

Westwood Primary School Newsletter

December 4, 2023



Principal: Sherry Flynn

Vice-Principal: Lynette MacKinnon

Dates to Remember

December 6th – Grade 3 Holiday Concert ~ FLAKES~ 1pm & 7pm (Storm date December 7th)

December 7th – Report Cards go home

December 14th – Holiday Celebration French Immersion Kindergarten @ 1pm (Storm date Dec. 18th)

December 15th – Holiday Celebration English Kindergarten @ 1pm (Storm date Dec. 19th)

December 22nd – Last Day of School for Students for 2023

January 4th – Professional Learning Day (**NO SCHOOL**)

January 5th – Professional Learning Day (**NO SCHOOL**)

January 8th – First instructional day for students 2024

Holiday Celebration

The Music Department and Grade 3 classes are excited to present FLAKES! for our holiday concert on Wednesday, December 6th at 7:00pm in the school gymnasium.(Storm date Dec 7th). The Flakes and Snirts help the Littlest Snowflake see how no two flakes are alike and we are all special in our own way! Please visit Ms. Dahn's and Ms. Hanson's Google Sites for practice videos and more information.

Ms. Dahn: <https://sites.google.com/cloud.edu.pe.ca/westwoodmusicroom/grade-3/flakes>

Ms. Hanson: <https://sites.google.com/cloud.edu.pe.ca/mshansonsmusicroom/flakes>

Costumes: There is no expectation to purchase anything for costumes. Students will either be "Flakes" (snowflakes) or "Snirts" (snow mixed with dirt). Please use what you have.

Flakes: white/silver, light blue, grey, sequins, sparkles, snowflakes

Snirts: grey, light brown, silver, dirty/stained, "street punk", rapper look.

Entry to the concert is monetary donation at the door. The donations are used to pay for the Lighting and Sound Equipment that the school rents. Thank you in advance for supporting our concert.

Westwood Families Christmas Project 2023

A huge thank you to teachers, parents, students and community organizations and businesses for supporting our Westwood Families Christmas Project. Without your support we wouldn't be able to provide such a wonderful support at Christmas for some of our Westwood families.

Each year our staff with the support of parents, churches and local business collect donations and/or adopt a family to help support at Christmas time.

If you are looking to help support one of our own Westwood students and their families at Christmas please contact Cindy Wood our school counsellor or drop off any donation in the office at 902-368-6855.

We also have a Christmas Families Donation Button on our School Hot Lunches program. We still have many students & their families who we are hoping to make their holiday season festive.

Thanks for your supporting such a wonderful cause.

Wellness at School

In the past few weeks we have seen a steady increase in the number of students sick at school. It is important to remember for all parents/guardians, students, staff and visitors to Westwood Primary School that you should not attend school if you are feeling unwell.

If you or your child has any of the following symptoms you should NOT attend school:

- Fever (38°C or higher) / chills
- New or worsening cough
- Body / muscle / joint aches/unusual headache
- Gastrointestinal symptoms (nausea, vomiting, diarrhea)
- Shortness of breath / difficulty breathing
- Sore/raw throat/consistent runny nose

Exemptions include on-going, existing conditions and symptoms that would not be new or unusual for that individual (e.g., chronic allergies, asthma, etc.)

It is important that we all work together to keep our school environment healthy for all students, staff and visitors so that attendance and staffing is not impacted by illness.

Westwood School Apparel

LOOKING FOR A GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFT! Get your Westwood Primary School Apparel. Place your order by DECEMBER 3rd to ensure you get it in time for Christmas. ORDER NOW! Show your school spirit 😊

https://allstarcresting.ca/westwood_apparel/shop/home?fbclid=IwAR2FePS16o-Hth57j6ALPJY4SMhFQc1vWRxM3Te6tK4YelanwvkuL4wfn2g

Morning Drop Off

Thanks so much to all our parents who are working hard to keep our morning drop off running smoothly with the large volume of traffic we are experiencing this year. ***We would ask that parents please keep children inside the cars until you see staff outside. We are not ready to supervise or receive children until staff are outside on duty (wearing a duty vest).*** Also a reminder that there is absolutely no passing or parking in the student drop off lane.

Thanks for your help with keeping our students safe.

Looking for Clothing Donations

This time of year we are always looking for extra donations of socks, underwear (boys & girls), shirts, sweat pants, leggings, mittens and hats. We also accept any snow pants that are in good condition that your child may have out grown. Sometimes children have accidents at lunch times with food or just don't make it to the washroom on time and need a change. We greatly appreciate any donations to our school.

School Cancellation/One-Hour Delay Information

Information regarding school cancellation and delays can be found on the Public Schools Branch website <https://edu.princeedwardisland.ca/psb/storm-closure-information/>

Bus Safety

Parents/Guardians, as we move into the winter season it is more important than ever that the children are being safe and orderly on the bus. Please take some time to review appropriate bus safety with your children. All classes have had bus safety presentations, but from time to time they require review. At school we stress the following when we talk with the students about safe and appropriate bus manners:

- 1) "Back to back & seat to seat" describes how they should be sitting on the bus
- 2) Sitting at all times when the bus is moving and staying seated until the bus arrives at your stop
- 3) Using a quiet voice - Level 1 (silence) or Level 2 (whisper, soft talk) voice.
- 4) No eating or drinking on the school bus
- 5) Keeping hands and feet on their own body
- 6) When waiting for the school bus during winter weather we ask that you have your child wait in the drive way, **NOT on the side of the road**. Often vehicles cannot see the students because of the snowbanks
- 7) Please remind the students that it is not safe to be playing in the snow while waiting for the bus. Please make sure that your children are ready at their pick up location a few minutes prior to bus pick up time. Please keep in mind the bus cannot wait for students, as this can put the bus driver behind schedule at other schools. Most of our buses also drive for the junior high and high school. Please stress that everyone's safety is compromised when students are not following these procedures. Thanks for reviewing this important information at home.

Winter Weather and Wet Weather

This time of year the weather is very unpredictable... it varies from very wet to very cold from day to day. Students need to bring clothing appropriate for the weather. Please make sure your child has mittens (preferably 2 pairs), hats, boots and snow pants/splash pants and a change of clothes for the kitbag. Extra clothes can be placed in a plastic bag and left on your child's hook in the classroom.

Breakfast Program Donations

If families are interested in donating breakfast food, we gratefully accept whole wheat bread, strawberry jam, Cheerios (plain or multi-grain), yogurt tubes, apples, mini-carrots and cucumbers. There is also an option to donate to the breakfast program on the January Hot Lunch menu.

Breakfast Program

A huge thank-you to our wonderful breakfast volunteers. You help our students have a great start to the day. ***Please keep in mind there is no breakfast program when there is a school delay in the morning.***

Breakfast Program Volunteer Needed

We are looking for an additional volunteer for the Breakfast Program on Tuesdays and Fridays. If you are available from 7:45 am – 8:45 am and you are interested in volunteering, please contact Lynette MacKinnon at lvmackinnon@edu.pe.ca. You will need to submit a Criminal Record Check before volunteering.

Please keep in mind there is no breakfast program when there is a school delay in the morning.

Kindergarten Holiday Presentations

Our Amazing Kindergarten students will be doing holiday presentations this year! Mark the dates on your calendar

December 14th – Holiday Celebration French Immersion Kindergarten @ 1pm (Storm date Dec. 18th)

December 15th – Holiday Celebration English Kindergarten @ 1pm (Storm date Dec. 19th)

Hot Lunches Program & Milk Orders

Milk and pizza can be purchased for students using the Hot Lunches ordering system. The website is westwood.hotlunches.net. Parents can purchase white Milk (50 cents), chocolate Milk (80 cents) daily. We are currently offering the option on Tuesdays to purchase pizza from Little Caesar's cheese or pepperoni pizza (\$3.00). On Wednesdays, students can purchase 4 Crazy bread from Little Casear's for \$3. **Orders will be placed for a month at a time and must be placed and paid for online at 11:59 pm by the dates below.** We are unable to accept any late orders. Unpaid orders will be deleted.

January orders – Deadline is Sunday, January 7th

February orders – Deadline is Sunday, January 28th

March orders – Deadline is Sunday, March 3rd

April orders – Deadline is Sunday, March 31st

May orders – Deadline is Sunday, April 28th

June orders – Deadline is Sunday, May 28th

Best wishes to you and your families for this Holiday Season and in the New Year 2023 from all of the staff at Westwood Primary School!



Provincial Home and School News

Home and School News, December 2023

Extra Mile Award

The PEI Home and School Federation presents awards of recognition to deserving individuals who work and volunteer for the benefit of children and youth in PEI's school communities. Nominate a deserving school staff individual for recognition by **Jan. 19, 2024**. Find details at: <https://peihsf.ca/awards/>

Affecting Change in PEI's School System

Resolutions are developed around issues that can affect positive change in our school system for all students' benefit. Your Home and School's resolutions will be considered at the 71st Annual Meeting & Convention on April 13, 2024. Assistance with writing resolutions is available.

Deadline to submit resolutions: **Jan. 31, 2024**.

More at: <https://peihsf.ca/resolutions/> / [How to Write & Present a Resolution](#) / [Fillable pdf Resolution Form](#)

School Staff Appreciation Week 2024

School staff celebration, the week of February 12-16. Your staff appreciation committee can begin now to make safe plans for thanking school staff for the contributions they make to our children and their education. Keep plans simple! A little appreciation goes a long way!

President/Co-Chair Annual Reports 2023-2024

Presidents/Co-Chairs Annual Reports are due **Feb. 29**. To help you get started, we suggest that you record each month's activities in a bulleted form list, beginning in September. Add what will be happening to finish out the school year, March to June. Collectively, you are writing the history of Home and School in Prince Edward Island. If you need help, contact us at: 902-620-3186 / peihsf@gov.pe.ca. And, we have a google form to help. Go to:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1NOInb3_QViM3zNjpR2ZdyJnWDg98Po5s3WCKbRCexg/edit

Save the date...AGM, April 13, 2024

Book your calendars to attend the .P.E.I Home and School Federation's 71st Annual General Meeting, Saturday, April 13, Rodd Charlottetown Hotel, Charlottetown. More details to come.

Federation Board Nominations

Leading up to the AGM, the PEI Home and School Federation will be seeking nominations for President, Vice President and Directors for Charlottetown Rural, Colonel Gray, Kinkora, Montague and Morell families of schools; all are two-year term positions. For more info, contact the Federation office peihsf@gov.pe.ca / 902-620-3186.

ADD this to your agenda...

1. Social Emotional Learning - Ask a teacher to talk about SEL
2. COMPASS survey - Ask your principal for a brief overview
3. AI Chatbots - Ask a tech-skilled parent or staff person to talk about keeping up with AI technology in the home and the school.

Other Community News....

 International Volunteer Day is on December 5, annually

It's a day that recognizes the efforts of volunteers in transforming their societies, economies, and environment. <https://nationaltoday.com/international-volunteer-day/>

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND SPELLING BEE REGISTRATION

The P.E.I. Chapter Spelling Bee Competitions will take place in person in PEI on April 20, 2024. Every child will receive a participation certificate. The 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place finishers in each age category will receive cash prizes and trophies. The 1st place winner from each category will be eligible to participate in the Championship Competition in person in Toronto on May 26, 2024. Parents/guardians can register for the 2023-2024 Spelling Bee Competition at www.spellingbeeofcanada.ca/registration. All High school students 15 years and older are invited to be trained to be a Coach, Mentor or Tutor and gain community hours, while helping to make a difference in a child's life. They can email coordinator.pei@spellingbeeofcanada.ca for more information.

Best wishes of the holiday season to you and your family!

Community News

West River Community Fridge

The West River Community Fridge opened its doors outside the Afton Hall Community Centre on Route 19. It contains both a fridge and pantry, accessible to **anyone at anytime**, and is cared for and supplied by individual community members, farmers and businesses. Its goals are to cut food waste, build stronger bonds within the community and the larger Island population, and provide people with nutritious, perishable and non-perishable food items.

The idea is to GIVE WHAT YOU CAN, and TAKE WHAT YOU NEED.

We invite all our community members to make use of this wonderful resource as needed. During the month of December there is a focus on stocking "Christmas Dinner" items. Donations may be dropped off directly at the fridge or by contacting the team at the below email.

More information can be found on our facebook page @ [PEI Community Fridge~West River Team | Facebook](#) or by emailing: westriverfridge@gmail.com.

Acceptable food items include:

- Fresh produce (fruits and vegetables)
- Cooked meats
- Dry and canned goods
- Drinks
- Non-food items (hygiene products, diapers, baby formula, etc).

Acceptable items IF labelled with a date:

- Cheese
- Eggs
- Milk (dairy or non-dairy)
- Bread (gluten or gluten free)
- Cooked meals (only acceptable if from a licensed establishment)

Not-Acceptable items:

- No seafood or raw meat
- No half eaten, rotten or open-package items
- No expired foods or homemade meals

- No alcohol
- No moldy produce
- No opened or dented cans
- No toys or toys

