

Westwood Primary School Newsletter

March 3, 2025



Principal: Sherry Flynn
Vice-Principal: Colleen Taylor

Dates to Remember

- March 3rd – 7th - School Book Fair (held in Library)
- March 6th – Parent-Teacher Conferences (Evening)
- March 7th – Parent-Teacher Conferences (Day) (**NO SCHOOL**)
- March 13th – Report Cards
- March 17th – 21st – March Break (**NO SCHOOL**)
- April 11th – Professional Learning Day (**NO SCHOOL**)

**WE ARE A SCENT FREE ENVIRONMENT!
PLEASE BE MINDFUL WHEN ENTERING OUR SCHOOL!**

Thank You 😊



KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

CALLING ALL PARENTS... DO YOU KNOW ANYONE ELIGIBLE FOR KINDERGARTEN FOR SEPTEMBER 2025?

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

Staffing for Kindergarten is based on a ratio... if you register late there may be a delay with your child starting school in September.

If your child is turning 5 years old before December 31, 2025 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.

Morning Drop Off Safety Concerns

We have seen an **increasing number** of unsafe student drop offs in the morning. We want to remind all our families of the following information:

- Speed limit on school property is **10km**
- Yield to Buses always
- Yield to students on Cross Walks always

- There is **NO PASSING** at any time in the drop off lane.
- When pulling up along the curb of the school for drop off, you must **pull as far ahead as you can** towards the stop sign. This will allow other cars to pull in behind you safely and keep the flow of traffic moving in a timely manner.
- Children should **ONLY** leave the car when the car is pulled up to the sidewalk. **Children should never be exiting the vehicle in the drive loop or when the car is part way turned out of the loop (yellow barrier area)**
- There is **NO PARKING** permitted at any time in the drop off lane OR the side of the school by the GARBAGE CAN AREA. There is signage posted explaining this.
- If you need to walk your child into the school, you must park in the Guest Parking Area (old converted tennis court area)
- Wheelchair accessible parking is available at the front of the school.

Thank you for keeping our students and staff safe!

Scholastic Book Fair

Westwood will be hosting our annual Scholastic Book Fair in the library from March 3rd - 7th. Plan to pop into the library to check out the book fair when you visit us for Parent-Teacher Conferences. During the week, the fair will be open each school day until 4pm, as well as Thursday evening until 8pm and Friday until noon. This event is a key fundraiser for our school library program, as 60 cents of every dollar spent remains here at Westwood to purchase books for our school library. Last year, our book fair proceeds allowed us to add just over \$6000 in books to our collection and a whole lot of excitement for reading within our school. A big thank-you for your continued support of this fundraiser.

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.

PBIS

Westwood Primary School is one of 18 schools on PEI using Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) with our students to promote school safety and positive behavior. There is a focus on teaching children about behavior expectations and strategies with a focus on prevention. PBIS is a proactive approach schools use to improve school safety and promote positive behavior.

PBIS is a framework for creating safe, positive schools where everyone feels successful and seen. By implementing evidence-based practices within a PBIS framework, schools support their students' academic, social, and behavioral success, engage with families and community stakeholders to create positive, safe and engaging schools and use data to make informed decisions that improve the school culture and environment for everyone.

At Westwood Primary our expectations are ***Being Safe, Being Kind and Being Respectful***. The areas of the school that we are focusing on are *Hallways, Bathrooms, Classrooms, Playground and Buses*. We are currently working on teaching and modeling expectations in the Hallway areas.

Easter Seals Campaign

Easter Seals PEI has introduced its ambassador for its 2025 campaign, Remi Dean. Remi is eight years old and a Grade 3 student at Eilerslie Elementary School. She lives in Poplar Grove with her parents, Danielle and Norman Dean, and her six-year-old brother Sully and two-year-old sister Lottie. Each year schools across PEI participate in the School Ambassador Tour. At Westwood Primary, we have a series of school Fun-raiser days to raise money for Easter Seals. Please join us in participating in our School Fun-raiser activities with a small monetary donation. All funds collected will be presented to Remi Dean, Easter Seals 2025 School Ambassador when she visits our school. **Easter Seals PEI** is committed to enhancing the quality of life, self-esteem and self-determination of Islanders living with disabilities by providing support generated by fundraising activities to hard-working charities across the province. Thank you for your support!!!

Westwood Primary Easter Seals Fun-raiser Days

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!

March 6th – Neon/Bright Colors Day

March 14th – Pyjama Day

March 28th – Inside Out Day

April 4th – Dress as a Teacher Day

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

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

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. We want to say a heart felt thanks to our Volunteers for all you do for our school!

Absences

Parents and guardians are reminded if your child(ren) is going to be absent from school to please contact the school to inform the school 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 if your child gets wet and a plastic bag to put wet clothing in.

Parent Teacher Conferences

If you have not booked your parent-teacher conference time, please contact your child's teacher to arrange a time. Parent Teacher Conferences are scheduled for March 6th (evening) and March 7th (day). The school phone number is 902-368-6855

Provincial Home & School News

Home and School News, March 2025

 Registration is now OPEN

The 72nd Annual General Meeting & Conference of the P.E.I. Home and School Federation will be held Saturday, April 12, 2025, at the Rodd Charlottetown Hotel, 75 Kent St., Charlottetown. This year's theme is "Tackling Digital Influences on Youth."

This meeting will focus on the impact of technology on children's development and education. Our keynote speaker, Carl H. Burke, R.N., will discuss the Online Harms Act and share his family's personal experiences with online dangers. Burke has been advocating for stronger online protections for youth. Workshop topics include Artificial Intelligence, Gaming Addictions, Positive Behaviour Intervention Supports and Home & School Communications.

Parents, administrators, other school staff & students are welcome to register. Each Association is encouraged to register up to five voting delegates for this meeting. Your participation is crucial in advocating for the future of online safety/total well-being for our children and youth.

- SHARE this information in your school newsletter and on social media platforms.
- REVIEW speaker bios and AGM documents, etc.: <https://peihsf.ca/agm/>
- REGISTER by March 26th: <https://forms.gle/UpCNXiZ9xcmHsgqp7>

2025 Resolutions/By-Laws

Proposed resolutions and by-law revisions are 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 to determine how your voting delegates will vote on April 12th. Voting delegates can vote "in favour," "opposed," or they can present amendments. REVIEW AGM Meeting Documents: <https://peihsf.ca/agm/> If you have any questions, call 902-620-3186.

Volunteer of the Year Award

This award recognizes one person annually for their efforts in their local school. Home and Schools can submit nominations to the Federation office by March 7. Find details: <https://peihsf.ca/awards/>


Nominate a new Director for your region

The PEI Home and School Federation is overseen by a volunteer board elected by delegates at the AGM. Members are encouraged to nominate suitable candidates who, in your opinion, have the necessary qualifications to do the work of the provincial Federation. Remember – We learn by doing! 2025 Nomination Form is online at: <https://peihsf.ca/agm/>

Province launches new multiyear school calendar

The government introduced a [multiyear calendar](https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/education-and-early-years/2025-2026-and-2026-2027-school-calendars) for upcoming school years 2025-2026 and 2026-2027. Check online at: <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/education-and-early-years/2025-2026-and-2026-2027-school-calendars>

Community News...

~~ Great Big Crunch! Get your apples  or other crunchy fruit or vegetable ready to crunch LOUD! On March 6, 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](https://www.healthyschoolfood.ca/great-big-crunch). Find more info at: <https://www.healthyschoolfood.ca/great-big-crunch>

~~ Introducing The Heart Squad Volunteer Club! – A 12-week experience about building leadership, teamwork, and community service skills...while having fun and making a real impact! For: Ages 12-15 & Ages 16-24...Youth who are ready to learn, lead, grow, and give back! Starts: March 16, 2025 Time: Contact: Renita Bartlett Compassioncornerpei@gmail.com Call/Text: 902-859-3427

~~So, what role do parents play in education?

Parental involvement in education refers to the active participation of parents in their children's learning process, both at home and in school. It involves a wide range of activities and behaviors that support a child's academic and social development.

At home, parental involvement includes:

- Helping with homework; Creating a dedicated study space and time
- Providing ongoing encouragement; Monitoring homework completion
- Modeling desired behavior

In school, parents can be involved by:

- Communicating regularly with teachers; Volunteering for school activities

- Attending parent-teacher interviews; Participating in school governance by attending Home and School meetings where parents and teachers, together, meet to discuss school activities and learn about advocating for the gaps in PEI's education system.