Westwood Primary School Newsletter

October 1, 2026

Principal: Sherry Flynn
Vice-Principal: Patrick Richard

Dates to Remember

October 5th – Terry Fox Run
October 8th – Board of Trustees Public Meeting (7:30 pm in Staff Lounge)
October 9th – Thanksgiving Day Assembly (AM)
October 12th – Thanksgiving Day (**NO SCHOOL)**
October 13th – Lockdown Practice (School wide – students in home rooms)
October 16th – Kindergarten Apple Orchard Field Trip
October 21st – School Photo Retake Day
October Date to Be Determined – Board of Trustees Public Consultation Meeting for Westwood Proposed School Expansion Study

Westwood Primary is SCENT FREE LEARNING SPACE

Please do not enter our building for any reason if you are wearing scented products of any kind. We have several students and staff who become very unwell when they encounter scents. Some examples (but not limited to) include body lotions/sprays, fabric softeners, essential oils, perfumes/colognes, hair sprays, after shaves, etc. Thank you for keeping our students and staff healthy and safe.

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
- 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.
If your child is required to take medication during the school day a Administer Medication form must be completed first. All medications must be sent premeasured. Medications are to be dropped off at the OFFICE by a parent. Medications are kept and administered in the OFFICE.
If your child becomes unwell with COVID please follow the provincial guidelines at https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/topic/public-health-guidance-for-covid-19

School Office Hours

Please note that school office hours are **Monday – Friday from 8:00 am – 4:00 pm.** Our administrative assistants are more than happy to assist you with anything you may need between these hours of operation. Thank you.

Guests In Our School

We would like to take a minute to remind all of our Westwood Families and Guests to our school that when you come into the building you ***must stop in the office and sign in and pick up a visitor/guest tag***. This tag must be worn while you are inside the school. This includes walking students to class, volunteering in the building, arriving for a meeting during school hours, etc. Thank you for doing your part to keep everyone safe at Westwood.

Board of Trustees Public Meeting

The next Board of Trustees Public Meeting is scheduled for October 8th at Westwood Primary School at 7:30 pm in the Staff Lounge. Residents are welcome to attend and observe Board of Trustee public meetings. Trustees are also available following each meeting if attendees wish to speak with a representative.

Board of Trustees Westwood Primary School Study Public Consultation Meeting

Information will be posted on our website, Facebook page and emailed out once a date, location and time for the meeting is confirmed with the Board of Trustees.

Toonies for Terry

In support of our upcoming Terry Fox run fundraiser we will be having our Terry Fox Run on October 5th. We have added a donation button on the HotLunch platform, or you can send in a Toonie for Terry cash donation.

A Note of Thanks

Thanks to all parents and guardians for working hard at getting your children to school on time for our 8:30 am start, we really appreciate it. As you know, being on time for school has a huge impact on learning. Some students have specialized programs at the beginning of the day such as Resource or specialty classes such as Music and Physical Education. It is **very** important that students arrive on time to receive all their school instruction.
There will, of course, be times when your child has a dental or medical appointment and may arrive late but overall we're noticing that most are arriving on time and it's helping us to get off to a great start this year! ***If you do happen to arrive late for school (after 8:30 am), please walk your child to the front door, we will buzz you and your child in and you can sign them in at the office.***

Attendance & Engagement

Did you know that being 15-30 minutes late per day for school equals 9-18 days of school instructional time lost over the course of the school year… that equals an entire month of school missed. Being on time for school is so important. School attendance and engagement are crucial because they directly impact academic achievement, socio-emotional development, and long-term life outcomes. Regular attendance ensures students learn essential content and skills, while engagement fosters positive learning environments, crucial social connections, and a sense of belonging.

Academic Impact

- **Improved Performance:**

Consistent attendance allows students to stay on track, access breakfast program, understand expectations and routines and access interventions and specialist classes.

- **Foundation for Reading:**

Early attendance, especially in Kindergarten and first grade, is critical for achieving grade-level reading proficiency, which is a strong predictor of success in high school.

- **Indicator of Success:**

Class attendance has the most impact on learning than any other single indicator of academic performance.

Socio-Emotional Development

- **Skill Building:**

School is a vital space for developing essential social, emotional, and cognitive skills that build confidence and support learning.

- **Sense of Belonging:**

Engagement and a sense of connection to the school community, peers, and teachers help students feel valued and supported.

- **Positive Behaviors:**

Attending school and being engaged promotes positive behaviors both in and out of the classroom.

End of Day Pick Up

Dismissal time at Westwood Primary is 2:30 pm. We are asking that all parents/guardians please respect this time. If you need to pick your child up on a particular day early for an appointment, we ask that you please send a note or call ahead before 1:00 pm so that we can have the student waiting in the office at the appropriate time. *Buzzing into the classrooms to ask for a student interrupts the instruction and learning for **ALL** students.* ***We will not be buzzing in to classrooms unless there is an emergency.***
We encourage families to please park in the guest parking area and walk to the front of the school to meet your child for after school pick up at 2:30pm. **Please do not block the bus lane entrance at any time while you are dropping off or picking up your child.** Our buses serve four schools in the Bluefield family of schools and must be on time to pick up students for their next runs. Please yield to Buses at all times while on school property

Bus Notes/Passes

This year we have a number of buses that are full and cannot accept bus passes. Students are not permitted to receive bus notes to go to a friend's house for birthday parties, get togethers, etc. Bus passes are to be issued only for primary childcare. Last minute bus changes must be called in no later than 1:45 pm.

Lockdown Drill

During the month of September we practiced fire drills. The children did extremely well and are very well prepared! In October we will be practicing our lockdown drill. This drill is a three-step process.

In the first step (Week of October 8th), the classroom teacher will explain the purpose of the drill. All teachers use a common script for this so that all the children get the same message regardless of the class or teacher. During this week, the class will practice moving to the designated 'safe area' in their classroom and specialist classes at a time that is convenient for the class.
In the second step (Week of October 12th), we will conduct a School-Wide Drill. As per Public Schools Branch policy, we have been doing lockdown drills at Westwood for many years and they have gone very smoothly. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Ms. Flynn or Mr. Richard. If you find that your child is anxious about this procedure, please contact one of the counsellors, Mrs. Wood or Mr. Sirois.
The third-step of the process involves a school lockdown practice accompanied by the RCMP liaison officers. This will be scheduled for later October or early November. Please note that if you are visiting the school on any of the dates above, you may have to wait outside the building until the drill is completed, if we are practising at that time – there will be a sign on the front door that says, "Lockdown Drill in Progress".

Home & School Anne of Green Gables Chocolate Fundraiser

Westwood H&S Association will launch an online portal fundraiser for Anne of Green Gables Chocolates. The ordering portal will be open from October 19th – November 5th. Delivery will arrive at the school during parent-teacher conferences and will be available for pick up at the conference time.

Shoe Tying & Safety

At Westwood Primary we understand that learning to tie shoes helps in the development of fine motor skills, dexterity in fingers, and hand-eye coordination, which are crucial for various activities like writing, drawing, and manipulating objects. It is an important milestone that promotes independence and self-care abilities. We do recognize that our students are at different areas in their development regarding this skill. However, we would like to make parents aware that if children do not have the independence of tying their shoes it can sometimes lead to an accident on the playground, in physical education class and during movement activities in music. If your child is still learning this skill there are a few things you can do to help keep them safe at school during all activities that require movement:

- Wear shoes that have a velcro closure, slip on shoe or curly laces that help keep shoes on and laces tied.
- Continue to keep practicing tying shoes at home with your child

COSPEI WESTWOOD PRIMARY Home & School GOLD RUSH

Westwood Primary School is excited to be part of the ***Creating Opportunities for Students Gold Rush "Fun"draiser*** for our school.
The COSPEI Gold Rush is a collaborative fundraiser that is open to all schools on PEI through the Community Foundation and our Home & School.
We encourage you to scan the QRC code and create an account and choose to support "WESTWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL" and play.
A $5.00 play gets you 3 numbers. You can play up to $20.00 (12 numbers per account per week. Once you are assigned your numbers they are your numbers forever until you choose to stop and are entered in to every weekly draw.
If you activate your numbers (pay $5.00) you have a chance to win half the pot. IF you do not activate your numbers (do not pay $5.00) and your number is drawn you are a "non-winner" and the pot rolls over to the next week. To ensure you never miss a draw you can click on the gray circular button to the left of your numbers and activate "Auto Play". Draws take place every Tuesday at 1:00pm.
Click on the QRC code to get started.
You can further support our school by encouraging friends and families to play too!

Lost & Found

Reminder to please make sure that you are labeling your child's belongings so that it does not make its way to the lost and found. This includes; clothing, water bottles, hats, boots, sneakers, etc. Currently both of our lost & found bins are FULL.

Gently Used Clothes

Our Westwood Home & School is launching a clothing drive. We are looking for gently used children's clothing to have on hand for student ages 4-8yrs (sizes S-M, 5-8). Sometimes throughout the day students can become wet or have an unexpected accident and having some extra clothes on hand for students to change in to can make all the difference for a child. We are looking for gently used T-shirts, sweatpants, leggings, sweatshirts, long sleeve shirts, mittens and hats. Also new underwear (boys & girls) and socks. If you can help please click on the sign up genius to help https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0C4DAEAA2EA4F58-53541911-clothing?useFullSite=true#/ Thank you in advance for your donation to the school.

Halloween Treats

Parents/guardians, due to the high number of food allergies and life-threatening allergies in our school, we ask that you **do not send food for sharing** in with your child during Halloween or any other holidays or events. If you would like to contribute something for a special occasion, please contact your child's teacher. In the past

in lieu of food, some have donated items for a Halloween craft, stickers, fun pencils or donated a book to the class library. Thanks for your cooperation and understanding.

Winter Coats and Boots

For families that have financial need, The Knights of Columbus through its signature "Coats for Kids" Project has provided a generous donation of beautiful and warm snowsuits for our Westwood students. If you need a snowsuit for your child/children please reach out to Cindy Wood clwood@edu.pe.ca or call 902 368-6855. We will need the sizes you require.

Food Insecurity

Food Insecurity seems to be more prevalent this year with grocery prices on this rise. There are many resources for families

1. St. Francis of Assisi Church (Cornwall) Pantry call for an appointment (902) 566-3876

https://pe.211.ca/result/society-of-saint-vincent-de-paul-food-bank-cornwall-63670887

2. Charlottetown Food Bank

https://www.urhm.org/food-bank/

Food Hampers are now available for pick up in Cornwall on Thursdays from 10-12 noon at 29 Cornwall Road. (Food Hampers must be pre-ordered by Wednesday noon by contacting the Food Bank). You can contact the Food Bank at 902-892-7092.

3. School Lunches (pay what you can or not at all)

https://www.peischoolfood.ca/

Financial Aid and Housing Support

One number to call for all government services Call toll-free in Prince Edward Island: **1-877-569-0546**
https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/social-development-and-housing/social-assistance-program

A.M. Drop Off Reminders

Children may be dropped off any time after 8:05 a.m. when STAFF are VISIBLE outside to receive them
Please note: there is no supervision available for students prior to 8:05 am.

- Maximum speed limit on school property is 10km/hr
- 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 CURB SIDE.
- **There is NO PARKING at the front of the school or by the dumpsters or along the lane in/out of the school**. Please park in the newly converted visitor parking area (old tennis courts) and walk over to the school using the crosswalk area.
- When parents are dropping their children off in the morning, we ask that you stay in the line until all the cars ahead of you have exited. There are pylons in the lane so **no passing** is permitted. This is to ensure student safety while exiting the vehicles.
- Students MUST be ready and dressed and exit the vehicle quickly on the sidewalk side of the car. If your child is not ready to exit quickly, please park in the visitor parking lot and walk them to the sidewalk in front of the school. Please be considerate of others by having your child exiting the vehicle quickly.
- Parents should be staying in line to drop their child(ren) off. Please do not pull by the side of the school by the garbage cans to let your child out as this is an unsafe location and blocks the arrival of other vehicles in the staff lot. Thank you 😊

Bus Safety

All students attended a grade level assembly about bus safety.
Safety rules discussed with students:

- Board the bus when the bus has come to a complete stop and the red lights are flashing. Always look at your bus driver to make sure it is safe to cross and board the bus.
- Hold the handrail when getting on and off the bus.
- Students are expected to stay seated facing forward the entire bus ride.
- Students sit seat-to-seat and back-to-back
- Students use a quiet voice on the bus
- Students keep hands and feet to themselves
- No eating or drinking on the bus



- Students follow the instructions of the bus driver.

When waiting for the bus in the morning students should be waiting in their driveway, on a sidewalk or designated safe pick-up area. In the coming months the winter weather will arrive making visibility difficult for vehicles on the road.

PEI School Food Program

Please make sure you are sending cutlery for lunches with your child. We do not have cutlery available at the school. Also please make sure that you **include your child's classroom** when ordering **(E.g. 2A, 3F, etc)**

Grade 3 Recorders

Reminder for parents of Grade 3 students… if you have not already sent in your $10 fee for the purchase of a recorder and music booklet, please do so as soon as possible so that we can order the instruments for the students.

Outdoor Play – Dressing for the Weather

At Westwood Primary, we value the importance of play in the growth and development of our students. We are going to be heading outdoors during our recess times in all kinds of weather. It is important that children are dressed for the weather when they come to school.

For example:

• Rainy Days - children should be wearing boots, splash pants and water-resistant coat (such as a rain coat).
• Snowy Days– children should have winter boots, snow pants & coat, winter hat and mittens
• Sunny Days – Hat to block the sun, cooler/light clothing, footwear they can run and play in (flip flops are sometimes not safe on the equipment)

The only time we will be remaining indoors for recess, is if there is a storm or severe cold temperatures. We are going outside! Please ensure your child(ren) are dressed for the weather.

Outdoor play is critical for young children in schools. Many of the developmental tasks that children must acquire—exploring, risk-taking, fine and gross motor development and the absorption of vast amounts of basic knowledge—can be effectively learned through outdoor play. Children need opportunities to explore, experiment, manipulate, reconfigure, expand, influence, change, marvel, discover, practice, yell, sing, and create.

Outdoor play enables young children to learn lots and lots and lots of things about the world. How does ice feel and sound? Can sticks stand up in sand? How do plants grow? How does mud feel? Why do we slide down instead of up? How do I make my tricycle go faster? How does the overhang of the building create cool shade from the sun? What does a chrysalis change into? How do butterflies have to learn to fly?

Children need lots of opportunities outdoors to develop basic social skills and social competencies: pushing each other on the swing, pulling a wagon carrying another child, playing together in the sand, imaginative play, dramatic play and so on.

Outdoor play also provides a chance to practice social and emotional skills with other children, including problem solving, turn taking, encouragement, self-control, safe risk taking, and following the rules of a game.

Westwood Primary FB Page and Westwood Home & School FB Page

Follow us on our School Facebook Page at https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100057288586113 ! Stay up to date on upcoming events, bus delays, school information and much more! Also follow our Home & School at https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61564576327421 Check out our Win with Westy Page https://www.facebook.com/groups/397555804761842 if you wish to be invited to the Win With Westy Group please leave a message on the Westwood Home & School FB site.

Westwood School Apparel

Now is a great time to order your Westwood Primary School Apparel!! Order early to ensure that your Westwood Clothing is ready for under the Christmas Tree... makes the perfect gift! Log onto the link below and order your favourite items. Remember to pick up your order when it is ready at All Star Cresting.
https://allstarcresting.ca/westwood_apparel/shop/home?fbclid=IwAR2G1XJIJ2oFWkSo3-JmgWVEZCs6OXfS2c9Q6WfR3CAwGhQjxwneGYLrlMw

Community News

Afton Imagination Child Care Centre

A brand-new adventure begins! 💫
We're so excited to open the doors to the Afton Imagination After School Program for our very first school year – 2026/27! This is the start of something special, and we can't wait to welcome families. 💙
Our program runs Monday–Friday, 2:30–6:00 PM at the Afton Community Centre, giving kids a safe, fun, and creative place to play, learn, and make new friends after school.
🌟 We have full and part time spots available 🌟 If you're looking for after school care where your child will feel right at home, we'd love for you to join us in our very first year. Contact 902-675-2842
kids@westriverpe.ca

MAKE A SPLASH WITH THE CHARLOTTETOWN NAIADS!

We are looking for Aqua Go and Novice Swimmers to grow our club!
Does your child love the water, swimming, music, and having fun with friends?
AQUA GO
A great introduction to artistic swimming for younger or newer swimmers!
✨ Learn basic artistic swimming skills
✨ Build confidence in the water
✨ Have fun with music and friends
✨ No previous artistic swimming experience needed!
NOVICE
Perfect for swimmers who are ready to learn more and take their skills to the next level!
✨ Learn artistic swimming skills and routines
✨ Improve strength, flexibility, and swimming ability
✨ Make new friends
✨ Have fun while being part of a team!
Come try something new and make a splash with the Charlottetown Naiads!
📍 Charlottetown, PEI
📩 Contact the Charlottetown Naiads for registration and program information:
synchroswimpei@gmail.com

Home & School News

Home & School News, October 2026

🏐 **Semi-Annual Meeting Registration is Open**
Parents, school staff, and community members are invited to the Semi-Annual Meeting
Date: Tuesday, October 20, 2026
Time: 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Place: Gulf Shore Consolidated School, Rustico, PEI
TOPICS:
1. Compass Youth Health Survey Results 2025-26 by Cody Davenport
2. Home & School Networking = We want to hear from you! Local Home & Schools will lead the discussions on topics:

A. Active Involvement & Relationship Building - Engagement, positive school culture, and strengthening the 'home' and the 'school' relationships
B. Breakfast & Snack Programs - Supporting students' well-being; engaging newcomers/volunteers
C. Fundraising & COSPEI - Effective strategies/alignment with COSPEI
REGISTER by Oct. 15, 2026. Use this Google Form link: https://forms.gle/DWTJ58p82CRNMZQ78

🏐 **Training Workshops for Volunteers**
Vicki Bryanton and Stephen Gould will lead Home and School Training Workshops as follows:

Tues., Oct. 6	Alberton Elementary School	6:00 – 7:30 pm
Mon., Nov. 2	Spring Park Elementary School	6:00 – 7:30 pm
Tues., Nov. 3	Souris Regional School	6:00 – 7:30 pm

All volunteer parents and teachers in your school are welcome to attend and learn helpful tips for executive roles (i.e., President, Co/Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer) and general information for all volunteers. No cost. Refreshments provided. Register by contacting Shirley at: ssmedleyjay @gov.pe.ca or 902-620-3186.
Register for Alberton by Oct. 2nd. / Register for Spring Park & Souris by Oct. 28th.

Crossing Guard Recognition Award
Awards recognize deserving individuals in school communities. The P.E.I. Home and School Federation Crossing Guard Award celebrates individuals who help keep students safe every school day. Nominations are due Nov. 1. Find the application at: https://peihsf.ca/crossing-guard-award/

Parent Leadership Grants
Funds available for up to $500 for Home and Schools to organize parent educational information sessions. Invite speakers to address topics of interest to your school community (i.e., Mental Wellness, Cyberbullying Awareness, School Food Programs, Proper Use of Cell Phones). Submission deadline: Nov. 30. Grant Application and Speakers Resource: https://peihsf.ca/grants/

Update Local Home and School Contacts
Presidents: Use the Google Form to update this year's current Home & School executive contact details by Oct. 1st. (https://forms.gle/TB4W9WJuUndDeLPd6)
Treasurers: Submit 2026-2027 Membership fees to the Federation office by Oct. 15th.
E-transfers to: peihsf@gov.pe.ca Or mail a cheque to: PEIHSF PO Box 1012 Charlottetown PE C1A 7M4

Cyberbullying Workshops
Community Legal Information offers cyberbullying workshops for youth and for parents and caregivers. The workshops are to help prevent cyberbullying and support youth who may be experiencing it. Now that school is back, local Home and Schools may be interested in hosting a youth (12-17) or a parent/caregiver workshop.
The workshops include info about:
- Building language and understanding,
- Spotting the signs of cyberbullying,
- Learning about Canadian youth's online experiences and online spaces they access, Understanding luring and sexual extortion
- Understanding what the law says
- Supporting youth facing cyberbullying
- Using tools and resources for prevention and response

Book with Malak at: malak@legalinfopei.ca | 902-892-0853

Community News…

~ **Building Bridges Workshop** brings together individuals, organizations, community leaders, and service providers from across PEI to explore practical approaches to addressing hate, bias, and identity-based harm and to strengthen connections across our communities.
Workshop Details =

- Date: Thursday, October 29, 2026
- Time: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Location: Charlottetown Central Library

Reply to antiracisminfo@gov.pe.ca with your name and names of other attendees from your organization. *Hosted by: Anti-Racism Office Executive Council Office Government of P.E.I.*
~ Life after High School! Sessions to be held in the Charlottetown area on Oct 18th & 26th. Everyone who attends will leave with a university application checklist and a networking guide for beginners. Parents, teens, and educators are welcome to register. Tickets: $15 pp or $25 for a family. All the information is available at https://careerified.ca/life-after-high-school/.

