

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

February 23, 2018

Please DO NOT park in the traffic loop in the “no parking” zones and DO NOT park in the Fire Lanes on our school property. We are striving to minimize traffic congestion AND keep our students (your children) safe. We are seeking the assistance of HRM Police and HRM Parking Enforcement. Tickets may be issued (with fines) by HRM police or HRM parking enforcement officers if your vehicle is found to be parked illegally on our school grounds in “No Parking” areas or “Fire Lanes”.

Speed Limit on PWS School Grounds: 15 km/hr

Registration for 2018-2019 School Year: We're getting ready to prepare for the next school year already! Registration for students entering grade primary in September 2018 is being held during the **month of February**. New primary students must be five years old on or before December 31, 2018, and live within our school boundaries. Parents must provide a birth certificate, N.S. health card number, and proof of address (egs. utility bill, lease/rental agreement) when registering. Registration can be done at the school office Monday to Friday, 9:00 am to 3:30 pm. Contact Ms. Johnston or Ms. Landers (our admin assistants in the school office) or Mr. Cobean (our Guidance Counselor) at 457-7800 for more information or to make an appointment. Please pass the word around the community so everyone gets registered on time. Our staffing allotment for next year depends on the number of students registered. **PLEASE NOTE: only students who live within the Park West School boundaries are eligible to attend this school.** As our school and class sizes continue to grow we will be monitoring this situation VERY carefully. If any of our students are found to be living outside our boundaries it may be necessary for them to leave Park West and register at the school serving the neighbourhood in which they live. Parents may apply to have out-of-area students attend Park West by first registering at their neighbourhood school, obtaining an HRSB “Out-of-Area” form from that school, and submitting the completed form to Park West on or after April 1, 2018, at 8:00 am. Decisions regarding acceptance of out-of-area students at Park West for the 2018-2019 school year will not be made until the end of June.

Celebrating and Observing African Heritage Month at PWS: February is African Heritage Month in Nova Scotia with the theme “*Educate, Unite, Celebrate Community*”. Over the last several weeks we've been busy educating, uniting, and celebrating here at Park West School. Here are some of the things that have been happening in our classrooms:

- Grade primaries made a large Kente cloth for art, to go along with one of their many read aloud books on African heritage.
- As part of the culture unit in grade 9 social studies, students are learning about an individual, group or location important in African Nova Scotian culture. They will teach the class about what they have learned in any creative format they wish, such as a song, a poster, a museum-style display, a video, or by building something that is representative of what they learned. Students are limited only by their own imaginations!
- 5 - MacDonald is creating poster boards on influential African Canadians; becoming experts on their lives, obstacles, and achievements.
- The library has many books on display about African countries, people of African descent, and African culture. During class visits to the library, books are being read aloud to students about the above topics.
- Grade 6 students are doing novel studies on various African American leaders.
- Ms. Kostlac's grade 1 students have been reading books about Africa. They are learning about Viola Desmond. They will compare her to Rosa Parks, and learn about other African-Canadians (and African-Americans). They will be creating African mud huts using paint and construction paper.
- In elementary music classes here's what's been happening:
 - all Grade 6 classes are working on an African Drumming unit.
 - the Grade 4's learned to sing "The Dream of Martin Luther King" and other singing games of African Canadian/American background.
 - the Grade 2 classes created pictures of African drums and decorated their classroom doors with them.
- Grade 7 Math students have researched and written a report on an individual of African Heritage involved in a S.T.E.M. field. They have also explored the geometry of each African flag, and created replicas of each flag.
- Some students have been gathering information on notable African Nova Scotians and preparing a slide presentation on a person of their choice.
- Grade 4 students are making Kente cloth art by weaving cardstock and construction paper together and decorating it with Kente colours and symbols. They are also having meaningful discussions in Social Studies about slavery, segregation, and the meaning of African Heritage Month.
- English as an Additional Language (EAL) students have been reading story books about African Canadians; including Mayann Francis and Viola Desmond.
- In art classes students are making African inspired ceremonial masks. The grade nine students are learning about contemporary African American visual artists and creating a visual display.

- Our YMCA Newcomer Support Worker has started a multicultural club called *Peace Blooms*. They meet every Wednesday at lunch time. At a recent meeting the topic of conversation was African heritage and what they have been learning in class. One of our female students shared that she was extremely impressed and inspired by the bravery of Ruby Bridges; a young girl who courageously began the desegregation of an all-white elementary school in the American south in 1960.
- Grade 2 students have read a book about Martin Luther King Jr. Then they were encouraged to write about their own *dreams* that would make our world a better place for all.
- Some students have been studying (and listening to the unique sound) of the traditional Jembe drum from West Africa.
- Other students have read the inspirational book *Amazing Grace*; with the message "you can be anything you want to be if you put your mind to it."

Did You Know?: Canada's first black female mayor was **Daurene Lewis** (1943-2013), elected in Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia, in 1984. She was a descendent of a black Loyalist who arrived in 1784.

Pirates Are Coming to PWS: The students in grades 4-6 are preparing a mini musical to be presented in the spring (**April 24 & 25 at 1:30 PM**). The musical, entitled *Pirates! The Musical!* tells the tale of a group of pirates who discover a stowaway on board their ship. The fate of the stowaway relies on the King of the High C's. Stay tuned for the outcome this spring! The Grade 5 recorder players will be included in this program. What should performers wear? Students and parents are encouraged to "keep it simple" when thinking about what to wear for the musical. All Grade 4-6 classes are asked to wear solid coloured short or long sleeved t-shirts. The colours that are most appropriate are black, grey, white, brown, red, burgundy, and dark green. Some students may wish to dress more like a pirate if they wish by adding: a simple pirate shirt, vest and pants, bandanna for hair, eye patch, and/or large fabric of different colour around their waste. They may prefer to dress more like a sailor by adding: a long sleeved t-shirt with horizontal stripes, sailor hat, etc. No swords are allowed. If anyone has any costume pieces you wish to donate please contact the school office. Prop Assistant/Stage set up: If a parent is able to help Mrs. Kerr coordinate and collect simple props for our set contact her via email (dkerr@hrsb.ca) by February 28th. We are looking for props to decorate our stage...such as lobster traps, barrels, chests, crates, etc. If you can help us out please contact us.

Summer Camp: The Black Educators Association (BEA) and Dalhousie University have teamed up to run an exciting six day Math/Science Camp this coming summer. Dates: July 8 – 13, 2018. Deadline for application is: **April 30**. For more details visit: <http://www.theblackeducators.ca> or contact Mr. Cobean (guidance counselor) at tcobean@hrsb.ca

Registration Info Verification: In preparation for the 2018-2019 school year, on **Monday, March 19**, we are sending home copies of the registration forms 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 legitimately reside 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) at the school serving the area in which you now live. If you will be moving before September 2018 please inform us, and then you must register your children for the 2018-19 year at the school serving your new residence. Please 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 our students. We are striving for 100% self-identification. Please leave the cover letter attached to the front of the registration form. Complete the bottom section, and provide your signature and date. Return the updated registration form, with attached letter, to your child's teacher by **Thursday, March 22**. Thank you for your assistance in updating our student information in preparation for a new school year.

Littering: Too many of our students are throwing garbage on our school grounds...mostly at recess and lunchtime. We continually encourage them to put litter in the garbage cans provided outdoors or keep it until they have returned inside the building before discarding it. Some of our neighbours, and those who walk the trail adjacent to our school, have complained; surprised and dismayed by our students' disrespect for the environment. Parents: please assist us in rectifying this. Teach your children to be good "earth keepers". Encourage and remind them to dispose of their garbage in a responsible manner. Garbage belongs in garbage cans...not on the ground.

Dates to Remember:

February		
1-28	Registration month – register new primary students for the 2018-2019 school year	
1-28	African Heritage Month	
26	Grade 9 Trip Payment #4 due (\$210.00)	
March		
1	Junior high ski trip #3	Evening
9	Assessment & Evaluation Day (no school for students)	
12 - 16	March Break (schools closed)	
19	Registration verification forms sent home with students (grades P – 8)	
21	SAC and PTA meetings	6 PM and 7 PM
22	Return competed registration verification forms to school	
23	PTA Popcorn sale (\$1 a bag)	

