

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 Mr. B. Melanson

November 2, 2017

What's PWS Look Like This Year?

- One additional "chalet" added to our school site during the summer. Total chalets: 5
- 859 students are registered and attending (785 attending at same time last year)
- Elementary: 572 registered (531 in 2016; 493 in 2015) students in 22 classes (1 additional class this year)
- Junior High: 287 registered (254 in 2016; 268 in 2015) students in 10 classes (1 additional class this year)
- Total classes: 32 (30 last year)
- One combined grade class
- Approximately 90 people work in our school (teachers and support staff)
- Total working in our school on a daily basis: almost 1000 (students + staff)
- 25 new staff members at PWS this year
- HRSB has provided us with additional staffing to support our growing student population: EAL (English as Additional Language) teacher; EPAs (Educational Program Assistant); French teacher; physical education teacher; music teacher; learning centre teacher; secretary; classroom teacher; classroom support teacher.
- Mr. Melanson (vice principal) has returned to PWS after completing a one-year study leave.

A Safe School: In an effort to keep our school safe and secure we continue to closely monitor individuals entering our building during school hours. Anyone (that includes parents, other family members, maintenance workers, volunteers, and other visitors) entering our school during school hours must do so through the main doors only and then MUST report to the office to register. At this time you may be requested to register in our Visitors Sign-In Book and wear a "visitor" or "volunteer" ID tag. This must be displayed while you are in our building. All permanent staff members at Park West now wear official HRSB photo ID tags. Substitute teachers, volunteers, and visitors are provided with appropriate ID tags as well. Any individuals found in our school without an ID tag and/or authorization may be questioned. Other than normal student entry times, entry to the building is via the main doors only. We appreciate your support and cooperation as we strive to maintain a welcoming yet safe and secure facility for our students and staff.

Good Food at Good Prices at the Park West School cafeteria: The Park West School cafeteria serves a variety of hot and tasty healthy meals for our students to purchase at lunchtime. Daily specials include: grilled cheese and tomato soup; beef & macaroni bake; baked chicken with rice and veggies; meatloaf with mashed potatoes; sloppy joes; roast beef dinner; sweet & sour chicken balls with rice and egg roll; chicken cacciatore; lasagna; mini hamburgers and taters; chicken fajitas; meatballs with rice; baked ham and scallop potatoes; shepherd's pie; and chicken fingers. Lots of other choices are available. Hot lunch specials are from \$5.00 to \$5.75. Other cafeteria offerings include: cheese pizza (\$4.00); garlic fingers with donair sauce (\$4.00); nachos and dip (\$3.50); hamburgers (\$3.25); cheeseburgers (\$3.75); chickenburgers (\$3.75); veggie plates (\$2.75); fruit cups (\$1.25); and chicken ceasar wraps (\$3.75). An assortment of freshly made sandwiches are available daily (egg salad, chicken salad, ham & cheese, and tuna salad) for only \$3.75, and salads (garden or ceasar) for \$3.75. During the cold winter months hot homemade soups will be served daily for only \$3.75. Drinks include: bottled water (\$1.25); 100% pure fruit juice (.55/\$1.50); milk (.40); and chocolate milk (\$1.30). A variety of snack for sale include: baked chips (\$1.50); Crispers (\$1.50); Rice Krispie squares (.60); and cookies (.60). The cafeteria opens at 8 am for pre-ordering and for breakfast. Toast, bagels, and ham/cheese on toast are available for those who didn't get to eat at home. Two copies of the menu are sent home to all students in grades primary to three every month; one to keep and one to use as an order form. Menus are also available on our school website. Our school cafeteria is operated by Emjay Food Services. To request a menu, place an order, or if you have any questions please contact our cafeteria operator, **Jane Scrymgeour, at 440-7352** between 8 am and 12:45 pm daily.

Keeping Our Students Safe: As always, we are striving to keep our students safe at all times while at school. At a school our size, this can be an extraordinary challenge; particularly outside during busy times (between 8:00 am and 8:25 am and at 2:45 pm dismissal). At these times we have lots of pedestrian and vehicular traffic on our grounds. Many parents in this community choose to drive their children back and forth to school, rather than allowing them to walk. Part of keeping our students safe is to teach them to be responsible, independent, and to use good safety practices. Please review with your children the following safety practices:

- Use sidewalks at all times, when available.
- Use crosswalks at all times to cross roadways on our school grounds.
- DO NOT cross the traffic loop (especially when vehicular traffic is present) unless using a crosswalk to do so.
- DO NOT cut through the staff parking lot (walking between cars) at any time.

Teachers have reviewed these with their students and have encouraged them to remind their parents of these safety practices.

Updated Information: Have you moved and have a new address? Changed jobs? New cell or phone number? Please let us know so we can update our records. It's important we always have the most up to date contact information. Contact Ms. Johnston or Ms. Landers in our school office (902-457-7800).

Vehicle Traffic on School Grounds:

- Exercise extreme caution at all times. We have 860 students and 90 staff on our premises.

- Observe and obey all **traffic signs**. They apply to EVERYONE!!!
- Do not speed. **15 km/hr** is the limit on our grounds. Drive slowly.
- Show respect to school personnel directing traffic, reminding you to slow down, and striving to keep our grounds safe for everyone.
- School buses have the right-of-way. They take priority.
- Do not park in Fire Lanes and in the traffic loop “drop-off zone” (well marked by signage). This impedes the flow of traffic and emergency vehicles when needed (to protect our children).
- Please be patient; especially on days when the weather is inclement and there tends to be more traffic on the grounds.
- Leave home at a time to allow for possible delays. We need our students here on time.
- Consider dropping off your children in a nearby street or cul-de-sac that is connected to the school property by walking paths. This will eliminate some of the vehicle congestion on our school grounds.
- Consider allowing your children to walk to school. Most of our students live within walking distance.

From time to time HRM Police and HRM Parking Enforcement will monitor vehicles on our school grounds and may issue tickets to offenders. If you park in a no parking zone or in a fire lane you may receive a ticket. We are striving to keep our students and staff safe. We would prefer to keep our grounds open to vehicles for the convenience of parents/guardians. However, if drivers continue to disobey traffic rules and signage, and compromise the safety of our students, then we will be forced to close the grounds to vehicle traffic. This means access to the grounds would be limited to staff only. The gate at the entrance to the school would be closed in the mornings and at dismissal time.

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, and the reason for 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.

No Smoking: Smoking on or near school property is against the law in Nova Scotia. The **Smoke Free Places Act of Nova Scotia** prohibits smoking in enclosed places (including schools), and within 4 metres of windows, air intake vents, and entrances. Furthermore, HRSB policy (**Tobacco-Free Schools and Workplaces Policy A.006**) prohibits the use of tobacco products in schools, on all school grounds, and within 4 metres of *any school property*. This policy also prohibits smoking in all vehicles while on school property, at all school-related events, on school trips, and by anyone transporting students to or from a school event, and while in the presence of students during those events.

Early Entrance: If the weather is inclement (raining, storming or extremely cold) in the morning students will be **invited** to enter the school early (**at 8:15 am**), using their **usual entrance doors**. They will be sent directly to their classrooms to be supervised by teachers until classes begin at 8:25 am. Students should only come inside the building early when given permission to do so. *Parents should only enter the building using the main doors and may not proceed to classrooms with their children.*

We Love our Volunteers: Many parents like to support their children’s schools by volunteering their time and services. These opportunities include: chaperoning a class trip, reading with students, assisting a teacher in the classroom, and coaching a sports team. Prior to volunteering with the Halifax Regional School Board, all volunteers must provide:

1. A completed Child Abuse Register Search or completed Child Abuse Register Request for Search (Form A) which can be found at: <http://www.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 both documents must be on file in the school office.

Class Trips: Often teachers like to enhance what is being learned in the classroom with class trips for their students. Class trips are not required, but provide program enrichment opportunities and a wide range of experiences for our students. Teachers have been provided with funds (\$5 per student) from **student fees** to supplement the cost of such trips. Nowadays, school bus charters and entrance fees to facilities can be quite expensive. These trips cannot be possible without parents willing to volunteer their time to help supervise students. Parents wishing to do so must have successfully completed the Child Abuse Register search and a Criminal Records check. Parent chaperones are expected to give their full attention to the supervision of students, under the direction of teachers. That is the first priority; ensuring the safety and well-being of our students. If adequate supervision cannot be provided due to a lack of parents volunteering to chaperone, then, unfortunately, *class trips will be cancelled*. We need your support to ensure this does not happen.

Grade 9 Trip to Montreal and Quebec City: Plans are underway for the anticipated grade 9 spring trip. This year the destinations are Montreal and Quebec City on May 30 to June 2. We need **at least 40 students** to commit to participating to make the trip viable. The deposit (\$300) and completed forms are due November 1. For more information contact Mr. Carter (dcarter@hrsb.ca).

Dates to Remember:

November		
2	School Photos re-takes	
9	Junior High Dance (\$6.00 admission)	6:30-8:30 PM
10	Remembrance Ceremony @ PWS	10:30 AM
13	Remembrance Day (schools closed)	
15	SAC and PTA meetings	6:00 PM / 7:00 PM
16	PTA Family BINGO	6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
22	Assessment & Evaluation Day (no school for students)	
24	PTA Popcorn Day (\$1.00 per bag)	

