

Westwood Primary School

February 1, 2024



Principal: Sherry Flynn
Vice-Principal: Lynette MacKinnon

Dates to Remember

- February 12th – 16th - Staff Appreciation Week
- February 14th – Love and Kindness Celebration 12:30 pm (1C, 1E, 1G & 1H)
- February 15th – Love and Kindness Celebration 12:30 pm (1A, 1B & 1D)
- February 16th – Winter Wellness Day
- February 19th - Islander Day – Statutory Holiday (**NO SCHOOL**)
- February 20th – 23rd - Diversity Week
- February 28th – Pink Shirt Day
- March 7th – Parent Teacher Conferences (Evening)
- March 8th - Parent- Teacher Conferences (Day) (**NO SCHOOL**)
- March 14th – Report Cards

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parents/Guardians will be able to log on and book parent-teacher conferences on February 23rd. We will send out an email reminder to parents later in the month. Parents are able to book parent-teacher conference times for students attending both Westwood Primary and Eliot River Elementary Schools at the same time. **We recommend that you allow at least for 15 minutes between multiple interviews when booking.** A link to the Parent-Teacher Conferences Scheduler is on our main web page. <https://eliotriver.schoolappointments.com/admin/>

Emergency Early Closure

Occasionally schools need to close during the day because of emergencies beyond our control or poor weather conditions. There will be an announcement on local radio stations in the event of an emergency early closure. In the event of an emergency early closure, we follow the **emergency early closure plan** you indicated at the beginning of the school year (yellow form). We do not follow any bus notes that may have been sent in that day.

Please note: During an emergency early closure we are unable to phone individual children's homes, so it is critical that we have this emergency bus plan on file. Calling the school is not an option during an emergency early closure because we may have had to evacuate the school or you may not be able to get through to the school, as the phone lines are busy. We do not take calls for pick-ups as we do not hold children at the school during emergency early closures. If you are able to arrive at the school prior to the dismissal of the buses we will call your child(ren) up to the office for pick-up.

Student Drop Off

Please make sure when you enter the Student Drop Off Area that you are pulling your vehicle up as far as you can towards the stop sign to allow additional vehicles to fill in behind you along the curb at the front of the school. Please ensure your child is ready to exit the vehicle quickly when you pull up to the drop off area (jackets are on and back packs ready to go). **If your child needs extra time to get ready to exit the vehicle, please park in the new designated parking lot area (tennis courts) and walk your child to the sidewalk.** The drop off traffic can get backed up and it creates a safety concern when students do not exit their vehicles quickly. **We ask that students do not get dropped off by the garbage cans or staff parking lot, as there is a great deal of staff traffic in this area in the morning and the lanes are very narrow there. This poses a safety risk if people are parked or pulled over in this area.** Students should be getting dropped off either in the drop off area or parents are parking in the designated parking lot (tennis courts) and walking their children to the sidewalk.

The Student Drop Off Area is a **continuous flow area** – there is no parking permitted along the front of the school. There is no passing in this area and please do not move the pylons we have placed out front. Thank-you for your cooperation and keeping students safe.

Bus Safety

Our bus drivers work hard every day to get our students to and from school safely. 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 discussions, 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.
- 8) Please make sure that your children are ready and waiting outside at their bus stop 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 and helping our bus drivers keep our students safe.*

Medications

Reminder to all parents: if you are dropping off medication for your child to take at school the medication must be **pre-measured** and in a labeled container with your child's name. As well, a Medication Form must be completed for Westwood to administer medication. All medications are kept and administered in the office. Please do not send medications with your child on the school bus. All medications should be dropped off at the school.

Milk Orders/Hot Lunches Program

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.*

March orders – Deadline is Sunday, March 3

April orders – Deadline is Sunday, March 31

May orders – Deadline is Sunday, April 28

June orders – Deadline is Sunday, June 2

Parents are able to check their Hot Lunch Accounts to see what they have ordered, if they have paid, etc. Sometimes parents order on the wrong month and they are able to check this at home. To view your account transactions, log into your Hot Lunch account. From the menu at the top of the page, choose **Orders**, then **Account Transactions**. This will give you a summary of your transactions for the year.

2023 - 2024 Kindergarten Registration Reminder



We understand that there are still several children in the area who have not registered for 2024 - 2025 Kindergarten. If you know of someone who has an eligible child, please pass this message along to them: All children who will be 5 years old by December 31st, 2024 are eligible to attend Kindergarten in the 2024 - 2025 school year. You can register your child by dropping in to the school between 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m (Monday-Friday). You must have

documents that show proof of birth, as well as, address verification at the time of registration.

Planning for the 2024 - 2025 school year is underway, so knowing the size of our 2024-2025 Kindergarten enrollment is crucial to assisting us with staffing needs.

Winter Weather

Cold winter weather is upon us. Students **must** bring clothing appropriate for the weather. Please make sure your child has mittens (preferably 2 pairs), hats, boots and snow 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.

Diversity Week

Westwood has students from a variety of cultural backgrounds. We want to celebrate our cultural diversity during the week of February 20th – 23rd. We would love to have our students and/or their families share their cultures with their classes. Students could share a cultural dance, tradition, language, clothing, craft, etc. Students who are interested in sharing a part of their culture with their class or school should contact their homeroom teacher.

Westwood Home & School

On behalf of Westwood Primary School we would like to say a huge welcome and thanks to our new Home & School Executive.

Co-chair & co-treasurers - Sara Beaton and Emily Cannon

Vice chair/president - Jennie Arsenault

Secretary - Allison Gaudet

Social Media - Lorraine Jamieson

Staff Appreciation Week

Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week across PEI is coming up and runs from February 12th – 16th, 2024.

The Westwood Home and School Association is encouraging parents and students to share their appreciation to the excellent staff at our school by treating them to lots of goodies throughout the week. Please review the available slots below and click on the button to sign up by February 7th (feel free to choose more than one). Here is the link to the sign-up genius

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0C4DAEAA2EA4F58-47517272-teacher#/>

Treats can be store bought or homemade but remember that all donations must be peanut/tree nut and kiwi free. Treats can be delivered to the School Office on the morning of your chosen day between 7:30-9:00am. In the event of a storm day closure, please feel free to bring in your treat on the next day! If using a reusable container (preferably not glass) make sure to label with your child's name and class so it can be returned to you.

Thank you for your support in treating the great Staff at Westwood Primary!

Breakfast Program

The Breakfast Program runs each day with the help of volunteers, from 8:05 – 8:30. Please note there is no Breakfast Program when there is an hour delay.

We gratefully accept donations of plain or multigrain Cheerios, apples, yogurt tubes, baby carrots, bananas, cucumbers, whole wheat bread, strawberry jam and margarine.

Library News

LEGO Donations Welcome: Our grade two classes have been participating in our new LEGO Engineers Club at lunch time in the library. We have been generously gifted with several LEGO sets but we are always looking for more. If you have any collecting dust, we'd be grateful to put them to good use. Our students have been getting really creative with their free-builds. Check out the great builds on our school website <https://sites.google.com/cloud.edu.pe.ca/westwoodlibrary/home?pli=1>

Music News

Love & Kindness Assembly: Our **Grade 1's** will be spreading "Love & Kindness" in assemblies **February 14th & 15th**. Performances are approximately 30 minutes. Parents of Grade 1 students are invited to join us in the **Multipurpose Room at 12:30pm** on the following dates:

Wednesday, February 14th

1C (Nicole Hazelwood-McGee)

1E (Chrissy McCarville)

1G (Krista Dumville)

1H (Robyn Weeks)

Thursday, February 15th

1D (Christa Schurman)

1A (Jennifer Kelly)

1B (Kelly Stewart)

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

Ms. Dahn: <https://sites.google.com/cloud.edu.pe.ca/westwoodmusicroom/home>

Shelley Hanson & Dorothy Dahn

Provincial Home & School News

Home and School News, February 2024

Presidents' Annual Reports

President's Annual Reports are due **February 29**. All reports **will be included in the 71st Annual Book of Reports**. Include activities for this school year, starting in Sept. through to the end of June. You can get tips on how to write your report by reading other reports in last year's [2023 Book of Reports](https://peihsf.ca/agm/) at: <https://peihsf.ca/agm/>. Use a blog format by listing each month and related activities in bullet form. Use the Federation's new [President's Annual Report 2024 Google Form](#). If you need help, contact the office peihsf@gov.pe.ca / 902-620-3186

Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week

Celebrate Teachers/Staff Appreciation Week, February 12-16, 2024. Home and School Associations plan ways to thank school staff during Teacher/Staff Appreciation week. Start now. Brainstorm ideas to thank school staff.

Home and School Volunteer Awards

The Federation's Volunteer of the Year Award recognizes one volunteer's significant contributions to helping volunteers in their local school communities. The Life Member acknowledges service to the provincial Federation. Associations may nominate Home and School volunteers for these awards by the deadline: **March 3**. Criteria and Form are online at: <https://peihsf.ca/awards/>

SAVE THE DATE: April 13, 2024

The P.E.I. Home and School Federation's **Annual General Meeting** will be on **April 13, 2024**, at the Rodd Charlottetown Hotel. The Federation office will mail the AGM package to presidents and information will be posted at: <https://peihsf.ca/agm/> Plan to register 2-5 delegates to represent your school.

What is the role of educators and parents in the education of students?

Parent and educators work together to support and improve the learning, development and overall

health of children and youth. We play major roles in the educational success of students. Students need a positive learning experience to succeed in school: one providing support, motivation, and quality instruction. With the increasing demands on the family, parental support in the education of students extends beyond the school building. It's a shared responsibility! You really can bolster a child's education by creating a supportive learning environment at home. You can also do so by becoming more involved in the school community. The research says that parent and family involvement creates better outcomes for students. <https://www.prodigygame.com/main-en/blog/parental-involvement-in-education/>

~**Pink Shirt Day** Canada 2024 is on **February 28th** **Let's work together to end bullying and spread kindness!** A new Pink Shirt Project for high schools urges youth to create a kindness inspired project for their school or community. Students conceive of and implement their very own ideas for spreading good! For more information go to: <https://pinkshirtdaycanada.ca/>

~**Early Childhood Development Association Handle with Care course** = provides parents, educators and all caregivers the understanding of children's social and emotional needs, as well as understanding and developing their own. Programs: BGC Charlottetown, Jan. 30th 6:00-8:00; Charlottetown Royalty Centre Rm 212, starting Feb. 5th 11:30-1:30; Stratford Town Hall, Southport Rm, starting Feb. 7th 6:30-8:30 pm. Materials/refreshments provided. Contact Sara MacDougall to register hwcpei@ecdaofpei.ca or 902-368-1870.

Community News

Winter Indoor Soccer Programs

Delta Soccer is offering winter indoor programs that will run between February 18th and April 5th. Programs consist of six, 1-hour sessions and there are options for participants born between 2011 and 2020. For program descriptions, schedules and to register go to deltasoccer.ca.

Oscar Waugh Friends Foundation

Please join us to honor Oscar on Friday, February 9th!!! ❤️ At the UPEI Sports Center from 7:30-8:00pm and stay for the Mens Panthers Basketball game, (8-9:30pm) to help us cheer on our Panthers team!!!

**The Mens Basketball Panthers team will be dedicating the remainder of their season in honor of Oscar! 🥰

**There will also be a presentation of a fundraising cheque to our family for the Oscar Waugh Friends Foundation charity! ❤️

https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid02PawkwvTcAYMQoZzWpCbm6DwFkDUsgJa4oz4zNnarvGpPU28zNaANkc9qJAKjaFEI&id=615136284&mibextid=ZbWKwL&paipv=0&eav=AfBLCNCKxddA6OH1XLanihINnBgm3_r7bZFqecoNxEn_33JbmEbiRbPQ9enbsWg4HLM&_rdr

Happy Valentine's Day from Westy

