

# PWS UPDATE

## Park West School Newsletter

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March 27, 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**

**Let's Talk About Student Progress:** Parents and Teachers will meet to discuss student progress on **Thursday, April 19** (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 ten minutes each. 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. Information (including appointment request forms) will be sent home with elementary students on **April 9**.

**Come to the Fair:** Park West School is having a Scholastic Book Fair in our library on **Tuesday, April 17 to Thursday, April 19**. 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 April 19. Books make great anytime gifts 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](mailto:Arlene.comeau@hrsb.ns.ca)

**Pirates – The Musical:** The students in grades 4-6 are preparing a mini musical to be presented on **April 24 & 25, at 1:30 PM** in our gym. Tickets are not required to attend. **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. The performance schedule is:

Tuesday, April 24 @ 1:30 PM	4 Walsh, 4 McNally, 5 Joseph, 5 Shupe, 6 Bennet and gr. 5 recorder
Wednesday, April 25 @ 1:30 PM	4 Guthro, 4 Thurston, 5 MacDonald, 6 Lewis 6 Nelson and gr. 5 recorder

**What do performers wear for the concert if he/she does not own a pirate 'costume'?**

- Plain and solid colours, except if you wear a striped (horizontal) long-sleeved 'sailor' type tee shirt. Please do not wear any tee shirts with logos, such as advertising for a well-known sports team.
- A shirt with big baggy sleeves and tied at the waist with a sash or scarf. Any coloured scarf will do. A plain coloured vest over the shirt.
- Solid coloured pants or long (close to the knee or to the knee) shorts.
- Running shoes.

**What do I wear for the concert if I own a Pirate costume?**

- You may wear all the costume, but please *do not bring any swords or other weapons.*
- Keep in mind, depending on where you are standing when your class sings, you may have to remove a large hat and hold it during the song, if it is blocking someone behind you.
- Eye patches and head scarves are fine to wear. The scarves are pulled tight to your head and tied on one side.
- Running shoes

If anyone has any costume pieces you wish to donate please contact the school office. If a parent is able to help Mrs. Kerr coordinate and collect simple props for our set contact her via email ([dawn.kerr@hrsb.ca](mailto:dawn.kerr@hrsb.ca)). 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.

**Keeping Our Kids Safe:** The safety and security of our students and staff is a top priority for Park West School and the Halifax Regional School Board. In recent years we have been implementing a number of measures as part of a comprehensive plan aimed at ensuring our school remains a safe place. One of the procedures schools have been employing is a **lock down drill**. During a lock down regular school operations are suspended. All exterior doors are locked, and no one is permitted to enter or leave the building. Classroom doors are secured, and teachers and students remain hidden inside classrooms until instructed by school administration to resume their activities. Students are isolated within the school when circumstances make it safer to stay in the classroom rather than evacuate the building. Another drill we practice

is **hold & secure**. During a hold & secure situation all exterior doors to our facility are locked; no one is permitted to enter or exit. Our regular routine continues within the building, with students confined to their classrooms. This type of drill is initiated as a precaution if there is a potential safety and security concern for our students within our school or school neighbourhood. This could include an unruly student, a difficult visitor to the school, a physical hazard in the building, a hazardous substance released in the school community, a bear sighting near the school, or police action in the neighbourhood. It may also be implemented to protect the privacy of a student (or students) involved in an incident (such as an injury or extreme illness) in the common areas of our school (such as hallways, cafetorium, etc.). Recently one of our students was exhibiting inappropriate and aggressive behaviour in the classroom, and as he/she moved about the school. The student was unresponsive to interventions by school personnel. A “hold & secure” drill was implemented as a *precaution* to ensure the safety and security of all students and staff. Our HRM Police school liaison officer was present at the school to assist school administration. We do our best, under the circumstances, to allay any fears our students may have in such circumstances. If you ever have concerns or questions please contact the school office regarding a hold & secure event at PWS.

**HRSB Hiring Subs:** HRSB has immediate openings for Substitute Teachers and hundreds of substitute assignments daily in our 134 schools. Choose where you work and how often you work. Full-time hours are a possibility with many schools within a close commute. The daily rate of pay for Substitute Teachers is \$179.45. The turnaround time from application to beginning work is very quick. Job postings are updated every Wednesday at 4:00 pm, so be sure to check it on a regular basis. View Postings at [www.myhrsb.ca/jobs](http://www.myhrsb.ca/jobs)

**News from the Gym:**

- Lacrosse Nova Scotia is excited to offer “**Try Lacrosse**” sessions for boys and girls in schools. “Try Lacrosse” is designed to introduce Canada’s National Summer sport to potential new players in a safe, fun and positive atmosphere. The Technical Director at Lacrosse Nova Scotia has been providing a series of sessions to our physical education classes here at Park West during the month of March.
- **Kin-Ball** is a team sport that was created in Quebec. It includes a big ball (1.22 metres in diameter) and three teams. A representative from Kin-Ball Canada will be coming to Park West to teach some of our gym classes (P – 9) this fun new sport.
- **Badminton tournaments** will be held on April 4th & 5th and April 17th & 18<sup>th</sup>. Team tryouts are now underway for students in grades 6 – 9.
- The **Nova Scotia Sport Hall of Fame** (NSSHF) has established a FREE province wide Education Program geared toward our Nova Scotia youth. The *Future Hall of Famers Education Program* hopes to motivate and inspire youth across our province with stories of hard work, dedication, perseverance and a will to succeed. We use the stories of our Nova Scotia athletes to connect the students to people they can relate to showcasing athletes from all across our wonderful province. An inductee, Karen Furneaux (an Olympian and world-class canoe sprinter) will be joining us on the morning of April 9th for sessions with students in grades 3 – 9.

**Our School Website:** You are encouraged to visit our new and improved school website at [www.pws.hrsb.ca](http://www.pws.hrsb.ca) Once there you’ll find lots of useful information about our school and its operations. On the homepage you’ll find: Daily Announcements; What’s New; Upcoming Events; and our Twitter feed. Click on the “OUR SCHOOL” tab for General Information (our visions and goals; cafeteria menu and order information; and our diversity); Policies and Procedures (homework; assemblies; late students; winter weather; and more); News (the current newsletter and past issues); School Resources (EXCEL childcare....and more); School Advisory Council; For Students; and For Parents (including Grade 9 Trip; Safe Arrival; PTA; Volunteering; Class Trips; Registration; etc.). Other tabs on the homepage include: Calendars; Staff Directory; and Contact Us.

**Happy Easter:** Easter is the most important festival of Christianity. It celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ on the third day after he was crucified (which took place on what we now call Good Friday) – the foundation on which Christianity is based. Easter is celebrated on the first Sunday after the full moon following Spring Equinox. This year Easter is **April 1**. Christians usually celebrate Easter by attending church on Easter Sunday. Many families and friends gather together for a special Easter dinner, often including roast turkey or baked ham. Easter is celebrated in many parts of the world by both Christians and non-Christians. Some names for “Easter” in other countries are: Paques (France); Pascua (Spain); Pasqua (Italy); Pashke (Albania); Pascha (Greece); Paaske (Norway); Pasen (Holland); and Pask (Sweden). Some symbols associated with Easter include: eggs, bunnies, lambs, lilies, crosses, palm branches, and hot cross buns. For many, Easter egg hunts and a visit from the Easter Bunny (who leaves treats hidden in the house) are part of the Easter celebration. “Happy Easter” to all those in our Park West family who will be celebrating this coming weekend.

**Dates to Remember:**

<b>MARCH</b>		
<b>26</b>	Grade 9 Trip Payment #5 (\$210.00) due	
<b>27</b>	Junior High Student Forum with school admin	
<b>30</b>	Good Friday (no school)	
<b>APRIL</b>		
<b>2</b>	Easter Monday (no school)	
<b>5</b>	Report cards (term 2) sent home with students	
<b>9</b>	Information for Parent-Teacher Interviews sent home with all elementary students (grades P – 6)	
<b>13</b>	Young Neptune Theatre presents <i>The Happy Hobo in Moonland</i> at PWS (for grades P – 5)	<b>morning</b>

