

PWS UPDATE

Park West School Newsletter

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April 23, 2018

Something to Think About: It is not what you do for your children, but what you have taught them to do for themselves, that will make them successful human beings (Ann Landers)

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

Spring Picture Day: Our school photographer, Lifetouch, will be here at Park West on **Friday, May 4** to take spring photos of our students. These professional portraits will be available for parents to purchase if they wish. Order forms will be sent home soon.

New Primary Orientation: A **Primary Orientation Session** for new primary students (starting school in September 2018) will be held here at the school on **Thursday, May 17, 3:00pm – 4:00pm**. This session is intended to provide your child with the experience of being in school in a primary classroom in preparation for September. A **Parent Information Meeting for parents** of children entering grade primary in September 2018 will be held **at the same time** in the **school cafetorium**. A **Vision Screening Clinic** will be held here at the school for all new primary students on **Thursday, May 17**, during the day, by appointment. This clinic is **optional** and is being conducted by the public health nurses of the Provincial Health Board.

Grade 9 Trip Update: There will be a final **information meeting** for ALL participating students and their parents on **Wednesday, May 16 @ 8:15 pm**, in the cafetorium. **Attendance is essential**. At this meeting lots of important information will be shared, including: flight details, the final itinerary, contact information, accommodations, what to bring, etc. A reminder that the **final payment** for the trip is due on **April 30**. The fee for the trip (\$1350.00) must be paid in full for each student by that date. Please contact Ms. Landers (blanders@hrbs.ca / 902-457-7800) in our school office if you require information about your trip account (i.e. balance due, etc.).

About Being on Time for School: Students do their best in school when they attend daily and arrive on time. Teachers in Nova Scotia have reported that poor attendance and late arrivals are growing issues that are impacting the classroom environment for all students. A new Attendance and Student Engagement Policy was recently created by the EECD (N.S. Dept. of Education and Early Children Development).

Gardening Anyone? We have 12 small garden plots/boxes on our grounds at the front of our school. This year we aren't using all of them. Once again, this season we'd like to offer the spare ones for use by our friends and neighbours, and community members. If you'd like to use a plot this season to do some gardening please contact Mr. Carter (principal) at dcarter@hrsb.ca

Good Fashion Sense: With the weather getting warmer we want to remind students and parents that Park West School has standards of dress that may be different and/or more stringent than home and other settings. Our school is a 'place of work' for our staff and students. Everyone who 'works' here should dress appropriately and respectfully. As we prepare our students for their rightful places in society we are hoping they make good choices and exercise good judgment. Students should not wear clothes to school that are too revealing. As well, students should not wear shirts that have inappropriate or offensive slogans and messages on them.

Assignment Due Date Protocol for JUNIOR HIGH: Several years ago we created a new protocol for our junior high students. Many students have been submitting assignments to teachers long after the due date without consideration for their teachers and their responsibilities. Often teachers receive assignments for the entire term long past due dates and **after** they have completed calculating marks and writing report cards. This places an unreasonable expectation on teachers. **We want our students to respect due dates and deadlines**. We are preparing them for the real world and to be successful in the work force (where due dates and deadlines are valued). This is part of the learning process. This protocol is in compliance with HRSB Policy C.007 – *Assessment, Evaluation and Communication of Student Learning*. The protocol is as follows:

- All assignments are posted on PowerSchool and due dates are clearly communicated and posted.

- An **up to one week extension** of due date **may** be granted by teacher, providing contact and communication has been received prior to posted due date, and reason for extension is deemed to be reasonable. Students must submit to teacher a completed "Request for Due Date Extension" form. Forms are available from teachers.
- Teachers will continue to provide every reasonable support to ensure students have the ability to meet the due date of assignment. Support may include: in-class instruction, extra help sessions, due date reminders, communication with home, access to PowerSchool logins.
- Assignments submitted past due date, or past a one week extension (upon approval), may receive a mark of zero in relation to the term's average mark.
- Any work received past due date, or extended due date, will still be reviewed and evaluated by the teacher, and feedback will be provided to students in relation to learning outcomes.
- A further extension may be granted due to *special circumstances* in consultation with teacher and school administration.
- When a due date is missed teachers will inform parents via email or telephone.

Is Something Missing From Your Life?: Our lost & found is overflowing. All items in our HUGE **Lost & Found** collection are on display in our lobby. Drop by to check it out when you're here and search for 'lost treasures'. After **April 27** all remaining items will be donated to charity or disposed of.

EXCEL Registration Information for 2018-2019: Families who are interested in registering their children in EXCEL's recreation program for the 2018/2019 school year are encouraged to mark the following important dates on your calendars:

- Monday, April 23rd - Beginning at 8:00 am current participants of the 2017/2018 EXCEL program may submit an application for the coming school year via the online application system or in-person at the EXCEL office at 25 Alfred Street, Dartmouth. On April 16th Account Holders of current participants will receive an email containing their user name and password providing them exclusive access to the online application system. Current participant families that have additional siblings that will be registering for the first time with EXCEL are eligible to register all children in their family during this early registration period.
- Monday, April 30th - General Registration begins for all EXCEL Before and/or After school programs at 8:00 am on April 30th. Applications may be submitted via the online system or in-person at the EXCEL office at 25 Alfred Street, Dartmouth. Individuals paying by Pre-Authorized Payment, MasterCard or Visa ONLY may register on-line. Go to <https://secure.hrsb.ns.ca/excel> to access.

We encourage parents to submit their applications in a timely manner to ensure the greatest opportunity for entry into the program as demand often exceeds capacity. Applications will be accepted on a first-received, first-accepted basis. (Priority is not given to Before & After participants over After only.) Full-time participation (5 days/week) is required. Please see the EXCEL pages on the HRSB website for more information regarding registration procedures, program fees and the program structure.

African Nova Scotian Health Sciences Summer Camps: Do you know a young learner of African descent interested in a career as a health professional? Promoting Leadership in health for African Nova Scotians (PLANS) at Dalhousie University will be hosting 5-day summer day camps for youth of African descent who are interested in a career in health. This camp will introduce learners to a variety of health professions through fun, hands-on and interactive programming. The camp will also consist of personal development activities (i.e. self-esteem, study skills), cultural and recreational activities. Accommodations and meals are provided. Students will be required to complete an application form and a letter of interest, and include a letter of recommendation from a school representative (teacher/counsellor/student support worker). Applications are now being Accepted for the 2018 PLANS Summer Camps. All programs are open to learners from across Nova Scotia. Summer program offerings for 2018 are as follows:

- July 8-13, 2018 at Dalhousie University for Grade 8, 9, & 10
- July 17-20, 2018 at St. Francis Xavier University for Grade 8, 9, 10, & 11
- July 22-25, 2018 at Cape Breton University for Grade 8, 9, 10 & 11

Students may apply for all camps if they wish. Applications are due **Friday, May 4, 2018**. For more information on PLANS, please visit www.dal.ca/health/plans

Dates to Remember:

APRIL		
24 & 25	<i>Pirates! The Musical</i> - all are invited to attend	1:30 PM
30	Grade 9 Trip Payment #6 due (\$210)	
MAY		
4	Spring Photo Day	
9	SAC Meeting	6:00 PM
16	PTA Meeting	7:00 PM
16	Grade 9 Trip Information Meeting (for participating students and their parents)	8:15 PM
17	New Primary Orientation and Information Meeting for Parents	3:00 – 4:00 PM
18	PD Day for staff (no school for students)	
24	Junior High dance (\$6.00 admission)	6:30 – 8:30 PM
30	Grade 9 Trip departure for Montreal and Quebec City	

