

PWS UPDATE

Park West School Newsletter

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November 23, 2017

Let's Talk About Student Progress: Parents and Teachers will meet to discuss student progress on **Thursday, December 7** (1:00 – 3:30 pm & 5:30 – 7:30 pm). There will be **no school for students** on that day. During the morning teachers will be engaged in professional development. Teachers, including specialists (French, music, band, resource, phys. ed., guidance, learning centre, EAL, etc.), will be available to meet with you to discuss your child's progress. **Elementary** teachers will meet in their classrooms with parents by appointment. Parents of elementary students have the opportunity to request appointment times with their child's teacher. To accommodate all parents most appointments will be for a maximum of ten minutes each. Information for parents of elementary students (including appointment request forms) will be sent home with elementary students on **November 27**. **Junior High** teachers will meet with parents in the gymnasium on a first-come/first-served basis. Jr. High parents are encouraged to take advantage of the availability of afternoon meeting times when possible, as the evening tends to be busier. If more time is required to discuss your child's progress then a longer appointment can be made for another time. We look forward to seeing you.

Come to the Fair: Park West School is having a Scholastic Book Fair in our library just in time for the holiday season. The dates of the fair are **Tuesday, December 5 to Thursday, December 7**. The Fair will be open during the day for students and their classes to view and make purchases, as well as any parents who would like to drop by. It will also be open for the afternoon and evening of Parent-Teacher Interview sessions on **December 7**. Books make great gifts (for Hanukkah, Christmas, or anytime!) and promote literacy. All profits from the Book Fair are used to purchase new books for our library. Parents/ guardians who would like to volunteer at the fair can email Ms. Comeau (our school librarian) at Arlene.comeau@hrsb.ns.ca

We'll Get Back to You As Soon As We Can: Park West School is a big and busy operation! We have almost 870 wonderful students who need our attention on a daily basis. When they are here at school they are our **first priority**. On any given school day we are busy teaching them the prescribed curriculum, assessing and evaluating their work, supporting their learning, ensuring they are successful, helping them solve problems and overcome challenges, and keeping them safe. Communication with home (parents and guardians) is extremely important to us. During the course of the day teachers, support staff, and administrators receive numerous telephone calls, voicemail messages, email messages, notes, and letters. Most of those require a response. **We will strive to respond to you within 48 hours** during the school week. If you don't hear back from us right away, please be patient.

Good Advice for Life: "If you want it...work for it. It's that simple."

We Need Some Important Information Back: We need some important information back from you (parents and guardians) about our students. On November 14 all students in grades primary to nine brought home to parents information and forms to read, complete, and return to school by November 17. If you have not yet completed and returned these forms to the school please do so as soon as possible. It's essential we have this information **for each student**. These include the following: **EARLY SCHOOL CLOSURE FORM** and **STUDENT MEDIA RELEASE FORM**.

Songs of Joy: Our elementary Christmas concerts will be held on **December 11 and 12 @ 1:15 PM** in our gymnasium. All students in **grades primary to three** and our **45-voice school choir** are participating. Our wish is for ALL students in those grades (and their parents) in the Park West Family to participate in this special school event. Let's all celebrate our special holidays TOGETHER, regardless of our beliefs and cultural backgrounds. This year's concerts will feature "songs of joy" celebrating Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa. The performance schedule for classes is as follows:

DATE	CLASSES PARTICIPATING
Monday, Dec. 11 @ 1:15 PM	School choir and 1-Griswold, 1-Kostlac, 1-Morine, 2-Griffiths/Labor, 2-Ssebazza, 3-MacDonald
Tuesday, Dec. 12 @ 1:15 PM	School choir and P-Cavanaugh, P-Dorey/Whitehouse, P-Walker, 2-MacIntyre, 2-Webber, 3-McNally, grade 3's in 3/4-Thurston

Concerts will be 45 – 60 minutes in length. Dress rehearsals will be held in the mornings. **Tickets for admission will not be required**. All family members and friends are invited to attend. Our 'storm date' is December 13. Once again this year our PTA will be conducting a "Front Row Seat Raffle" to raise money for our school. You may want to purchase a raffle ticket for a chance to win **two reserved front row seats** for one of the concerts.

Grade 9 Trip: 43 grade nine students have signed up for the grade 9 trip to *Montreal and Quebec City* in the spring. Planning is well underway. Flights and hotel rooms are being booked. The next payment of **\$210** is due on **December 1**.

Authors Visit PWS: Jan Coates, a local author, will be visiting our school on Friday, November 24. She will be working with some of our elementary classes. She is one of four writers, who will be visiting our school this year as part of the *Writers in the School Program*. This program is presented by the Writer's Federation of Nova Scotia and provides for professional authors to do writing workshops with students in schools. Thank you to our very generous PTA for providing funds (\$500) to make this program possible at Park West School. We are appreciative of Ms. Comeau (our school librarian) for making these arrangements.

Are You Ready for Winter Weather and Possible School Closures?

- Student safety is the first priority of the *Halifax Regional School Board (HRSB)* when making school cancellation decisions. HRSB staff begins to gather information from various sources beginning at 4:30 am. Staff consults with Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) staff on road conditions, local weather services, and Stock Transportation. By 5:30 am, staff makes a recommendation to the Superintendent based on the information gathered. If it is safe to have students on the roads and sidewalks, then schools will be open. If not, **all or some schools** may be closed depending on the weather and road conditions in different areas of the board.
- For **full day closures of all or some** schools, the decision will be announced as close to 6:00 am as possible. Announcements will be:
 - Posted on the HRSB's website (www.hrsb.ca);
 - Posted on the HRSB's Twitter account (HRSB_Official);
 - Recorded on the HRSB's School Cancellation Information Line 464-INFO (4636);
 - Shared with subscribers to the board's email and text notification system;
 - Communicated to local media outlets.
- If conditions deteriorate throughout the day the Superintendent may **close schools early** when weather or road conditions are considered to be a threat to the safety of students. In the event of an **early school closure**, the announcement will be made by 11 am. School busses will be dispatched to schools two hours earlier than their normal regularly scheduled pick-up for the afternoon dismissal. **Walking students** will be dismissed at the start of their regular lunch time (**11:35 AM at Park West**).
- On school days when weather conditions exist that it is not safe to open schools at the regularly scheduled time, but it is predicted that conditions will improve, a **2 hour delayed opening** may be considered. Delayed openings would be considered when a severe weather event has concluded but snow clearing or other operations require additional time. Delayed opening may also be considered when the physical plant is experiencing an issue (power, water) and additional time is required to prepare the facility for opening. In the event of a delayed opening the following will apply:
 - School opening will be delayed 2 hours (**that will be 10:25 AM at Park West**)
 - School bus pick up times will be delayed 2 hours
 - Excel child care will be cancelled for the morning only
 - Each school will alter morning schedules to best address their timetables.
 - Lunch times will not change (**11:35 AM – 12:35 PM at Park West**)
 - Afternoon class schedules will not change
 - Dismissal time will not change (**2:45 PM at Park West**)
- HRSB encourages parents and guardians to use their own discretion when it comes to sending their child to school when the weather is inclement. Students who are unable to attend school due to the weather and/or bus cancellations will not be penalized if assignments are given that day. The weather in Nova Scotia can be unpredictable. Schools can be closed unexpectedly. HRSB encourages parents to have plans in place for their children. That includes making sure your child knows where to go if school is cancelled early, making sure children are dressed properly for the weather conditions, and having a back-up plan in place for childcare if schools are closed or delayed in opening.

Lost & Found Overflowing: Are you missing something from your life? Maybe we have it here at Park West. We have MANY unclaimed items in our Lost & Found Boutique collection. It's located next to our cafeteria kitchen. Please drop by the school to check it out and search for "lost treasures". On December 21 all unclaimed items will be removed and donated to charity.

Dates to Remember:

November		
24	PTA Popcorn Day (\$1.00 per bag)	
30	"What's Your Big Lie?" – digital citizenship presentation for grades 7 – 9	12:45 PM
December		
1	Grade 9 Trip payment #2 due (\$210)	
5	Report Cards go home	
5-7	Book Fair (library)	
7	Professional Development (NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS)	morning
7	Parent-Teacher Interviews (afternoon and evening) (NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS)	1:00 -3:30 PM and 5:30 -7:30 PM
11	Christmas Concert #1	1:15 PM
12	Christmas Concert #2	1:15 PM
15	PTA Popcorn Sale (\$1 per bag)	
21	Last day of school before Christmas vacation begins	

