

PWS UPDATE

Park West School Newsletter

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

June 21, 2017 Year End Edition

Farewell: Regrettably, the Park West School community is bidding a fond and sad farewell to some of our staff. We thank them for helping to make a positive difference here at Park West School. We wish them well in their future assignments and endeavours. We're going to miss them. The following 'members of our family' will not be returning in the fall: Janet Brown (EPA); Hanna Darwish (EPA); Dawne McIntyre (P, 1, 4); Michelle Sparkes (P); Kaitlin Whitehouse (1); Alyssa Moore (2/3); Daniel Lewis (3); Jennifer Kelly (3/4); Wendie Poitras (4); Nicole Chute (4/5); Crystal Armstrong (5); Shawna Morgan (7); Trish Hickey (7); Jessica Attwater (8); Nadine King (8); Tara Aucoin (guidance); Hope Moen (music); Claudia Saoud (elem. French); Phillip Howell (JH French); Jeff Piercey (phys. ed.); Scott Decker (resource); and Michelle Young (learning centre). Our best wishes are extended to Ms. Stewart (gr. 7), Ms. Servant (music), and Ms. Langley (EPA) who will be leaving the education profession for retirement after many years of dedicated service.

No School for Students: Thursday, June 29, is Assessment and Evaluation Day. There will be **no school for students** on that date.

Last Day of School: The last day of school is Friday, June 30. All students will be dismissed at 10:00 am. Final report cards will be issued at that time.

Late Registration: The school office will be open for late registration on Wednesday, August 30, 9:00-12:00 / 1:00-4:00. Children who live within the Park West School boundaries are eligible to attend this school. If new neighbours with elementary/junior high aged children move into the area over the summer please encourage them to register on this date. Proof of address, a birth certificate, and a Nova Scotia health card number are required to complete registration.

School Supplies: School supply lists for all grades will be posted on our **school website** and on the **school office window** during the summer months. Please don't stress if you can't find specific brands, colours, sizes, etc. requested on the supply lists. *Just do the best you can.* School supplies in quantities for the entire year **do not** have to be brought to school on the first day.

Class Lists: Due to reasons of privacy and confidentiality we are no longer permitted to publicly post class lists. Students will be assigned to their new classes when our doors open for a new school year on September 7th. Parents and students should be aware that class lists are **tentative**. It is highly likely many students will be moved to other classes, and teacher assignments at some grade levels will change after September 7. These changes may be necessary due to increased enrollment at some grade levels, and in order to conform to class size caps mandated by the EECD. At this time our enrollment for September, and beyond, is unpredictable. Traditionally we have some students move away over the summer months, and we receive many new students at late registration in late August. In September it may be necessary to reconfigure our classes and assign teachers to new grades/classes. Class lists will not be finalized until early October.

Yearbooks: A few 2016-2017 Park West School Yearbooks are for sale. The price of the Yearbook is \$30.00 and is available through the school office. Once these last few are sold this one-of-a-kind book will never be available again. If you didn't order one....this is your last chance. Get yours now while supplies last!

Lost & Found: After student dismissal on June 28 all remaining items in our *Lost & Found* will be bagged and donated to charity.

Are you in the Right School? Only children who reside within the Park West School boundaries with parents or legal guardians are eligible to attend this school. Addresses provided to the school may be investigated if there is suspicion the information is not accurate. If a child registered at and/or attending Park West School is found to be **not** residing in our area his/her parents will be directed to register at the appropriate neighbourhood school. This includes students who **were** living in our area and moved out of bounds **during** this school year, but remained at Park West to finish the year.

Are You Moving? If your children attended Park West this year, but you'll be moving away over the summer, please inform us as soon as possible. We need to know if they won't be here in September. Call our school office at 457-7800 or email us at parkwest@hrsb.ca

Back to School: The first day of school for the 2017-2018 school year is Thursday, September 7. Students should arrive by 8:25 AM. Parents and students must not enter the school building until the entrance bell rings at 8:25 AM. Signs will be posted on exterior doors with directions for entry to the building and assemblies for class placement. Next year we are hoping all students (and their parents) will make it their priority to be **on time for school** on a regular basis. Our *Protocol for Late Students* will continue.

Reminder to all School Volunteers: The HRSB **Student Protection Policy** is now fully implemented. All individuals who wish to volunteer in the school on a regular basis, or who wish to be a chaperone for a school trip, must complete *Police Records and Child Abuse Registry Checks* in advance. The following are required: (1) A completed Department of Community Services Form B2 – *Consent to Disclosure of Information* which can be found at: <http://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 completed documents for both must be on file in our office. Forms are also available on our school website or from the school office. For more details visit the HRSB website at www.hrsb.ca This is something you may wish to do in preparation for the new school year.

For More Information: For information during the summer months don't forget to check out:

- the Halifax Regional School Board website at www.hrsb.ca
- the Park West School website at www.pws.hrsb.ca

Office Hours: The school office will close for the summer months on June 30 at 1:30 pm. It will re-open on Tuesday, September 5 at 10:00 am for the new school year. Regular office hours (8:00 am – 3:30 pm) will begin on September 6th.

We Need Them Back: Students and parents...please make sure **'our stuff'** gets returned before the end of the year. We're looking for textbooks (they're expensive!), team uniforms (our athletes need to look good!), and overdue library books (many of them are missing from our shelves!). PLEASE return them to us before you leave.

2017-2018 School Year Calendar: Are you making plans for next year? Are you planning Christmas vacation? Do you need to know the dates for March Break? The complete HRSB School Year Calendar for 2017-2018 is now available at www.hrsb.ca and on our school website (pws.hrsb.ca).

Final Report Cards: June report cards will be issued to students on **June 30th** (the last day of school this year). Report cards will not be issued early to any student. If students are absent on the last day of school parents have several options:

1. Provide the teacher with a **self-addressed stamped envelope** for the student. The report card will be mailed on June 30.
2. Teachers will forward all unclaimed report cards to the office on **June 30** following student dismissal. They will be available that day **ONLY** for **parents to pick up in person** from the office until 1:30 pm. After that date and time report cards will not be available to be picked up in person at the school until the last week of August. School personnel are not available to provide report cards during the summer months.
3. Parents may provide a teacher with a **signed letter of consent** authorizing an individual (egs. a sibling, family member, friend) to claim a report card for an absent student on **June 30** before 1:30 pm. Without this letter report cards will **NOT** be issued to any person other than the student or parent.

Staying for Lunch Next Year? All students who wish to remain at school over the lunch period for the 2017-18 school year **must be registered** for the lunch supervision program. Registration forms are available from the school office.

PTA Community Barbeque: Everyone is invited to come out to our community barbeque on **Thursday, June 22, 5:30 – 7:30 pm...RAIN OR SHINE!** There will be a minimal charge for hot dogs, hamburgers, veggie burgers, drinks, popcorn, ice cream novelties, and other treats. There will be lots of fun games and activities too! If you can help out by volunteering please contact Lynn at glennaderson@ns.sympatico.ca. Bring your families, friends and neighbours to this favourite community event to kick off the summer. This year our community barbeque is being generously supported by **Scotiabank**. Scotiabank employees will be volunteering at this event, and Scotiabank will match the amount of money raised by our PTA and donate it to our school.

Proud to be Canadian!: **Friday, June 23** is "Canadiana Day" at Park West. We're celebrating Canada Day and Canada's 150th birthday early...and showing our pride in being Canadians. On that day please wear the colours (red & white), the maple leaf, and other symbols of Canada to school.

New SAC Member: Congratulations to **Ms. Sheetal Ajay**, the new parent representative on our School Advisory Council (SAC). Ms. Ajay was the only nominee for the vacant parent position, so was elected by acclamation. She will begin her three year term in September 2017.

School Fees: The following school fees are suggested for 2017-2018:

Grade:	Fees cover:
Grade P - 1 \$10	<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.
Grades 2 - 6 \$10	<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. • School agenda for each student
Grades 7 – 9 \$10	<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) • Junior High Special Events (eg. outdoor activities at the skating oval)
Athletic Fees *fee will be based on the team sport	<p>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:</p> <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	<p>Band fees will be charged to each band student in grades 6 – 9. Band fees will pay for:</p> <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 a downtown Halifax location **costs over \$250**. This does not include entrance fees. 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. **In September homeroom teachers will be collecting fees and issuing receipts.** Fees may be paid by cash or cheque. Please submit fees in an envelope with the name and class of the student.

Mr. Carter, Ms. Masih, Ms. Foster, and the entire staff of Park West School thank you for supporting us in our efforts to provide your children with the best educational experience possible. We're proud of our students and our school. We all look forward to working with you again next year. We wish the families of Park West a summer that is safe, relaxing and filled with lots of fun. See you on September 7th.