

# Westwood Primary School Newsletter

November 4, 2024



Principal: Sherry Flynn  
Vice-Principal: Colleen Taylor

## Dates to Remember

- November 4<sup>th</sup>** – Lifetouch Photo Retakes Day
- November 6<sup>th</sup>** – Remembrance Day Assembly for Students
- November 7<sup>th</sup>** – PEITF Convention/CUPE Convention (**NO SCHOOL**)
- November 8<sup>th</sup>** – PEITF Convention/CUPE Convention (**NO SCHOOL**)
- November 11<sup>th</sup>** - Remembrance Day Observed (**NO SCHOOL**)
- November 21<sup>st</sup>** – Parent Teacher Conferences (**EVENING**)
- November 22<sup>nd</sup>** – Parent Teacher Conferences (**DAY - NO SCHOOL**)
- December 9<sup>th</sup>** – Report Cards

## Attendance Matters - Starting the Day Off on a Positive Note

Being on time for school has a huge impact on learning. The best time for students to arrive is between 8:05am – 8:20am. This allows students the time to settle in and participate in the morning breakfast program before the FIRST BELL rings at 8:20am.

When the FIRST BELL rings students exit the breakfast program and return to class to get ready to start at 8:30am when the FINAL BELL rings. It is very important for the students to be ready to start their day at 8:30am. There are often announcements at this time, classes are moving to their specialist classes (Music, Physical Education or Library) and some students are participating in a variety of interventions, such as resource support, consulting/working with outside agency specialists such as Speech & Language Pathologist, Occupational Therapists, Counselling Consultants and/or Physiotherapists.

Sometimes when children arrive late and do not have the time to settle in and get ready to start the day or their class has already left for a specialist, it can cause confusion and stress... sometimes leading to a rough start to the day or dysregulated behaviours.

In just a few weeks, schools across PEI will be holding parent-teacher interviews. It is a time to talk to your child(ren)'s teacher about their academics and the connections they are making at school. Research shows that having a greater sense of belonging is associated with higher academic performance, persistence, and positive mental health.

There will, of course, be times when your child has a dental or medical appointment and may arrive late! ***If your child does happen to arrive late for school, please walk your child into the school and sign them in.*** Thanks!

Thank you parents and guardians for reinforcing the importance of students attending and engaging in school.

## Growth Mindset at School

Westwood Primary School is a Growth Mindset school. We focus on Growth Mindset and Character Building with our students with the belief that all students are capable of learning and growth. Growth mindset is the belief that a person's intelligence and abilities are not fixed traits, but rather all students are capable of academic achievement with effort, perseverance and the right supports.

As a school, we are asking for your partnership in this journey. You can help by valuing growth and improvement that you see in your children every day. Here are some ways you can promote Growth Mindset at home:

- Encourage your child(ren) to tackle challenges and take risks at school
- Praise your child(ren) for the *effort* they put into learning new things

- Communicate with the school around your child's learning
- Emphasize *effort* and *perseverance* in activities your child is involved in. (For example: "I am proud of how much effort you put in to your soccer game" versus "I am proud of how many goals you scored")

We welcome you joining us on our Growth Mindset journey at Westwood Primary School. The home and school partnership is vital for student success.

## Westwood Primary School Parent-Teacher Conferences

Westwood Primary and Eliot River Elementary Schools use On-Line Bookings for Parent-Teacher Conferences for November 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. A link is located on our school web page where you can register and book parent-teacher conference times. <https://eliotriver.schoolappointments.com/admin/>

**The Parent Teacher Conference Schedule is open for Parents to book appointments on Friday, November 8th, at 8 a.m. and close on Friday, November 15th, at 10 p.m**

We would like **ALL** parents/guardians to go online and create an account and book your child(ren)'s time(s).

Parents/Guardians are able to book children at both schools at the same time. **Please leave approximately 15-30 minutes between appointment times between the two schools.** This will allow for you to get to the next appointment at the other school.

For instructions on how to set up an account:

- Click on link → <https://eliotriver.schoolappointments.com/admin/>
- Click on the **Help** button (top left of the page)
- Select **Parent Instruction Guide**
- Follow the information.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school between 8:00 am – 4:00 pm.

## Bus Safety

Please review bus safety expectations with your child on a regular basis. Students should be sitting seat to seat, back to back, staying seated for the entire bus ride, using quiet voices and keeping hands and feet to themselves.

## Westwood Primary School Christmas Families Project

Westwood Primary School supports a number of our Westwood families at Christmas time. We join together with local church groups of all denominations, local businesses and organizations, and staff of Westwood and Westwood families to help families in need during the festive season. Last year we supported approximately 50 children. This help can be in the form of gift cards, monetary donations, toys or clothing for children. We also have a donation button on our HOTLUNCH menu should you wish to contribute that way. Please contact Cindy Wood, School Counsellor, at 902 368-6855 if your family would like to contribute. Thanks for your support!

## Parenting Resources

Our Home & School has purchased a number of resources for parents. Some titles include:

*The Explosive Child* by Ross Greene

*Secrets of Discipline* by Ronald Morrish

*The Unwritten Rules of Friendship: Simple Strategies to Help Your Child Make Friends*

These resources may be signed out from our school library. A complete list of titles can be found by searching "parenting resources" in our school library collection. You can find a link to the school library collection on the school webpage.

## Kindergarten Registration 2025-2026

Please share in your parent information memo/newsletter/dojo that Kindergarten Registration for next year is now under way.

- Parents are asked to register prior to **November 22, 2024.**
- Children must be 5 years of age by December 31, 2025
- Children should be registered at the school they are zoned for
- Parents are asked to bring a government issued piece of ID verifying the child's proof of age: such as Passport, Birth Certificate, Health Card, etc.
- Verification of Proof of Address must also be provided: such as a current utility bill.

**NOTE: Registrations at the school are between 9:00AM – 2:00 PM and 2:45PM – 3:45PM. This is to allow for office staff to deal with the arrival and dismissal of students.**

### Thanks to Our Amazing Bus Drivers

Westwood bus drivers would like to thank parents for being considerate of the buses when they drop off and pick up their children. The drivers appreciate that parents are leaving a lane for buses to enter and exit the school. Thank-you! 😊

### Fall Weather

Fall has arrived... parents/guardians are reminded to ensure that your child(ren) is appropriately dressed for the cool and wet weather we have been seeing on some days. Please don't forget the hats, mitts, boots and splash pants. We head outside in all kinds of weather so please be sure to be dressed for the weather. It is very helpful to have a change of clothes in the child's kitbag (they can be left at school too) so that we do not have to call home for clothes. It is important to have all clothing labeled with the child's name. We have a huge amount of lost and found items every year that go unclaimed.

### Westwood School Apparel

LOOKING FOR A GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFT! Get your Westwood Primary School Apparel. Place your order by DECEMBER 1<sup>st</sup> 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](https://allstarcresting.ca/westwood_apparel/shop/home?fbclid=IwAR2FePS16o-Hth57j6ALPJY4SMhFQc1vWRxM3Te6tK4YelanwvkuL4wfn2g)

### PEI Healthy School Food Program

If you haven't ready signed up for the Provincial Healthy School Lunch Program, here is the link: <https://www.peischoolfood.org/>. This is a Pay What You Can service to a maximum of \$5.75 per meal.

### Breakfast Donations

The Westwood breakfast program kindly accepts donations of Cheerios (not Honey Nut), jam, margarine, apples, baby carrots and yogurt tubes. There is also the option for a monetary donation on the Hot Lunches site.

### Westwood Primary Home and School Association Fundraiser

Westwood Home and School Association are fundraising to support our school's classroom projects and initiatives through an ONLINE Anne of Green Gables Chocolate Fundraiser. The online ordering closes on Tuesday, November 5<sup>th</sup> at midnight. All items purchased will be available for pick up during parent teacher interviews on November 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### Westwood Home & School Association – NEW Facebook Page

Do you know that our Westwood Home & School Association now has a NEW Facebook page. Click on the link below and like the page so that you are kept up to date on the newest information from our Westwood Home & School Association.

Link <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61564576327421>

## Conversational French for Parents in Kindergarten and Grade 1 French Immersion

Are you a parent/guardian of a Kindergarten or Grade 1 student currently enrolled in the Early French Immersion Program at Westwood Primary School and are you interested in learning some conversational French?

This year two of our amazing French Immersion teachers are offering beginner French conversational classes for parents of students in Kindergarten and Grade 1. The classes will be hosted by Madame Robyn Hoheisel-Weeks and Madame Kristy Dewey.

**When?...** These classes will be held once monthly with the two first dates being Friday November 15<sup>th</sup> and Friday December 13<sup>th</sup> from 5:45-6:30.

**Where?...** These classes will be held at Westwood School.

**Do I bring my child?** These classes are just for parents however we will have childcare available for your Westwood student should you need it. Bluefield students will be volunteering and hosting the students in the library for a French movie.

**How do I sign up?** If you are interested in attending, please cut the bottom part of this form and return it to your child's homeroom teacher. Following the first session we will compile an email list so we can communicate via email moving forward.

**I have more questions....** Please don't hesitate to contact Robyn at [rmhoheisel@edu.pe.ca](mailto:rmhoheisel@edu.pe.ca) if you have any further questions.

## Music News

### Remembrance Day Assembly

Students from Grade 2 Music Adventures are performing songs and poems in a message of peace for our Remembrance Day Assembly, Wednesday November 6. This assembly is for students only.

### Grade 3 Holiday Musical

This year Grade 3 students will be presenting How to Train Your Reindeer (How to Fly!) on Wednesday, December 18 (Storm Date December 19) at 1:00pm and 7:00pm. This musical is full of rocking tunes and an inspiring message. Students have been sent home with a QR code with information. Please contact your child's music teacher for any questions.

Ms. Dahn - [dhdahn@edu.pe.ca](mailto:dhdahn@edu.pe.ca) Ms. Hanson - [slhanson@edu.pe.ca](mailto:slhanson@edu.pe.ca)

## Volunteering at School

Westwood Primary is always looking for volunteers for a variety of opportunities at our school. Everything from reading with students, to helping run clubs, school wide events, field trips, etc. We want you to become involved in your child's school! Although... life is busy and complicated... you are probably wonder where you will find the time and why it is so important. There are so many important benefits to volunteering at school—both for you and your child. If you're wondering, "Why should I volunteer?", here are a few ideas I'd like to share:

### Volunteering Makes a Difference in your Child's Education

Children whose parents are involved in their schools do better. Research has shown that children of a school volunteer make better grades and perform better. They're also better behaved, have better attendance, and are more likely to graduate and continue their education post secondary. The more parents participate at school, the more successful their children will be.

### Volunteering Allows You to Spend More Time with Your Child

Our children spend A LOT of time at school. Becoming a school volunteer gives you the opportunity to share in school-related experiences. It gives you more in common. It also allows you to be a fly on the wall and see your children in a different environment. It's rewarding to watch them as they put all the skills you've taught them into action.

### Volunteering Helps Create Community

I know it sounds cliché, but raising children takes a village. Volunteering at school is a great way to connect with other parents and create a circle of adult friends. Over time, these friends grow to know and love your children. Never underestimate the power of community in raising children.

### Volunteering Allows You to Get to Know Teachers and Staff

Your child's teacher and school staff are your teammates in parenting during the school year. They have a tremendous impact on children, both academically and socially. Having a presence at school is a great way to get to know them better and show them your support.

### Volunteering Makes Schools Better

Schools that have a strong school volunteer base do better. There are so many demands placed on schools with limited resources. Any volunteer effort can help bridge that gap. Supporting the school by taking things off the plate of teachers, administration, and staff frees them up to do what they do best—educate our children.

### Volunteering Allows You to Use Your Strengths

Why volunteer with kids? Volunteering is a great way to showcase your strengths. Look for opportunities that are within your wheelhouse. Using the skills that come naturally to you makes things easier (and often more enjoyable). If you love baking, sign up to help with the bake sale or start a baking club. Volunteering will feel less burdensome, and your natural talents will be appreciated.

### Volunteering is Good for Your Health

I can't share the benefits of volunteering without mentioning that it's good for your health. Research shows that people who volunteer live longer, have lower stress levels, and are generally healthier. You can't beat an opportunity that allows you to spend more time with your children AND decreases your stress. This is another great answer to the question of how to get parents to volunteer at school.

To add your name to our volunteer list please contact the school with your name and a phone number and email where you can be reached. Please share an area of interest that you may have. Please note, that a criminal reference check is required in all Public Schools in order to volunteer. This check can take up to a week or more to process. The school will provide you with a letter to submit for the reference check. The criminal reference check is valid for 2 years. We hope you will consider volunteering at Westwood Primary 😊 After all... you are a big part of our team in educating our children!

## Home & School News

### **FREE Home & School Leadership Training - Sign up by Nov. 1st**

The Federation hosts two Home & School Leadership Training Workshops annually which are designed to improve Home & School volunteers' effectiveness and parent engagement in public education. Sessions open to any Home & School executive & other school volunteers -- parent, teacher and student.

**Monday, Nov. 4, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m., Ellerslie Elementary School**

**Tuesday, Nov. 5, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m., Eliot River Elementary School**

**SIGN-UP by Nov. 1st to [ssmedleyjay@gov.pe.ca](mailto:ssmedleyjay@gov.pe.ca) or 902-620-3186. FREE. Refreshments provided.**

**Thank you** for Ellerslie and Eliot River Home and Schools for hosting the workshops.

### **Reminder to pay 2024-2025 Membership Fees**

PEI Home and School Association **membership fees are due: Nov. 1.** Remind Treasurers that they can pay fees by e-transfer to [peihsf@gov.pe.ca](mailto:peihsf@gov.pe.ca) or mail cheques to the Federation office.

### **School Crossing Guard Award**

The P.E.I. Home and School Federation Awards Programme recognizes deserving individuals (crossing guards, school bus drivers, school staff, and volunteers) in P.E.I.'s school communities. The first of our awards in the 2024-25 school year is the Crossing Guard Award. **The nomination package for the Crossing Guard Award is due in the Federation office on Nov. 8.**

What is the process? Your Home and School can show appreciation for a school crossing guard by nominating the individual for a recognition award. Associations discuss and approve nominating individuals, request support letters, and submit nomination packages to the federation office by the deadline.

The package will include the Home and School president's cover letter and support letters from others in your school community, including the principal, other teachers, parents, and students.

Tip: Young students can draw a picture of their crossing guard. If you have questions, contact the Federation office about its awards program at 902-620-3186. You will find the nomination form at <https://peihsf.ca/awards/>

### **Parent Leadership Grants**

The Federation's Parent Leadership Project grants for up to \$500 are available to Home and School Associations. Projects are to focus on Parents and their leadership and engagement in school communities. [Click here for Application](#). For more information, contact: [peihsf@gov.pe.ca](mailto:peihsf@gov.pe.ca) / 902-620-3186. **Submission deadline Nov. 8th.**

### **What's on your Home and School meeting's agenda?**

1. Ask the principal for a school report.
2. Inquire about integrated inquiry-based curriculum, Gr. 5 pilot.
3. Invite a PSB staff person to talk about the recent PSB school study review.
4. Involve everyone around the meeting table. List committees and ways for volunteers to help.
5. Motions are required for all financial decisions; use basic parliamentary procedures.
6. Sign up for Home and School Volunteer Leadership Training workshops coming up on the Nov. 4th (Ellerslie School) or Nov. 5th (Eliot River School)

### **Effecting Change through Resolutions**

It is useful and practical to effect change by using a formal resolution writing process. Home and School Associations are asked to consider presenting an issue in education that is affecting the learning success of students to influence change at the provincial level. For your reference, follow this link to Federation approved resolutions <https://peihsf.ca/resolutions/> More on this topic in the December newsletter. The 2025 Resolution submission deadline: Jan. 31.

### **More school community news...**

~ **Dyslexia - Parents and Kids Info Night** - Nov. 7th, 6:00 PM at BDC Place, 119 Kent St., Suite 510, 5th Floor, Charlottetown. Alicia Smith, Dyslexia Canada, will present new resources and help with connections with parents, supports and encouragement. Register by Nov. 5 to [tammynorden@gmail.com](mailto:tammynorden@gmail.com)

~ **Donagh Regional School, Craft Fair** - Nov 16th, 9 AM-3 pm & Nov 17th, 12 - 4 pm. Over 80 tables, Raffles, 50/50, and fudge sale! Entrance is by donation and all monies raised goes towards phase 3 of the playground upgrades! Contact: [annamariarsenault@gmail.com](mailto:annamariarsenault@gmail.com)

~ **Bluefield High School Christmas Craft Fair** - Nov. 15th, 5:30-9:00 pm & Nov. 16th, 10 am – 5 pm. Over 100 vendors: decorations, pottery, fibre arts, candles, jewelry, bake sale, canteen with hot cider, door prizes and raffles. Bluefield Band students will be selling \$25 vouchers for poinsettias...buyers will pick up at VK Greenhouses, Charlottetown or purchase poinsettias

online at: <https://www.vankampens.ca/pages/bluefield-high-school-band-trip> Admission is 3\$ / Children under 12 are free.

~ **Are you a school food volunteer?** Your non-profit organization is required to have at least one organizer or volunteer present during food preparation who has completed the Food Safety Training or has a Certificate of Attendance from the Volunteer Food Safety Presentation offered by Environmental Health. Register for a FREE presentation at:

<https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/service/volunteer-food-safety-presentations>. Note:

*May be cancelled if the minimum # of participants has not been reached.*

