

# PWS UPDATE

## Park West School Newsletter

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May 29, 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.**

**Ramadan Mubarak:** The world religion with the second highest number of adherents is Islam. Followers of the religion of Islam are called Muslims. Ramadan is the holiest period in the Islamic calendar and is celebrated by over 1 billion Muslims around the world. Ramadan is the ninth month in the Islamic calendar. Because the Islamic calendar is lunar, Ramadan falls on a different day every year. Whenever, in the ninth month, the first sight of a crescent moon appears, that marks the beginning of Ramadan. This year Ramadan begins on **May 27**. One of the most important observances during Ramadan is fasting. From the light of the first dawn, until the sun goes down, Muslims do not eat or drink anything. It is common to have one meal before sunrise (the suhoor) and one after dark (the iftar). Fasting is intended to teach Muslims self-discipline, self-restraint and charity. Ramadan is an important time to spend with family. People pledge not to lie, fight, swear and not to be greedy. Ramadan is a month of giving, and to remember and help those who are less fortunate. It is obligatory for Muslims to give a donation of money to charity so that people in need can enjoy the celebrations of the holiday as well. Ramadan ends on June 25, when *Eid al Fitr* (the *Festival of the Breaking of the Fast*) begins; a major three day celebration marking the end of the fast. During Eid al Fitr many Muslims will dress in their best clothes, give gifts to children and celebrate with family and friends. A common greeting at the beginning of Ramadan is **Ramadan Mubarak!**.....meaning **"Have a Blessed Ramadan!"** We wish all those in the Park West School community who will be observing and celebrating a Blessed Ramadan.

**Staying for Lunch Next Year?** Students **must be registered** (free-of-charge) for the lunch program for next year (2017-18) if parents wish for them to remain at school for lunch. Registration forms were recently sent home with all students in grades P – 8. Completed forms were due back on **May 26**. Only students registered in the lunch program may remain for lunch on school property under the supervision of monitors. We are **not** able to provide a drop-in service when it is convenient for parents and students (including on days when the weather is inclement). We are staffed with monitors to provide supervision based on the number of students we have registered in the program.

**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. Yearbooks will be available before the end of June.

**Gardening Anyone?** We still have 3 garden boxes left for community use on our grounds at the front of our school. This year we aren't using them all. We'd like to offer these for use by our friends and neighbours, and community members for the season. Families could have some fun planting, growing, and enjoying flowers, herbs, and vegetables. If you'd like to use a box this season to do some gardening please contact Mr. Carter (principal) at [dcarter@hrsb.ca](mailto:dcarter@hrsb.ca)

**Business As Usual at Park West:** The last day of school is **June 30**. On that day students will receive their report cards and be dismissed early (during the morning). **June 29** is an Assessment and Evaluation Day, so students will not attend school on that day. Otherwise, classes will continue as usual right up until the last day. **Students in ALL grades (including junior high) will be expected to be in attendance as learning occurs and subject outcomes are addressed.** A school year in Nova Scotia consists of 195 days. We intend to take advantage of this valuable time by providing meaningful learning opportunities for our students. We do not 'shut down' early. Students will not be told by teachers to stay home because 'nothing will be going on'; nor will teachers suggest that students stay home. If students are to be absent for all or part of a day parents are asked to report the absence on our Safe Arrival line (457-7800 – press 1) BEFORE the absence occurs. **Parents:** please support and assist us as we strive to provide your children with the best educational experience possible by **ensuring they are present at school.**

**Online Library:** The **Tumble Books Library** online collection has over 1100 titles and is perfect for elementary schools and home use by students and their parents, with content most appropriate for those in grades P-6. It includes animated talking picture books, chapter books, videos, non-fiction titles, playlists, books in languages other than English such as French and Spanish, graphic novels and math stories. School subscribers have access to a rich online collection of educational resources such as lesson plans, quizzes, educational games and puzzles related to both math and language skills. Park West School has purchased an online subscription using funds generously provided by our PTA. And...we have good news! Students and parents can access this valuable resource at home. Go to the website <http://www.tumblebooklibrary.com>. The username is: **parkwest**. The password is: **books**.

### ***This & That:***

- **Leaving Messages for Students:** Parents; please do not leave non-urgent messages (ex. regarding play dates) for students on our school voicemail system as we cannot guarantee the messages will be retrieved and passed along to teachers and students in a timely manner (i.e. before the end of the school day). All arrangements for play dates should be made by parents in advance.
- **New Wheel Chair:** Park West School now has a brand new wheel chair for use by our students and staff when it is required. Thank you to **Harding Medical** for this generous donation. Park West appreciates your support.

**Honouring Our Volunteers:** Throughout the year teaching and learning at our school is supported in many ways by numerous volunteers from our school community. Park West School is fortunate to have such outstanding support. This year our volunteers will be honoured in a special way in celebration of Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday. In the fall our students will plant 150 spring bulbs at the front of our school. We sure appreciate all those who supported our school this year with their time, skills, and talents. Our dedicated volunteers make a difference for our students and staff. We thank them!

**Coming Soon.....Grade 9 Exams:** Park West School will be conducting exams for grade nine students on **June 20 and 21**. All Grade 9 students will write exams for the following subjects: **English Language Arts (ELA), Mathematics, Social Studies, and Science**. The exams will be *cumulative assessments* (covering learning that has occurred since the beginning of this school year). The schedule is as follows:

Date	Morning	Afternoon
June 20	English Language Arts exam	Science exam
June 21	Mathematics exam	Social Studies exam

Each exam will be **two hours** in length. Students will be expected to arrive at school in the morning on time, at the usual time of 8:25 am. They will be dismissed for lunch at the usual time of 11:35 am. Exams will be written in the afternoon between 12:35 and 2:45 pm. Each exam day will begin with a study and review session with teachers in preparation for the two exams. **ALL students will be expected to be present to write the exams.** There will be no exemptions, with some exceptions in special circumstances, as deemed acceptable by school personnel and HRSB. Students who are absent from an exam session due to illness must provide the principal with a doctor's note. **June 22** is a 'make up' day for any student who has missed an exam/exams. The exam mark will comprise 10% of the third term mark. Textbooks will not be permitted in the exam rooms. Students will not be permitted to share materials (pencils, pens, erasers, calculators, etc.) during exams; each student will need his/her own materials. The use of cell/smartphones (including the calculator feature) during exams is prohibited. **Following the exams the school year continues until June 30 for our grade nine students. More teaching, learning and further assessment will continue as usual during that time.** We will not be 'slacking off'. **We expect them to be in school.** We **will not** be suggesting to our students they stay home because "we won't be doing anything". Any questions or comments regarding the exams may be directed to any of the grade nine teachers or school administration.

**Head Lice** (also known as *Pediculosis Capitis*): *School boards across the country, on the advice of the Canadian Paediatric Society, are revoking the rule that children with head lice must stay home from school. A few creepy crawlies – which cause only mild itching and don't spread disease – are no reason to interrupt kids' education, the Society says. Head lice don't spread disease (just embarrassment and anxiety) and many kids who are found to have nits don't actually have lice, leading to a lot of unnecessary absences.* (source: Halifax Metro).

Based on recommendations from health professionals the *Halifax Regional School Board (HRSB)* recently revised its Head Lice policy and procedures. HRSB advises parents to:

- Check their children for nits and head lice on a regular basis;
- Notify the school if their child has head lice;
- Check other family members or others spending time in the house of children identified as having head lice;
- Provide recommended head lice treatment to a child identified as having head lice as outlined by Public Health in the pamphlet *How to Prevent, Find and Treat Head Lice* (available at [http://www.novascotia.ca/dhw/publications/Public-Health-Education/07135\\_HeadLicePamphlet\\_En.pdf](http://www.novascotia.ca/dhw/publications/Public-Health-Education/07135_HeadLicePamphlet_En.pdf));
- Complete a first treatment prior to their children returning to school;
- Call 8-1-1 at any time to speak with a Registered Nurse for more information and guidance if head lice are still present after the second treatment.

The school will notify parent(s)/guardian(s) of the suspicion that their child has head lice;

- Children suspected of having **nits** (small silver-grey egg casings) may remain at school;
- Children suspected of having **live lice** (insects) will be sent home for treatment.
- Children with head lice maybe return to school after the first treatment.

At all times school staff will maintain student confidentiality. Letters will no longer be sent home to parents indicating a case of head lice exists in their child's class.

### ***Dates to Remember:***

June		
6	Maritime Marionettes present "The Bremen Town 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	"Canadiana Day" at PWS – celebrating Canada's 150 <sup>th</sup> birthday. Wear red & white, the maple leaf, and anything Canadian	
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 (this is an informal event...not a graduation) *parents and families are invited to attend	1:00 pm
29	Assessment & Evaluation Day (no school)	
30	Last day of school (early dismissal)	

