

# PWS UPDATE

## Park West School Newsletter

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**May 1, 2017**

**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](mailto:dcarter@hrsb.ns.ca) The PWS Update is published **approximately every two weeks.**

**Registration Info Verification:** In preparation for the 2017-2018 school year we will soon be sending home copies of the original registration forms (green paper) we have on file here in our school office for each of our students. Parents and guardians are asked to review the information on the forms and make any corrections/changes necessary. There may be errors in the information recorded or information may have changed. It is essential we have accurate information for each student registered in our school; especially contact information for parents/guardians and addresses. PLEASE NOTE: only students who actually live within the Park West School boundaries are eligible to attend this school. If you no longer live within our boundaries you must register your child(ren) for September 2017 at the school serving the area in which you now live. You are strongly encouraged to complete the SELF-IDENTIFICATION section of the registration form (if you have not already done so). This information enables the Department of Education and the Halifax Regional School Board to have a greater awareness of the diversity of the student population and the communities served in order to better meet the educational needs of students. Please leave the cover letter attached to the front of the registration form. Complete the bottom section, and provide your signature and date. **Forms and cover letters will be sent home on Monday, May 8. Please return the updated registration form, with attached letter, to your child's teacher by Thursday, May 11.**

**They're Going Fast:** Only one book helps you capture this year's incredible events and experiences at Park West School....and that is your **2016-2017 Yearbook**. Remember all the friends, trends, fashion, fun, favourite teachers and classes, music, art, teams, clubs, events, and everything in between. Our professionally produced full-colour Yearbook includes all students and all grade levels (primary to nine). Preserve your child's memories for the 2016-2017 school year at Park West by purchasing a Yearbook for only \$30. You can order your Yearbook by completing an order form and dropping it off at the school office along with your payment, or by ordering online at <http://jostensyearbooks.com/?REF=A01086926> Order forms are available from the school office. Make cheques payable to *Park West School*. Only a limited quantity will be produced, so place your order now before it's too late. Orders will be processed as they are received on a first come – first served basis. Payment must accompany orders.

**Spring Picture Day:** Our school photographer, Lifetouch, will be here at Park West on **May 9** to take spring photos of our students. These professional portraits will be available for parents to purchase. Order forms will be sent home soon.

**New Primary Orientation:** A **Primary Orientation Session** for new primary students (starting school in September 2017) will be held here at the school on **Thursday, May 18, 2:45pm – 4:00pm**. This session is intended to provide your child with the experience of being in school in a primary classroom in preparation for September. A **Parent Information Meeting for parents** of children entering grade primary in September 2017 will be held on **Thursday, May 18, at 2:45 pm** in the **school cafetorium**. This is at the same time your children will be having their orientation in the primary classrooms. A **Vision Screening Clinic** will be held here at the school for all new primary students on **Thursday, May 18**, during the day. This clinic is optional and is being conducted by the public health nurses of the Capital Region Health Board.

**Grade 9 Trip Update:** There will be a final **information meeting** for ALL participating students and their parents on **Wednesday, May 17 @ 8:00 pm**, in the cafetorium. Attendance is essential. At this meeting lots of important information will be shared, including: flight details, the final itinerary, contact information, accommodations, what to bring, etc. A reminder that the **final payment** for the trip was due on **April 21**. The fee for the trip (\$1350.00) must be paid in full for each student ASAP. Please contact Ms. Landers ([blanders@hrbs.ca](mailto:blanders@hrbs.ca) / 902-457-7800) in our school office if you require information about your trip account (i.e. balance due, etc.).

**Library News:** During the month of April we have been celebrating National Poetry Month by reading different types of poetry to the classes. Also, stories about Easter and Passover were read. Two authors visited our school, through the *Writers in the Schools* program. Don Aker spoke to our grade nine classes and James Leck spoke to our grade six classes and the grade 5/6 class. Following Mr. Aker's visit we received this note from him: *I want to thank you both (Ms. Comeau and Ms. Martin) again for arranging one of the best school visits I've ever experienced. Please pass along to your administrators how very impressed I was by all three of your grade 9 classes. They were remarkably well-behaved and respectful, and they asked some of the very best questions I've ever received during a school presentation. You and your colleagues should be very pleased indeed that Park West is turning out such fine young citizens. Many, many thanks for all your efforts to make the day go so smoothly.*

**About Being on Time for School:** Students do their best in school when they attend daily and arrive on time. Teachers in

Nova Scotia have reported that poor attendance and late arrivals are growing issues that are impacting the classroom environment for all students. A new Attendance and Student Engagement Policy is being developed by the EECD (N.S. Dept. of Education and Early Children Development) for implementation in September.

**Gardening Anyone?** We have 12 small garden plots/boxes on our grounds at the front of our school. This year we aren't using all of them. We'd like to offer the spare ones for use by our friends and neighbours, and community members. If you'd like to use a plot this season to do some gardening please contact Mr. Carter (principal) at [dcarter@hrsbc.ca](mailto:dcarter@hrsbc.ca)

**Good Fashion Sense:** With the weather getting warmer we want to remind students and parents that Park West School has standards of dress that may be different and/or more stringent than home and other settings. Our school is a 'place of work' for our staff and students. Everyone who 'works' here should dress appropriately and respectfully. As we prepare our students for their rightful places in society we are hoping they make good choices and exercise good judgment. Students should not wear clothes to school that are too revealing. As well, students should not wear shirts that have inappropriate or offensive slogans and messages on them.

**Assignment Due Date Protocol for JUNIOR HIGH:** Several years ago we created a new protocol for our junior high students. Many students have been submitting assignments to teachers long after the due date without consideration for their teachers and their responsibilities. Often teachers receive assignments for the entire term long past due dates and **after** they have completed calculating marks and writing report cards. This places an unreasonable expectation on teachers. **We want our students to respect due dates and deadlines.** We are preparing them for the real world and to be successful in the work force (where due dates and deadlines are valued). This is part of the learning process. This protocol is in compliance with HRSB Policy C.007 – *Assessment, Evaluation and Communication of Student Learning*. The protocol is as follows:

- All assignments are posted on PowerSchool and due dates are clearly communicated and posted.
- An **up to one week extension** of due date **may** be granted by teacher, providing contact and communication has been received prior to posted due date, and reason for extension is deemed to be reasonable. Students must submit to teacher a completed "Request for Due Date Extension" form. Forms are available from teachers.
- Teachers will continue to provide every reasonable support to ensure students have the ability to meet the due date of assignment. Support may include: in-class instruction, extra help sessions, due date reminders, communication with home, access to PowerSchool logins.
- Assignments submitted past due date, or past a one week extension (upon approval), may receive a mark of zero in relation to the term's average mark.
- Any work received past due date, or extended due date, will still be reviewed and evaluated by the teacher, and feedback will be provided to students in relation to learning outcomes.
- A further extension may be granted due to *special circumstances* in consultation with teacher and school administration.
- When a due date is missed teachers will inform parents via email or telephone.

**Classifieds:**

- We are seeking a wheelchair for our school to use when it is needed. Do you have one you'd like to donate? If so, please contact our school office (902-457-7800).
- Please be aware: the speed limit for vehicles on our school grounds is only 15 km / hour. We are striving to keep our students and staff safe. Please obey the speed limit.
- Students and parents are encouraged to use the sidewalks and crosswalks on our school grounds when walking to and from school. We are trying to teach our students good safety practices.

**Dates to Remember:**

May		
5	PTA Staff Appreciation Luncheon	11:35 am
9	Spring School Photos	
11	Registration Verification for 2017-2018 due back	
15	JH Student Forum	10:30 am
17	SAC and PTA meetings	6 pm & 7 pm
17	Grade 9 Trip Meeting (for students and parents)	8:00 pm
17&18	Goatworks African Drumming (assemblies and hands-on workshops)	All day
18	New Primary Orientation Session / Primary Parent Information Meeting / Vision Clinic	2:45 – 4:00 pm
18	PTA Family BINGO	
19	PD Day (no school for students)	
22	Victoria Day (no school)	
26	Lunch Registration forms (for 2017-2018) due	
26	PTA Popcorn Sale (\$1 a bag)	morning
31	Grade 9 Trip to Toronto & Niagara Falls	Early morning
June		
6	Maritime Marionettes present "The Brentown Musicians" (grades P – 6)	morning
8	Junior High Dance (grades 7 – 9) \$5 admission	6:30-8:30 pm
13	Elementary Field Day – grades P – 6 (June 15 – rain date)	morning
20&21	Grade 9 exams (June 22 – make up date)	All day
22	PTA Community Barbeque	5:30 – 7:30 pm
23	Elementary Assembly – grades P – 6 (HRM Police citizenship prizes and HRM Public Library presentation)	10:30 am
26	Mike Cowie "S'cool's Cool" Concert – grades P – 9	morning
26	Grade 9 Farewell Celebration (dinner and harbour cruise)	evening
28	Grade 9 Closing Ceremony (informal)	1:00 pm
29	Assessment & Evaluation Day (no school)	
30	Last day of school (early dismissal)	

