

Westwood Primary School Newsletter

December 1, 2025



Principal: Sherry Flynn

Vice-Principal: Patrick Richard

Dates to Remember

December 4th – Holiday Celebration French Immersion Kindergarten @ 1pm (Storm date Dec. 5th)

December 8th – Report Cards go home

December 9th – Holiday Celebration English Kindergarten @ 1pm (Storm date Dec. 10th)

December 10th – 1C & 1A Water Walk (Storm date Dec 11th)

December 17th - Grade 3 Holiday Concert 1pm & 7pm (Storm date December 18th)

December 19th – School Wide PJ Day (Fundraiser for 1D & 1A Water Walk Project)

December 19th – Last Day of School for Students for 2025

December 22nd – Last Day of School for Staff (Professional Learning Day)

January 5th – First instructional day for students 2026

Holiday Celebration

The Music Department and Grade 3 classes are excited to present *How To Train Your Reindeer to Fly!* for our holiday concert on Wednesday, December 17th at 1:00 pm and 7:00pm in the school gymnasium. (Storm date Dec 18th).

Concert COSTUMES:

Students are reindeer and asked to wear “school clothes” or a holiday outfit they feel comfortable in. The lights are hot and we will be moving and dancing!

Please bring a set of reindeer antlers and a pair of sunglasses.

Students with speaking roles are either Reindeer Cadets, Teachers or Elves, Santa and Mrs. Claus. Please refer to your child’s script for more information.

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.

EVENT IS SCENT FREE! Scented products of any kind are NOT PERMITTED in the building. This includes but not limited to dryer sheets, lotions, perfumes, body/hair sprays, cologne, etc. We have a number of students and staff who become very UNWELL when they encounter scents. Thank you

Also, drinks and food are NOT PERMITTED in the school gymnasium.

Westwood Families Christmas Project 2025

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 many of our staff, parents, churches and local business collect donations, purchase gifts 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 where you can donate. We still have many students & their families who we are hoping to make their holiday season a festive one.

Thanks for your supporting our own Student through such a wonderful project.

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. Did you know our school colors are RED and BLUE. Place your order by DECEMBER 5th to ensure you get it in time for Christmas. ORDER NOW! Show your school spirit 😊

https://allstarcresting.ca/westwood_apparel/shop/home



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.***

If you arrive after 8:30am in the morning and no staff are outside, you must take your child in and sign them in late. Our classes are already on the go and this ensures that we know they are here in the building and get them to their homeroom or specialist class safely.

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 outgrown. 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. Please see the attached link to look how you can help donate to our school

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0C4DAEAA2EA4F58-53541911-clothing>

School Cancellation/One-Hour Delay Information

Information regarding school cancellation and delays due to poor weather can be found on the Public Schools Branch website <https://psb.edu.pe.ca/parent-and-student-resources/storm-closures>

Bus Safety

Parents/Guardians, as we move into the winter season it is more important than ever that the children are being safe on the bus. Please take some time to review bus safety with your children. All classes have had bus safety presentations, but from time to time because our students are so young 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) Do not unpack your kit bag on the school bus this can create flying objects if the bus has to come to a stop quickly.
- 7) When waiting for the school bus during winter weather we ask that you have your child wait in the driveway, **NOT on the side of the road**. Often vehicles cannot see the students because of the snowbanks or poor driving conditions. 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 at their pickup 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 in the kitbag. Extra clothes can be placed in a plastic/reusable bag and left on your child's hook in the classroom.

Westwood Primary Library News

Scholastic Book Fair Update - A huge thank-you to our entire school community--students, parents, teachers, EAs, grandparents--for your generous support of our Scholastic Book Fair. With your help, we raised over \$5000 for our school library collection -- a tremendous infusion for our library. Teaching children to love to read is a lot like starting a fire: once ignited with a spark, it must be fueled. With these funds raised, we will purchase new books for your children so their love of reading may continue to burn with excitement and curiosity. Our sincerest gratitude for your support!

1A & 1C Water Walk Project

Our Grade 1A and 1C classes are engaged in a global citizenship project to raise awareness and funds to support clean water for students in other countries. Our 1A & 1C classes will be doing their water walk on December 10th. As a school we are supporting our students' initiatives by having a school wide PJ Day on December 19th. Monetary donations will be accepted on PJ day to support this citizenship project. Way to go Grade 1A & 1C!!! We are proud of you for thinking of others!

Westwood School Water Bottle

Just in time for the holidays we are selling our Westwood Primary water bottle at a reduced price of 50% off. These water bottles make a great stocking stuffer for students. Regular price is \$10.00 and we are selling them for the month of December for ONLY \$5.00 per bottle. Simply stop by the office to pick yours up or send in \$5.00 with your child to purchase one. Available while supplies last!



PBIS Parent Survey

Parents are reminded to please take a few minutes to complete the survey that was sent out through email last week. The link is

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd4kCHSGmumDO7FX_wGwLez4yXtqhwq4oMJH2-mtnDrHnIFMg/viewform?usp=header

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.**

Kindergarten Holiday Presentations

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

French Immersion students (KG, KI, KJ) Tuesday, December 4th (Storm date Dec 5th)

English students (KA, KB, KC, KD, KE, KF) Thursday, December 9th (Storm date Dec 10th)

Concerts are in the Multi-Purpose Room at 1:00 pm. They will run approximately 30 minutes.

People attending can park in front of the school in the bus lot, however, cars must be moved immediately following the performance as our school buses will begin arriving to line up for dismissal.

Hot Lunches Program & Milk Orders

Milk, pizza and crazy bread can be purchased for students using the Hot Lunches ordering system. The website is westwood.hotlunches.net. **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 - December 28th

February – February 1st

March – March 1st

April – March 29th

May – May 3rd

June May 31st

*Best wishes to you and your families for this Holiday Season
and in the New Year 2025 from all of the staff at Westwood
Primary School!*



Provincial Home and School News

Home and School Newsletter, December 2025

Extra Mile Award 2026

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 member for recognition by Jan. 16th. Details at: <https://peihsf.ca/awards/>

Resolutions = Positive change in P.E.I.'s School System

Resolutions are developed to address issues that can affect positive change in our school system for all students. Your Home and School's resolutions will be considered at the 2026 AGM & Convention on Saturday, April 18. Deadline to submit resolutions: Jan. 31. Check our online assistance: How to Write & Present a Resolution / [Fillable pdf Resolution Form](#) or call the Federation office for assistance with writing resolutions.

School Staff Appreciation Week 2026

Set up a committee to plan for School Staff Appreciation Week, coming the week of February 8-14. Brainstorm ideas for thanking all school staff for the contributions they make to our children and their education. Keep plans simple!

President's 2025-2026 Annual Report

Presidents are asked to start writing their annual reports, which are due by Feb. 28. Write about your Association's activities in a one to two-page report detailing Home & School's accomplished and planned activities, September to June.

Add the following items to your Home and School agenda...

January 16 Extra Mile Award nominations deadline
31 Resolutions submission deadline

February 28 President's Annual Reports submission deadline

March 01 Registration is open for AGM & Convention
06 Volunteer of the Year / Life Membership nominations deadline

April 18 AGM & Convention Speaker topic: Bullying

May 08 School Bus Driver of the Year nominations due
31 Parent Leadership grant final reports deadline

June 01-30 Associations elect new officers

Kindergarten registration is open for the 2026-2027 school year

Island parents and guardians can register their child who is turning five years old by Dec. 31. Click on this link to learn more about [registering your child](#) in Island schools.

COMPASS Report 2024-25

[COMPASS](#) is a comprehensive longitudinal study collecting student-level data from youth in secondary school on various topics, including: obesity (e.g., BMI), sedentary behaviours, physical activity, mental health, healthy eating and diet, substance use, bullying, equity and inclusion,

school connectedness, academic outcomes, sleep duration, and demographic characteristics (e.g., age, gender, income, ethnicity). Ask your principal about PEI's provincial COMPASS report 2024-25 is available at: <https://www.livewellpei.ca/compass-project-0>

Other community news...

**International Volunteer Day (IVD) is celebrated on December 5 to highlight the impact of volunteers worldwide. The UN emphasizes the power of collective action, suggesting that if everyone volunteered, we could achieve sustainable development goals such as food security, clean environments, and peaceful societies. Volunteers are crucial in addressing social, economic, and environmental challenges, often stepping up in crises. For more, visit <https://volunteer.ca/international-volunteer-day/>

**The Public Schools Branch's newly elected Board of Trustees started their 3-year term on Nov. 1. Trustees' names/contact are listed at: <https://psb.edu.pe.ca/about-us/board-of-trustees>
Message from the Charlottetown, Zone 5, trustees = Gaylene Carragher, and Andrew MacFarlane
"We're excited to introduce ourselves. You can see our bios at www.trusteeandrewmacfarlane.ca (902-200-1804) & [MEET GAYLENE | My Site](#) (902-626-7432) and welcome you to reach out to either or both of us whenever it's convenient for you. As we've just stepped into these roles on November 1st, we're looking forward to meeting you and hearing your thoughts, ideas, or concerns. We are happy to attend any upcoming Christmas concerts, public meetings, etc., in December if you could send us a schedule of your events. All the best in the upcoming busy month."

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

Community News

Christmas Singalong at Bonshaw Hall

Come and join us for our annual Christmas in Bonshaw gathering Saturday evening at 6:30 pm December the 13th. There'll be singing and stories and songs and hot cider and cookies.... Admission is by donation at the door with proceeds going to the South Shore Food Share. Children under 12 are free. Come welcome the Christmas Season with us!.

Taekwondo

Rodd's Taekwondo is now accepting new students in our under 7 class. If you are interested please send an email to roddstkd@gmail.com

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

