

Westwood Primary School Newsletter

September 8, 2026



Principal: Sherry Flynn
Vice-Principal: Patrick Richard



Dates to Remember

September 8th – First Day for Students 2025

September 16th – 17th School Photo Days

September 17th – Meet the Teacher: Session 1 @ 6:00pm, Session 2 @ 6:30pm

September 21st – Westwood Home & School Association Meeting @ 6:00 pm

September 30th – National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (**NO CLASSES**)

October 12th – Thanksgiving (**NO SCHOOL**)

Welcome Back to Everyone!

We hope all of you had a wonderful summer and enjoyed the beautiful PEI weather! It is great to have our students and staff back at Westwood Primary School! The staff has been working hard over the past several weeks making sure that our school and classrooms are clean and safe for the students and we are very excited to see all of the new and returning Westwood Students. I encourage all parents and guardians to contact your child(ren)'s teacher if you have any questions at all about the school start up.

Westwood Primary School Office Hours

Westwood Primary office hours are from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday thru Friday. Administrative assistants will be available at 8:00 am to 4:00 pm daily to accept phone calls to assist you.

Meet Our Staff Evening

Westwood Primary is hosting its Meet Our Staff Evening on Thursday, September 17th.

We have two 25-minute sessions to allow parents with multiple children in our school meet with multiple classroom teachers.

Our first session is from 6:00 - 6:25pm (5-minute transition time) and 6:30 - 6:55pm.

Please feel free to mingle about the school to meet our amazing resource teachers, specialist teachers and counsellors. If you have any questions, please contact the school. We can't wait to see you on the 17th!

Westwood Primary School Facebook Page

Have you visited our Westwood Primary Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100057288586113>.

Lots of information and reminders are posted here. **Be sure to like our FB Page... information is posted there regularly.**

Student Homework Bag

Reminder to families to please send in \$3.00 for your child's homework bag to the classroom teacher.

Westwood Primary New Staff

Westwood Primary would like to welcome some wonderful people to our team this year:

Kalleigh Daszko – KB
Leanne Perry - KF
Janey Gough – 1F
Lauren Harper – 2D
Lindsay Roy – 2F
Cynthia Crosby – 3C
Bethany Burt – 3G
Ben Parker – Specialist Teacher
Ryan Cavanagh – EA
Carol Shannon - EA
Owen Sandiford -EA
Hayley Flanagan – EA
Carson MacDougall – EA
Jules Gates – EA
Taryn Campbell – EA
Samantha Gallant – EA

Victoria Pederson – EA
Deb Mobbs – EA
Amanda Fall – EA
Amanda Fortin – Primary Support Worker
Claudia Swyer – Primary Support Worker
Taryn Callaghan – Administrative Assistant

Attendance Matters!

For the 2026-2027 school year, we wish to share the emphasis on the critical importance of regular attendance and punctuality in your child's time in school. Our school, along with all schools across PEI, is placing a strong focus on accurately tracking attendance data and actively engaging with students who experience frequent absences or tardiness. Consistent attendance and attention are key to academic success, and it starts as early as students in kindergarten. We will be working hard to provide an engaging and welcoming space for students to come each day and we need support from you in reinforcing the value of being present and on time each day. On average in a school year, 5,980 of 20,747 students in Public Schools Branch schools have missed 10% or more of total school days, that's approximately 18 school days, and it can have a lasting impact on their academic success. To help understand how our school is doing, each month we'll include PSB data in our newsletter with hopes to see improvement throughout this school year.



School Bus Tags

Students will be arriving home with bus tags on their kitbags. We ask that you do not remove these tags. The information on the tag is used by teachers, bus drivers and substitutes in our building. If you notice that there is an error in the information on the bus tag, please send a note to the school indicating what the correct information should be and we can make the changes. We will be making changes to many of these tags as we get up to date after school plans from families. Thank you.

School Day Start Time & End Time

Instruction begins at **8:30 am each day**, so please ensure that if you're dropping your child(ren) off that they are here **by 8:25am**. If you arrive after 8:30 am, your child will need to enter through the front door and will need to be signed in late by the parent or guardian. The late sign-in book is in the office on the counter.

Also, please note that there is no supervision provided before 8:05 am. Children cannot be dropped off before 8:05 am. Children can be dropped off anytime between 8:05 am and 8:30 am. We also would like to remind parents that we are encouraging students to walk to their hollow doors on their own in the mornings to enter their classes. This helps to develop independence and routine for our students.

If you wish to speak to the classroom teacher, please enter through the front doors to register as a visitor, collect an ID tag and proceed down to the classroom.

Our school day at Westwood Primary ends at 2:30 pm. If you are picking your child up early for an appointment, please phone the school and we will let the child, and the teacher know. You should park in the visitor parking area (old tennis court) and come to the front door. Buzz the front door and we will send your child out.

We do not encourage picking your child up early to "beat the rush" at dismissal. Instruction for students continues until 2:30pm everyday.

Utensils for Lunch

PEI Healthy School Lunch Program and Westwood Primary do not provide plastic spoons, fork and straws at snack or lunch time. Please make sure you are packing utensils for your child in their lunch bag.

Speed Limits on School Grounds

There is a lot of signage on School Property. Please make sure to **always yield to BUSES** on school property. Also, the posted speed limit on school property is a **MAXIMUM** of 10km. Crosswalks and parking areas are now clearly marked. There is **NO PASSING** in the student drop off lane and children should **ONLY** be exiting cars when pulled up alongside the curb of the sidewalk.

Thank you for helping to keep everyone safe at Westwood Primary School.

Morning Drop Off & Afternoon Pick Up

Children may be dropped off any time after 8:05 a.m. **Please note that there is no supervision provided before 8:05 am.** 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. **THERE IS NO PARKING PERMITTED ALONG THE CURBSIDE AT THE FRONT OF THE SCHOOL OR ALONG THE LANE IN AND OUT OF THE SCHOOL. This is a DROP OFF lane ONLY.** Visitor parking is to the left as you enter the school property.

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 when school staff are outside on duty. The main door entry is for Kindergarten students only.

Cars are NOT permitted to use the bus lane way or park in the bus parking lot between 8:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m. (Unless otherwise specified; such as, a concert during the school day). **Do not drop students off near the garbage cans at the side of the school.**

If you are picking your child up at the end of the day, please park in the visitor parking area and come to the front of the school to meet them. NOTE: Students are dropped off to the parents waiting out front **AFTER** students in the class have been taken to their buses. Please do not grab your child out of the line, as the teacher may not see it and it can create some panic, thinking a student is missing. Thanks for working with us to keep the children safe!

Parents are not permitted in the BUS area at any time. If you are arriving unexpectedly for a pick-up, please go into the school and request your child through the office. The office will radio the staff in the bus area to bring your child to the front of the school to meet you. This is for safety of all students and staff.

PLEASE NOTE: Any unexpected changes to your child’s after-school plan **must be phoned in prior to 1:00 pm** in order to ensure that a new bus note or pick-up message arrives to your child’s class on time. We cannot accept any changes after 1:00pm each day, as the office staff is too busy preparing and delivering bus notes and pick-up messages to the classrooms. Thank you for your support with this.

Wellness at School

A reminder to 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 for students and staff is not impacted by illness.

Breakfast Program

We are happy to again be offering our Breakfast Program this year! This valuable program offers daily healthy snacks to all students. Our program operation is supported extensively by our community volunteers, and we are always looking to recruit more smiling faces. If you are interested in joining our team, or learning more about our Breakfast Program, please reach out to our vice-principal Patrick Richard at: patrickrichard@edu.pe.ca

Westwood Online Hot Lunches and Milk Program

This year we will also continue offering our Westwood School Hot Lunch Program. This includes milk, chocolate milk, pizza, and crazy bread. **All existing users need to update their student’s profile to indicate their new classroom.** The years ordering windows are below. We will send out information to all families regarding this program

Service Month	Ordering Window	Service Date Range
September 2026	Sept 1 – Sept 10	Sept 14 – Sept 29
October 2026	Sept 21 – Sept 27	Oct 1 – Oct 30
November 2026	Oct 26 – Nov 1	Nov 2 – Nov 30
December 2026	Nov 23 – Nov 29	Dec 1 – Dec 18
January 2027	Dec 28 – Jan 3	Jan 4 – Jan 29

February 2027	Jan 25 – Jan 31	Feb 2 – Feb 26
March 2027	Feb 22 – Feb 28	Mar 1 – Mar 18
April 2027	Mar 22 – Mar 28	Apr 1 – Apr 30
May 2027	Apr 26 – May 2	May 3 – May 31
June 2027	May 25 – May 30	Jun 1 – Jun 25

PEI School Food Program

We are happy to again collaborate with the PEI School Lunch Program. We will send out information to all families regarding this platform and encourage you to check it out in the meantime if you are unfamiliar with it. Ordering will open on August 29th and will close on Sept 3rd at noon. Meal delivery will be from Sept 8th to 18th. **Please note: We encourage you to familiarize yourself with the menu items and to consider sending additional snacks on a day where a meal might be new to your child. The PEI School Food Program is not run by the school.** If you have questions about the program, the contact information is on the website.

Orange Shirt Day – National Day for Truth & Reconciliation, September 30th

On September 30th we will be celebrating Orange Shirt Day and the National Day for Truth & Reconciliation by wearing Orange. For more information on National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day resources please visit <https://www.orangeshirtday.org/>

Peanut/Nut/Tree Nut/Kiwi/Egg Allergies and Scent Free Environment

Due to severe, life-threatening allergies, Westwood does not permit peanut/nut/tree nut/kiwi (including kiwi juice – please check juice boxes carefully) free school. Peanut-like spreads are also not permitted (e.g Wow Butter) We ask you to take the time to read labels carefully, so that we do not have foods containing any of these products in student lunches.

Please note: Some classes may have class specific allergy restrictions. If this is the case, an email will be sent home notifying you of the prohibited item. E.g. Egg, strawberries, bananas, eggs, etc

We ask parents **NOT** to bake or send in food items for their child(ren)’s classes. If you would like to send something special to your child(ren)’s class, please contact the teacher about suggestions other than food. Thanks!

The Public Schools Branch also has a SCENT FREE POLICY in all of it schools and at the school branch office. We would ask that any visitors, staff & students refrain from wearing any scented products in our building. This includes and is not limited to, strong fabric softener, colognes or perfumes, scented body lotions, etc. We have several students and staff in our building who become ill or have reactions around scented products. Please share this information with family or friends who may be picking your child up from school. Thanks for your cooperation and support with this. Further information will be sent home pertaining to life threatening allergies.

Gently Used Clothing

Westwood is looking for any extra clothing in good shape that can be donated to the school. We are looking for pants, shirts, gym pants and sweatshirts that would suit students aged 4-8. Often the students have spills or accidents at school and do not have extra clothing packed in their bags to change into. We would greatly appreciate any donations of new underwear and socks. Kindly drop off all laundered donations to the office. Thanks ☺

School Pictures

Lifetouch will be at school on September 16th & 17th to do the school pictures. Any students who are absent will have their pictures taken on the retake date (October 21st). **Please note we do not have any way of ensuring which classes will have their pictures taken on specific dates.**

PEI School Accident Insurance Program

Every eligible student attending a PEI school is automatically insured by the PEI School Accident Insurance Program’s basic student coverage. This program is provided without a deductible and at no cost to the student, parents/guardians. Basic coverage is provided during school hours, school activities, community-based learning activities and travel to and from school and community-based learning activities.

Students Under 40 lbs.

Kindergarten students who were under 40 lbs at registration will be weighed to determine if they are still under 40 lbs. Students who are under 40 lbs. are required to be buckled in a 5-point harness on the school bus. Parents will be notified next week if their child is under 40 lbs. Students must be able to buckle and unbuckle independently; bus drivers are not permitted to get out of their seats to assist.

Teachers and Educational Assistants can buckle/unbuckle students at school; however, parents will have to plan to have an adult board the bus to buckle/unbuckle students in the morning and afternoon.

We encourage parents to practice buckling and unbuckling their car seats with their children. If parents would like their child buckled on the bus before the end of next week, please contact your child’s teacher to let them know as they will have to buckle them at the end of the day.

Important Bussing Information

Our drivers are continuing to fine tune their pick-ups and drop off times. Please make sure that your child is at the bus stop a few minutes early as we continue to work through this process over the next few weeks.

Please Note: Parents are NOT permitted in the bus area at school for any reason. If you are picking up your child, please contact the office. We will then get your child(ren) for you from the bus and take them to meet you. Thank you for your cooperation with this.

Bus Safety

As we begin the school year, we ask families to review bus safety expectations with their children. A few important reminders:

- Be at the bus stop at least 5 minutes before the scheduled pick-up time.
- Wait for the bus to come to a complete stop before approaching.
- If crossing the road, make eye contact with the bus driver and wait for their signal before crossing.
- Always cross in front of the bus, never behind it.
- Look both ways before entering the roadway.
- Avoid distractions such as cell phones, headphones, or other electronic devices while boarding or exiting the bus.
- Stay alert and follow the bus driver's directions at all times.

Thank you for helping us reinforce safe transportation habits and ensure a safe start to the school year for all students.

Music News

Ms. Dahn, Ms. Hanson and Mr. Parker are excited to welcome Westies for a great year in Music!

CONCERTS AND ASSEMBLIES at a glance. All dates are TBA:

- Thanksgiving Assembly - October
- Remembrance Day Assembly - November
- Grade 3 Winter Concert - December
- Kindergarten Christmas Concert - December
- Grade 1 Love & Kindness Assembly - February
- French Week Assembly -March
- Grade 2 Spring Concert- April/May

GRADE 3 RECORDERS - All Grade 3 students have been asked to send in \$10 for a recorder. There are 3 reasons why we require students to buy:

1. There is no sharing of instruments. It is healthier for each student to have their own instrument.
2. Not all recorders are created equal. We have ordered quality instruments.
3. It becomes a souvenir and their own personal musical instrument. During the first few months we will be learning songs, proper holding and breathing techniques and be ready to start playing our recorders in January. We can’t wait!

Provincial Home & School News

Home & School News, September 2026

Watch for students on the road

A new school year means that children walk, cycle, or ride a bus to school or travel in their family cars. Passing school buses with red lights flashing is a persistent issue reported by bus drivers across the province. Drivers are reminded to focus on school bus safety as students return to class.

A new government campaign encourages parents and educators to talk to children about bus stop safety -arriving early, staying back from the road, looking both ways, and waiting for a signal from the driver before crossing the road. To learn more about school bus safety and the rules of the road, [visit School Bus Safety](#).

Update Home and School Contacts

Attention Presidents: Use the Google Form to update this year's current Home & School executive contact details by Oct. 1st. (<https://forms.gle/TB4W9WJuUndDeLPd6>)

Attention Treasurers: Submit 2026-2027 Membership fees to the Federation office by Oct. 15th.

E-transfers to: peihsf@gov.pe.ca or mail cheques to: PEIHSF PO Box 1012 Charlottetown PE C1A 7M4

Semi-Annual Meeting

Date/Time: Tuesday, October 20, 2026, 6:00 – 8:00 PM

Place: Gulf Shore Consolidated School, 185 Hilltop Avenue, North Rustico, PEI

Topics: 1. Youth Health Survey 2025-26 Results = reported by nearly 8,000 PEI students
2. Home & School Networking

***Registration details to follow.

Executive/Volunteer Training

Experienced facilitators Vicki Bryanton and Stephen Gould will lead Volunteer Training Workshops. These will focus on equipping new and returning Home and School volunteers with the practical knowledge needed to collaborate effectively with school staff and support their school, benefiting all students. Details include:

Monday, Nov 2 Spring Park School, 6 – 8 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 3 Souris School, 6 – 8 p.m.

Nov. TBD Alberton School, 6 – 8 p.m.

***Registration details to follow.

 What's on your first Local Home and School Meeting's Sept./Oct. agenda?

- Add details from this September Newsletter.
- Meet your principal = discuss setting goals for the 2026-2027 school year.
- Welcome new parents to meetings.
- Code of Conduct = Do you understand your responsibilities, your child's, and your school's responsibilities regarding a code of conduct? Ask your principal for details.
- [Cell Phone Use = Review Minister's Directive](#)
- Brainstorm = Find ways to support your child's school.
- Fundraising = What is the purpose for raising funds this year? Develop a proposed budget for this school year's initiatives - ask for a motion to approve the budget, ask for a mover/second, and write it into the minutes. Your fundraising committee can now proceed with support from the local Home and School. Motions are required for all financial decisions.
- Next Meeting of the Public Schools Branch Board of Trustees: Thursday, September 10, 2026, 7:30 PM, Montague Intermediate School. More details at: <https://psb.edu.pe.ca/about-us/board-of-trustees>

 Canada's national tipline for reporting the online sexual exploitation of children.

[*Report](#) [*Child Sexual Abuse](#) [*Online Harms](#) [*Research](#) [*Campaigns & Media](#)
Cybertip.ca offers a unique lens into new online risks for children and youth. Follow the link to sign up for important info about current trends and emerging technology concerns to help keep your family safe. Click here: [Cybertip!.ca](https://cybertip.ca)

 Back-to-school vaccination reminder

Parents or guardians can contact a local Public Health Nursing office to have their child's immunization record reviewed and to schedule any missed vaccinations. Families are also encouraged to receive recommended seasonal vaccines, including influenza and COVID-19 vaccines, when they become available this fall. More information is available at [Childhood Immunizations](#).

 When parents and teachers communicate with each other, they can collaborate and share ideas from different perspectives in the best interest of the student's development and success.