

Westwood Primary School Newsletter

March 1, 2024



Principal: Sherry Flynn
Vice-Principal: Lynette MacKinnon

Dates to Remember

March 7th – Parent-Teacher Conferences (Evening)

March 8th – Parent-Teacher Conferences (Day) **(NO SCHOOL)**

March 14th – Report Cards

March 18th – 21st – Westwood French Week

March 21st – French Week Assembly

March 22nd – Observance of Stat Holiday – Good Friday **(NO SCHOOL)**

March 25th – 29th – March Break **(NO SCHOOL)**

April 1st – Easter Monday **(NO SCHOOL)**

April 2nd – First Day Back after March Break

April 4th – Kindergarten French Immersion Meeting @ 6:00 pm (for students enrolled in the 2024-2025 year)



KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

CALLING ALL PARENTS... DO YOU KNOW ANYONE ELIGIBLE FOR KINDERGARTEN FOR SEPTEMBER?

Westwood Primary has now started the staffing process for our classes for next year... **HOWEVER, we have noticed that we are missing a HUGE number of our Kindergarten Registrations!** We need accurate registration numbers in order to have the correct number of teachers and support staff hired.

If your child is turning 5 years old before December 31, 2024 please stop by Westwood Primary School to register for Kindergarten between 9:00am and 4:00 pm Monday through Thursday.

Please bring with you the following:

- Piece of government issued ID with proof of the child's age (Birth Certificate, Health Card, Passport, etc.)
- Verification of Address (E.g. Utility Bill, etc.)

If you have any questions please call the school at 902-368-6855

School Office Hours

Please note that the school office hours for Westwood Primary School are from **8:00 am to 4:00 pm** Monday through Friday. Phones are only answered at these times. Our administrative assistants would be more than happy to assist you. Thank you.

Student Lunches - Cutlery



Reminder to families that you need to make sure you are packing cutlery in your child's lunch daily. The PEI School Lunch Program and Westwood Primary School **do not** provide cutlery.

Kindness

Recognizing the real and various challenges that many people are facing each it is important to remember to be compassionate and to show kindness to our school community; staff, students and parents. In a world that is fast paced and in a rush, let's be mindful and model the positive interactions we want for our students. Small acts of kindness can be the light in someone's day. Kindness is the contagion we want to keep

spreading. If you ever need help, please do not hesitate to reach out to our school counsellors. A huge shout out to the 2F class who made Valentine cards for our breakfast program volunteers to show our appreciation of all they do to help the school. Thank you 😊

Music Department

French Week Assembly: French classes will be presenting an assembly for students on Thursday, March 21st to celebrate French Week.

Spring Concert: Grade 2 Classes will be sharing our favourite musical, "Pajama Party" for the Spring Concert.

Ms. Hanson's music classes (2A, 2C, 2F, 2H) on Tuesday, April 30th

Ms. Dahn's music classes ((2B, 2D, 2E, 2G, 2I) on Thursday, May 2nd

The concert will be in the school gymnasium at 1:00pm and 7:00pm each day. More information to come.

Music Adventures: Grade 3 classes are invited to attend Music Adventures for "Recorder Rock Band". It's so much fun to see our rock stars in action!

Keeping Our School Healthy

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.

Thank you for working with us to keep our school healthy and safe for everyone.

Westwood Primary School

PEI Easter Seals Fundraiser

It is time for us to begin our fundraising for the Easter Seals Campaign!

PEI Easter Seals is a registered charity committed to fully enhancing the quality of life, self-esteem and self-determination of Islanders of all ages living with disabilities.

We have some really fun Friday's coming up for our students. Students can bring in a Loonie or any monetary donation on our Easter Seals Fun-draiser Fridays! (PLEASE NOTE: some of the activities have been adjusted)

March 7th - Jersey Day

March 15th – Silly Hair Day

March 21st – PJ Day

April 5th - Inside Out Day

Thank you for supporting Westwood Primary School in our fundraising for the PEI Easter Seals Campaign!!

Breakfast Program

Westwood's breakfast program runs each day with the help of some very dedicated volunteers. Please note there is no breakfast program when there is an hour delay.

Bus Safety

We encourage all families to review bus safety with their children. Our bus drivers do their best to address issues that arise on the bus but this is challenging while driving the bus. Please speak with your child(ren) about sitting in their seat and staying seated for the entire bus ride, using a quiet or whisper voice, keeping hands and feet on their own bodies, and being kind to others.

Hot Lunches

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.

Absences

Parents and guardians are reminded if your child(ren) is going to be absent from school to please contact the school to inform them of the absence. The school is available to take calls between 8:00 am – 4:00 pm. It is important that we are logging accurate information regarding absences and this time of year we are also monitoring the level of illness in our schools. Thank you

Dressing for the Weather

Spring is on its way! However the weather remains brisk and cold on some days and rather wet on others. Please ensure your child is dressed warmly for the weather with hats, mitts, scarf, rubber boots, warm winter coat and snow/splash pants. Please be sure to pack an extra set of clothes in the event that your child gets wet and a plastic bag to put wet clothing in.

A.M. Drop Off & P.M. Pick-Up Reminder

Children may be dropped off any time after 8:05 a.m. If you'll be dropping your children off at school, we ask that you drive slowly on the inside of the yellow barriers and drop children off in front of the school. **Children should NOT be exiting vehicles that are not pulled up to the curb.**

For safety and courtesy, we ask that you drive your vehicle to the end of the drop-off lane before stopping to make the drop off. **Please have your child exit the vehicle on the sidewalk side** for safety reasons. Students are expected to enter the school via their hollow door when they arrive in the morning. **The main door is the entry door for Kindergarten students only unless otherwise directed by staff on early morning duty.**

There is NO PARKING OR PASSING at any time in the drop off lane. This is for drop off ONLY.

There is NO PARKING at the side of the school by the garbage cans. This is a drive through lane that must be kept free.

Please use the NEW additional parking area in the old tennis courts if you are walking your child into the school or dropping something off to the school during student arrival times. Thank you.

Provincial Home & School News

Home and School News, March 2024

 **School Calendar 2024-2025**

To help families and school staff plan for the year ahead, the province has released the 2024-2025 school year calendar, which includes 182 instructional days. Find the school calendar online at

<https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/education-and-early-years/2024-2025-school-calendar>

Mark your calendar --- 71st AGM & Conference

The **P.E.I. Home and School Federation** is pleased to announce that its A.G.M. &

Conference 2024 will take place on **Saturday, April 13**, at the Rodd Charlottetown Hotel, Charlottetown.

REGISTER online at <https://peihsf.ca/agm/>

By the early registration deadline, **March 21.**

Ensure your school is represented.

Speakers will include Hon. Natalie Jameson, Minister of Education and Early Years, Hon. Antionette Perry, Lieutenant Governor of P.E.I., and round table experts, who will present on Suicide Prevention, Dept. Education's Inclusion Report, COMPASS 2023-24 Youth Survey

results, What is the role of an E.A.? What is Foundations? and Youth & Sports Nutrition.

2024 Resolutions

Proposed 2024 resolutions have been circulated to Presidents with directions to discuss these at a Home and School meeting. Use each resolution as a springboard for discussing the topic; then

hold a vote, resolution by resolution, to determine how your school's delegates will vote at the Annual Meeting. Your voting delegates can vote "in favour," "opposed," or they can present amendments. 2024 resolutions are online at <https://peihsf.ca/resolutions/> For further information, call 902-620-3186.

Volunteer Awards

Do you know an amazing Home and School volunteer in your school? You can nominate this person for the Federation's Volunteer of the Year Award. This award recognizes one person annually for their efforts in their local school. Submit nominations to the Federation office by March 8. Find details: <https://peihsf.ca/awards/>

Board of Directors Nominations

You can allow your name to stand for a provincial Home and School Federation two-year term? Vacant positions include President, Vice President, and Directors for the Charlottetown Rural, Colonel Gray, Kinkora, Montague, and Morell Families of Schools. The Federation is the umbrella organization of Home and Schools across Prince Edward Island and is overseen by a volunteer board elected by delegates at the A.G.M. Members are encouraged to nominate suitable candidates who, in your opinion, have the necessary qualifications to do the work of the provincial Federation. Find the 2024 Nomination Form at: <https://peihsf.ca/agm/>



Parental Involvement


In children's education, parental involvement is a broad term that can take many forms inside and outside school. So, what role do parents play in education? Depending on schedules, parents can help **their children by participating in school functions or obligations, advocating for the school and improving their children's schoolwork. Examples of getting involved at home include** helping with homework, modelling desired behavior, providing ongoing encouragement, monitoring homework completion, and creating a time and space for study.

Parents **can be more involved in their child's school by:**

- Communicating with teachers regularly

- Volunteering for school activities
- Attending parent-teacher interviews
- Helping with the governance of a Home and School

 **Great Big Crunch!** Get your apples  or other crunchy fruit or vegetable ready to crunch LOUD! On March 7, thousands will gather in person at their school, at work, and online with students, friends, and colleagues to highlight the importance of eating healthy food at school. You are invited to host a crunch in your school or workplace OR join the Virtual Great Big Crunch at 1:00 pm E.S.T. Register for the event [here](#). Crunch to celebrate healthy school food. Find more info at: <https://www.healthyschoolfood.ca/great-big-crunch>

 **Youth Vaping Workshop Opportunity on March 13 from 6:00 to 7:30 pm** at the Charlottetown Library. This session is open to parents/staff who work with youth. Participants will gain knowledge from local findings, share their own experiences, discuss opportunities to reduce youth vaping, and learn about mental health and addiction connections. Sign up at: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/youth-vaping-cessation-workshop-charlottetown-evening-tickets-816837863037>.