

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

May 24, 2018

Ramadan Mubarak: The world religion with the second highest number of adherents is *Islam*. Followers of the religion of Islam are called Muslims. Ramadan is the holiest period of the Islamic calendar and is celebrated by over one billion Muslims around the world. Ramadan is the ninth month in the Islamic calendar. Because the Islamic calendar is lunar, Ramadan falls on a different day every year. Whenever, in the ninth month, the first sight of a crescent moon appears, that marks the beginning of Ramadan. This year Ramadan began on May 17. One of the most important observances during Ramadan is fasting. From the light of the first dawn, until the sun goes down, those who are fasting do not eat or drink anything. It is common to have one meal before sunrise (the *suhoor*) and one after dark (the *iftar*). Fasting is intended to teach Muslims self-discipline, self-restraint, and charity. Ramadan is an important time to spend with family. People pledge not to lie, fight, swear, and not to be greedy. Ramadan is a month of giving, and to remember and help those who are less fortunate. It is common for Muslims to give a donation to charity so that those in need can enjoy the celebrations of the holiday as well. Ramadan ends on June 17, when *Eid al Fitr* (the *Festival of the Breaking of the Fast*) begins; a major three day celebration marking the end of the fast. During Eid al Fitr many Muslims will dress in their best clothes, give gifts to children, and celebrate with family and friends. A common greeting at the beginning of Ramadan is "Ramadan Mubarak"....meaning "Have a Blessed Ramadan!". **We wish all those in the Park West School community who will be observing and celebrating a Blessed Ramadan.**

Staying for Lunch Next Year? Students **must be registered** (free-of-charge) for the lunch program for next year (2018-19) if parents wish for them to remain at school for lunch. Registration forms will be sent home with all students in grades P – 8 on **Monday, May 28**. Completed forms are due back on **Friday, June 1**. Only students registered in the lunch program may remain for lunch on school property under the supervision of monitors. We are **not** able to provide a drop-in service when it is convenient for parents and students (including on days when the weather is inclement). We are staffed with monitors to provide supervision based on the number of students we have registered in the program.

Business As Usual at Park West: The last day of school is **June 29**. On that day students will receive their report cards and be dismissed early (during the morning). **June 28** is an Assessment and Evaluation Day, so students will not attend school on that day. Otherwise, classes will continue as usual right up until the last day. **Students in ALL grades (including junior high) will be expected to be in attendance as learning occurs and subject outcomes are addressed.** A school year in Nova Scotia consists of 195 days. We intend to take advantage of this valuable time by providing meaningful learning opportunities for our students. We do not 'shut down' early. Students will not be told by teachers to stay home because 'nothing will be going on'; nor will teachers suggest that students stay home. If students are to be absent for all or part of a day parents are asked to report the absence on our Safe Arrival line (457-7800 – press 1) BEFORE the absence occurs. **Parents:** please support and assist us as we strive to provide your children with the best educational experience possible by **ensuring they are present at school.**

A Fond Farewell Ms. Walsh: Students and staff of Park West School would like to congratulate Mrs. Walsh on her retirement. Mrs. Walsh has been teaching since 1977 and has been part of the Park West family since 2002. She has taught in Ontario and British Columbia as well as Herring Cove, East Preston and other former county schools. Mrs. Walsh has mixed feelings about her retirement. She is going to miss the children and the multiculturalism within the school as well as the staff, who are always there for one another. She feels excited about her retirement and looks forward to spending time with her sons and other members of her family. She may even substitute at a number of schools from time to time. Finally, Mrs. Walsh offers words of wisdom for tomorrow's students: always be kind, do your best and do what you love in life. The Park West family wishes Mrs. Walsh much happiness in this new chapter of her life. (written by Ellie Piercey – class 901)

We Will Miss You Ms. Doucet: This year Park West School will be saying goodbye to our Early Literacy Teacher, Ms. Doucet. Her career as a teacher has spanned 24 years, with 13 being spent at our school. She has worked at many schools throughout her career, some being Fairview Elementary, Millwood Elementary and Basinview Drive School. She says she will miss the students and staff the most. She also says the most rewarding part of teaching is seeing students be successful in their learning. Ms. Doucet looks forward to retirement. She is excited to not be on a schedule and plans to spend more time with her grandchildren. She wants to remind students to always be kind and considerate to each other. We will all miss Ms. Doucet, and wish her the best in retirement! – (written by Danny Murrins – class 903)

Address Verification at PWS: As you are probably aware our school facility is over capacity, with a current student enrollment of approximately 870. The Halifax Regional Centre for Education (HRCE; formerly the Halifax Regional School Board – HRSB) approached our School Advisory Council (SAC) to open discussion on what, if anything, should be done to address the capacity issue. It was decided that the first step was a complete review of addresses for every student in our school. Therefore, we are embarking on a process to verify addresses for **EVERY** student registered and attending Park West School (with the exception of current grade 9 students). Only students who legitimately reside within the Park West School boundaries are eligible to attend this school.

We need to ensure compliance with the HRCE policy Student Registration (code B.028) – School Administration:

- 1.4 *Parents/guardians who reside separately must choose which of their neighbourhood schools their child(ren) will attend.*
- 1.5 **All students living within the boundaries of the board must register at the school serving the neighbourhood in which they reside.**
- 4.1 *It is expected that students will transfer to their new neighbourhood school once they have re-located.*
- 4.2 *Parents/guardians may request the transfer be delayed until the end of the current school year. The principal may accept the student and confirm the decision in writing.*
- 4.3 *Parents/guardians may apply through the Out-of-Area process to remain at the school beyond the current school year.*

We are now seeking the support and cooperation of all parents/guardians to complete this process. During the week of May 22 to 25 we are requesting parents/guardians provide the school with **proof of residence documentation** for each student attending Park West School.

Acceptable documentation includes:

1. **ONE** document from the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA), such as Notice of Assessment, Receipt of Child Tax Benefit, or Social Assistance. Documents submitted to CRA will not be accepted, as such documents are not confirmed by the CRA.
OR....
2. **TWO** of the following documents: residential insurance policy (home owner or tenant), water bill, power bill, and property tax assessment. The names and addresses on both documents submitted must be identical.

As address confirmation is the sole intent of this information request, all other non-relevant information can be redacted (such as account numbers, balances, etc.) from the submitted documents.

For the sake of further clarity, the following documents **will not be accepted** as proof of residency:

- Tenant lease / rental agreement
- Cable, internet, or cellular phone bill
- Business related documentation
- Bank documents
- Vehicle insurance
- Driver's license

Copies of documentation submitted must be current and authentic, proving residency within the Park West School boundaries for this current school year.

Copies of acceptable documentation should be submitted to Park West School in the following manner:

1. Parents/guardians may have a child/student submit copies of approved documents in an envelope to their classroom teacher. Identify on the envelope the names of the students for which the documents apply, and their grades. **Or.....**
2. Parents/guardians may submit copies of approved documents to the school office during open hours (Monday to Friday, 8:00 AM – 3:30 PM). **Or.....**
3. Parents/guardians may scan approved documents and email them to the school at parkwest@hrsb.ca Indicate the names of students, and their grades, for which the documents are being submitted.

If you have more than one child attending Park West School it is only necessary to submit proof of residency documentation once (to cover all your children). **Park West School should receive proof of residency documentation from you by Friday, May 25.** If you require more information please contact our office via email (parkwest@hrsb.ca) or by telephone (902-457-7800).

Dates to Remember:

| MAY | | |
|-------------|---|------------------------|
| 24 | Junior High dance (\$6.00 admission) | 6:30 – 8:30 PM |
| 25 | Address Verification documents due | |
| 28 | Lunch Registration forms for 2018-2019 sent home with all students in grades P – 8 | |
| 30 | Grade 9 Trip departure for Montreal and Quebec City | |
| JUNE | | |
| 1 | Completed Lunch Registration forms due | |
| 7 | School Choir performs at Shannex Clayton Park residence (on Parkland Drive) | |
| 8 | PWS Junior High drama club performs for students | afternoon |
| 8 | PWS String Ensembles perform for students | morning |
| 11 | PWS Band Concert (grades 6 – 9 bands) *performing students arrive by 6:00 PM | 6:30 PM |
| 12 | Elementary Field Day (for grades P – 6) | morning |
| 13 | School Advisory Council (SAC) Meeting | 6:00 PM |
| 14 | Elementary Field Day RAIN DATE (only if necessary) | Morning |
| 15 | The popular percussion ensemble SQUID performs at PWS (for grades P – 9) | Afternoon |
| 21 | PTA Community Summer Barbeque *all are invited! | 5:30 – 7:30 PM |
| 22 | Elementary Assembly (for grades P – 6) | 10:30 AM |
| 22 | "Canadiana Day" at PWS - we're celebrating Canada Day early....wear red & white to school today | |
| 26 | Grade 9 Farewell Celebration (dinner and harbour cruise) | Evening |
| 27 | Grade 9 Closing Ceremony * all are invited! | 12:45 PM |
| 28 | Assessment & Evaluation Day (no school for students) | |
| 29 | Last Day of School – summer vacation begins | Early dismissal |

