunteer” ID tag** if proceeding through our school building.
- There is **no parking** in the traffic loop at the front of our building. Please obey traffic signs.
- **Teacher supervision** of students on our school grounds does not begin in the morning until 8:15 am.

Protocol for Late Students: 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. 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. Successful people are on time and value punctuality. Successful students are on time for school.

JUNIOR HIGH (7-9)

- **If a student is late (after 8:30 / O Canada in the morning; 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.
- 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.
- Teachers may exercise discretion for students with *exceptional circumstances*.

ELEMENTARY (P-6)

- **If a student is late (after 8:30 / O Canada in the morning; after 12:40 pm after lunch) then he/she will serve a 15 minute recess detention on the day the student is late.**
- Recess detentions may be served in classrooms with homeroom teachers, or the students may be sent to the cafeteria to serve the detention under the supervision of a teacher.
- Serving the detention will take priority over the student participating in extra-curricular activities at recess.
- The student serving detention will be permitted to eat a snack, and use the washroom (if necessary).
- 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 the reason for being late. Legitimate excuses may include, but not be limited to: medical appointment; family emergency.
- Teachers may exercise discretion for students with *exceptional circumstances*.

Curriculum/Meet the Teacher Night: We invite parents and guardians to attend our upcoming **Parent Information Assembly and Curriculum/Meet the Teacher Night on Thursday, September 29 at 6:30 pm**. A Parent Information Assembly will be held in the gym beginning at 6:30. Mr. Carter, Ms. Foster, and Ms. Masih will take this opportunity to introduce our staff members (including those new to our team), share our plans for the year, our vision for the school, and introduce some new initiatives and policies. This will be followed by Curriculum/Meet the Teacher Night sessions with homeroom teachers in their classrooms. The first classroom session is at **7:00 – 7:30**, with a repeat session at **7:30 – 8:00**. The evening has been structured with repeat sessions to accommodate those of you with more than one child attending our school. This evening is not intended to discuss individual student progress, but rather to allow you the opportunity to get to know your child’s teacher, classroom routines and procedures, expectations, grade level curriculum topics and outcomes. You will hear about outcomes for the various grade levels and subject areas, assessment, mental math, math manipulatives, reading and writing, teacher expectations, homework, projects, report cards, the benefits of PowerSchool, etc. If you have specific concerns about your child or the teacher’s program/expectations you are encouraged to discuss these with the teacher privately at another time. Specialist teachers (Resource, French, Music, Band, Phys. Ed., Guidance, Tech Ed., EAL, etc.) will be available throughout the evening in their classrooms and offices to answer any questions and to discuss their programs. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Dates to Remember:

September		
22	PTA Back-to-School Community Barbeque	5:30 – 7 pm
23	Lockdown and Hold & Secure Drills	
26	SAC Parent Member nominations due	
29	Curriculum and Meet the Teacher Night	6:30 pm
29	Student Fees Due (\$20 per student)	
30	PD (Professional Development) Day (NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS)	

