

Westwood Primary School Newsletter

November 3, 2025



Principal: Sherry Flynn
Vice-Principal: Patrick Richard

Dates to Remember

November 5th – Remembrance Day Assembly for Students
November 6th – PEITF Convention/CUPE Convention (**NO SCHOOL**)
November 7th – PEITF Convention/CUPE Convention (**NO SCHOOL**)
November 10th – Report Card Day (**NO SCHOOL**)
November 11th - Remembrance Day Observed (**NO SCHOOL**)
November 17th – Westwood Home & School Meeting at 6:00 pm
November 17th-21st – Kindergarten 2026 Registration Week
November 20th – Parent Teacher Conferences (**EVENING**)
November 21st – Parent Teacher Conferences (**DAY - NO SCHOOL**)
December 8th – 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.

What is PBIS?

Did you know?... **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. In schools using PBIS there is a focus on teaching children about behavior expectations and strategies with a main 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.

PBIS has several important guiding principles:

- Students can learn behavior expectations for different situations.
- Schools teach expected behaviors through explicit instruction, with opportunities for students to practice behavior and get feedback.
- Stepping in early can prevent more serious behavior problems.
- Each student is different, so schools need to give many kinds of behavior support.
- How schools teach behavior should be based on research and science.
- Tracking a student's behavior progress is important.
- Schools gather and use data to make decisions about behavior interventions.
- School staff members are consistent in how they encourage expected behavior and discourage misbehavior.

Westwood is currently implementing a schoolwide behaviour matrix. The behaviour matrix is simply a table that defines teachable expectations in various settings throughout our school. The schoolwide matrix outlines what positive behaviours look like in the school's common areas, such as hallways, bathrooms, the playground, classroom and so on. The school staff then work together to teach the expected behaviours and strategies to the students.

Our school matrix focuses on: **Safety, Kindness and Respect**

Westwood Primary School Parent-Teacher Conferences

Westwood Primary and Eliot River Elementary Schools use On-Line Bookings for Parent-Teacher Conferences for November 20th and 21st. 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 7th, at 8 a.m. and close on Friday, November 14th, 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 2026-2027

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 21, 2025.**
- Children must be 5 years of age by December 31, 2026
- 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.

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 1st 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

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/>.

Breakfast Donations

The Westwood breakfast program kindly accepts donations of Plain Cheerios, jam, margarine, apples, baby carrots and yogurt tubes. There is also the option for a monetary donation on the Hot Lunches site.

Westwood Home & School Association – NEW Facebook Page

Check out the Westwood Home & School Association 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>

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 17th (Storm Date December 18th) at 1:00pm and 7:00pm. This musical is full of rocking tunes and an inspiring message. Please contact your child's music teacher for any questions.

Ms. Dahn - dhdahn@edu.pe.ca Ms. Hanson - 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

👉 **Reminder to pay 2025-2026 Membership Fees**

Home and School Association Treasurers are reminded to submit this school year's membership fees. You can now pay by e-transfer to peihsf@gov.pe.ca or mail cheques to the Federation office. Questions? Call 1-800-916-0664 / 902-620-3186 / ssmedleyjay@gov.pe.ca

👉 **Volunteers - Leadership Training Workshop - Tignish Elementary School**

Westisle region's Home & Schools are invited to a **Home & School Leadership Training Workshop**.

Date: Thursday, Nov. 13th, 2025

Time: 6:30 – 8:00 pm

Place: Tignish Elementary School.

Cost: FREE

Content: Guidance for executive positions, bookkeeping tips, and general information for all volunteers. Please register by email: ssmedleyjay@gov.pe.ca or call 902-620-3186 by Nov. 10th.

👉 **Parent Leadership Grants**

Parent Leadership Project grants for up to \$500 are available to Home and School Associations. Leadership projects are to focus on parent leadership and engagement in your school community. Go to: <https://peihsf.ca/grants>. Submission deadline: Nov. 30th.

👉 **Recognition and Awards Program 2025-2026**

Awards recognize deserving individuals in school communities. The Crossing Guard Award Nominations, announced last month, are due Nov. 7th.

The Federation is proud to open nominations for its Extra Mile Award to celebrate school staff personnel. Nominations are due Jan. 17. Read more at: <https://peihsf.ca/awards/>

👉 **ADD this to your agenda...**

1. **Child protection and online safety**

The RCMP officer who spoke at the Federation's Semi-Annual Meeting about internet safety and child exploitation is available to speak at local Home and School meetings. Consider inviting him to lead a discussion on keeping children/youth safe online. **Contact: Cpl. Robert Yaschuk, RCMP Child Exploitation Unit / Robert.Yaschuk@rcmp-grc.gc.ca**

2. **Student learning, health, and well-being**

Ask your principal to share general COMPASS findings to spark a discussion on current student

issues and next steps for collective action. This study collects student-level data from youth in secondary school on various health topics, including: Cannabis use, Mental Health, Smoking/Alcohol Use, etc.

Find provincial results at: [2024-25 Provincial COMPASS Report](#)

3. Connect with your local trustee

A new Public Schools Branch Board of Trustees was elected on October 17. Invite your local trustee to a Home and School meeting to discuss priorities and stay connected with board decisions.

Tip#1: Add all news items in this Nov. 2025 newsletter to your agenda.

Tip#2: Review basic parliamentary procedure to keep your meeting running smoothly.

***Happenings in your community...

🍷 **Donagh Home & School Craft Fair** will be held on Nov.15th, 9 am-3 pm, and Nov. 16th, 12-4 pm

at Donagh Regional School (928 Bethel Road, Donagh). Note: 80+ tables showcasing the products of 60+ vendors spread over 3 beautiful rooms; wheelchair/stroller friendly (no stairs), raffles, fudge sale, live entertainment on Saturday, ATM on site. Entrance by donation goes towards our continued playground upgrades. Event:

<https://www.facebook.com/share/1A9iZqZwv5/> Hope to see you there!

🍷 **Bluefield Band Craft Fair** will be held on Friday, Nov. 14th, from 5:30 - 9:00 p.m. and on Saturday, Nov. 15th, 10 a.m. - 5 pm. Proceeds go to supporting costs for the band's annual performance tour. Come and be entertained, find some great gifts, and build community. To book a table, if possible, go to <https://sites.google.com/cloud.edu.pe.ca/bluefieldmusic/christmas-craft-fair> .

Dates to remember: _

November 11th [Remembrance Day](#)

November 20th [National Child Day](#)

November 21st-27th [Canada History Week](#)

Community News

STEAM PEI

STEAM PEI is holding several upcoming educational camps! November features hands-on **PD Day Camps** on topics like **Stop Motion Animation**, **Cyber Security**, and **the Science of the Body**, while our holiday camps (Dec. 22–24 & Dec. 29–31) include **Holiday Mystery** and **Art in STEM!** [Register now](#) before spots fill up!

Delta Soccer Fall Indoor Soccer Programs

Join Coach Joel for one of his six-week activity programs this fall for kids born 2014–2021. Each session blends fun play with age-appropriate learning, helping children build movement skills, confidence, and a love for the game. Sessions take place between November 4th and December 19th. For more program details and to register please visit deltasoccer.ca.

