

Westwood Primary School Newsletter

April 2, 2024



Principal: Sherry Flynn
Vice-Principal: Lynette MacKinnon

Dates to Remember

- April 1st – Statutory Holiday (**NO SCHOOL**)
- April 2nd – First Day Back for Students & Staff following March Break
- April 4th – Early French Immersion Kindergarten Presentation (6pm)
- April 8th – **Early Dismissal at 12:30pm (Solar Eclipse)**
- April 16th – Grade 2 Field Trip for Classes 2A, 2I, 2B
- April 17th – Grade 2 Field Trip for Classes 2F, 2C, 2G
- April 19th – Professional Development Day (**NO SCHOOL**)
- April 23rd – Grade 2 Field Trip for Classes 2D, 2E, 2H
- April 25th – Home & School Meeting @ 6:00pm in the Staff Room
- April 30th – Grade 2 Spring Concert for Classes 2A, 2C, 2F, 2H
- May 2nd – Grade 3 Spring Concert for Classes 2B, 2D, 2E, 2G, 2I
- May 3rd – Area Association Day (**NO SCHOOL**)
- May 9th – Welcome to Kindergarten Sessions (French Immersion Program)
- May 16th – Welcome to Kindergarten Sessions (English Program)
- May 20th – Statutory Holiday (**NO SCHOOL**)
- May 31st – Orientation Day for Incoming Kindergarten Students 2024-2025 (**NO SCHOOL for current Kindergarten Students**)

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.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

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

It is EXTREMELY important that we have accurate registration numbers in order to have the correct number of teachers and support staff hired. Kindergarten classes have a cap enrollment per class. In order to have the correct number of teachers and support staff for our students we need have accurate numbers.

If your child is turning 5 years old before December 31, 2024 please stop by Westwood Primary School to register for Kindergarten between 8:30pm and 4:00 pm Monday through Friday.

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

Early French Immersion Kindergarten 2024-2025 Presentation

Each year when families register their child(ren) for Early French Immersion Kindergarten we get asked;

*What is the Early French Immersion Program all about? ... **AND...** Is a good fit for my child?*

How can I support my child in an Early French Immersion Program if I do not speak French?

And many more

This year we are hosting an Early French Immersion Presentation for parents registered in the Kindergarten Early French Immersion Program for the 2024-2025 school year to help share what an Early French Immersion Program looks like and to answer any questions you may have. There will be an

opportunity to talk about the benefits and challenges that children may experience in an Early Immersion Program. We hope to see you there!

The presentation will be hosted by our French Immersion Resource teachers and School Administration.

Please join us on April 4th at 6:00 pm in our Multi-Purpose Room at Westwood Primary School.

It's Spring!

Rain and sunshine are beginning the melting of the snow and as a result our school yard is wet in many areas and sometimes muddy. Please make sure that your child(ren) is wearing waterproof boots, snow/splash pants, and clothing appropriate to the season. ***It is also important to pack some spare clothing in your child's kit bag (socks, underwear, pants) that can be kept in a bag at school on their hook in the event that they get wet outside. Thanks!***

Solar Eclipse Early Dismissal Information

Out of an abundance of caution for student and staff safety, the Public Schools Branch will be dismissing schools 2 hours earlier than their regular dismissal time on Monday, April 8, 2024.

This means Westwood Primary School will be dismissing students at 12:30pm.

We will be following the Early Closure Plan you submitted in the Fall...UNLESS, you send a note indicating a different BUS drop. We will not be holding any students as all staff and students are dismissing at this time. If you wish to pick up your child, you must do so NO LATER than 12:30pm and please send a note indicating a pick up.

Solar Eclipse Glasses

Solar eclipse glasses have been purchased for all students and staff and will be distributed to students later in the week. PEI will be experiencing a total solar eclipse on April 8th, 2024. For safe viewing protocol, please see the CPHO website: <https://solareclipse.princeedwardisland.ca/Safely-Watch>

Westwood Primary Home & School

Our Home & School plays an important role in bringing together parents, guardians, teachers, administrators and staff to promote the total well-being of children and the highest standards of education for each child in the province. We believe that the participation of parents and guardians in the education of our children is vital to ensuring our children's success in learning. Home & School provides a way to get involved in your child's education and learn more about what is happening in your child's school. It is also an opportunity to meet other parents and educators in your school community; discuss education topics that are important to you, such as curriculum content, class size, class composition, school bus safety, health education, and when there are gaps in the education system, parents and teachers can hold conversations to raise issues with government through a resolution process.

Please join us for the upcoming Home & School Meeting on April 25th at 6:00pm.

Music News

Grade 2 will be presenting PAJAMA PARTY! for our Spring Concert on **Tuesday, May 30th at 7:00pm (Classes 2A, 2C, 2F, 2H)** and on **Thursday, May 2nd at 7:00pm** in the gym. Due to the large number of students in grade two we have to divide the classes and present two concerts due to fire regulations for gymnasium capacity. **Due to fire regulations, there will be a limit of 2 guest per student for each concert.**

There will be a dress rehearsal the same days at 1:00pm for extended family.

Donations will be accepted to cover the cost of a lights and sound technician.

Regular Pick Up Plans

Please send a note with your child or call the school **prior to 1:30 pm**, if you are going to be picking your child up (and this is not your usual plan). If your child needs to take a different bus for child care, please send a note and we will give your child a bus pass. **DO NOT EMAIL any BUS NOTES or BUS CHANGES to staff at the school.** Staff are very busy and often do not have time to check emails until the end of the day or may be out at a PD Session or off sick. Please submit a written note or phone the office BEFORE 1:30pm.

Westwood School Apparel

Our Westwood Home and School has partnered with a local company, All Star Cresting, to open a Westwood Primary online apparel store. Parents and staff can order directly from the link below and The Home and School will receive a commission of 10% on all sales, which will go back directly to the school. This is a great opportunity to support Westwood Primary and shop local while showing your school spirit! Two of our Grade 3 classes are planning upcoming spirit days... this would be a great time to flash your new Westwood clothing! Way to go Westies! https://allstarcresting.ca/westwood_apparel/shop/home

Milk and Pizza Orders

Milk and pizza can be purchased for students using the Hot Lunches ordering system. The website is westwood.hotlunches.net. Parents can purchase white Milk (50 cents), chocolate Milk (80 cents) daily. We are currently offering the option on Tuesdays to purchase pizza from Little Caesar's cheese or pepperoni pizza (\$3.00). On Wednesdays, students can purchase 4 Crazy bread from Little Casear's for \$3. **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.*

April orders – Deadline is Sunday, March 31

May orders – Deadline is Sunday, April 28

June orders – Deadline is Sunday, June 2



Upcoming Dates for Your Child for Kindergarten 2024-2025

Welcome to Kindergarten Program for 2024-2025

You are your child's first and best teacher! You and your child(ren) are invited to an evening of interactive learning at Westwood Primary School. Family engagement helps children to be successful in school and in life. Early education is of vital importance as it lays the foundation for future academic and social success. The *Welcome to Kindergarten Program* helps prepare for a positive start to their school journey.

We will be offering sessions over the course of two evenings in May: On May 9th (Early French Immersion Program) and May 16th (English Program). Information will be emailed out to parents/guardians regarding which evening you are invited to attend.

Kindergarten Orientation Day for 2024-2025

Your child is invited to attend a half day Kindergarten Orientation on May 31st. Further details will be shared with parents in May at the Welcome to Kindergarten Sessions. **Current Kindergarten Students do not have school on May 31st.**

Bus Safety

It is important that all of our students follow the bus safety rules on the bus. Students should be sitting seat to seat, back to back with backpacks on their knees or the seat (if room); students should be sitting for the entire bus ride, using quiet voices, hands on their own bodies and no eating or drinking on the bus. Please review these bus safety rules with your child(ren).

Breakfast Volunteers

We are looking for one breakfast volunteer for Wednesdays starting April 3rd (if possible) until the end of June. Volunteers are required to have a Criminal Record Check. If you do not have one already on file, the school can provide you with a letter to take to the RCMP to obtain your CRC. Please contact Lynette MacKinnon, Vice-Principal, (lymackinnon@edu.pe.ca) if you are interested in volunteering on Wednesdays

Home & School News

Home and School News, April 2024

1. Still time to register

Please register your Home and School delegates by April 8 for the P.E.I. Home and School Federation's Annual General Meeting & Convention. The Rodd Charlottetown Hotel and the Federation office preparations require our total attendance. Here are the details:

AGM Date: Saturday, April 13, 2024

Time: 08:45 a.m. – 01:30 p.m.

Fee: \$40 per person

Place: Rodd Charlottetown Hotel (75 Kent St. Charlottetown)

***Associations are urged to pay the registration fee, travel, and accommodation costs for their delegates to remove barriers to attending.

Parents, educators and students are welcome to attend with each Home and School asked to designate up to five representatives as your association's voting delegates.

Register online (<https://peihsf.ca/agm/>) or call 902-620-3186.

2. Reminder to review 2024 Resolutions before April 13

Resolutions submitted by local Home and School Associations will be discussed and **voted on at the AGM on April 13. Ensure your voting delegates (parents, guardians, educators and students) review these prior to the AGM. Proposed resolutions include:**

2024-1 Request inquiry into the indoor temperature of PEI schools

2024-2 Request PSB policy amendment for extreme hot weather

2024-3 Feasibility study of installing vaping detectors in schools

2024-4 Creation of a policy regarding screen use in primary schools

2024-5 Late resolution: Kindergarten Exemption from Split-Level Classroom Composition

All Resolutions can be viewed online at: <https://peihsf.ca/agm/>

3. School Bus Driver Award

[School Bus Driver of the Year Award](#) recognizes school bus drivers on P.E.I. for keeping our students safe as they travel to and from school daily. [Submit nominations by May 3, 2024.](#)

4. Solar Eclipse

On April 8 students will be dismissed two hours early due to the solar eclipse. PEI will experience the effects of the eclipse between 3:26 p.m. and 5:44 p.m. "The solar eclipse offers a rare

educational occasion, but prioritizing safety is crucial for all of us to fully embrace its wonder. Doing a system wide early dismissal ensures our bus drivers will be off the road before the eclipse begins, and students will be home safely." - Education and Early Years Minister Natalie Jameson. Look up: [Solar Eclipse](#)

5. Cyberbullying Awareness Day

A private member's bill brought forward by Souris-Elmira MLA Robin Croucher proclaimed April 25, 2024, as Cyberbullying Awareness Day, marking the anniversary of islander Harry Burke's death.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/prince-edward-island/pei-harry-burke-sextortion-1.7150941>

Other

~National Volunteer Week, April 14-20, 2024 is a time to celebrate and thank Canada's 24 million volunteers.

The theme "Every Moment Matters" highlights the importance of every volunteer and each contribution they make

at a moment when we need support more than ever. Let's recognize and celebrate every volunteer and each contribution

they're making to strengthen inclusivity and wellbeing in our communities. Now more than ever, Every Moment Matters!

#NVW2024 #EveryMomentMatters

~Virtual LungNSPEI 'Engaging Youth Stakeholders in Youth Vaping Cessation' Workshop,

April 3, 2024, 10:00-11:30 am! We need your voice and experience to help us better understand the opportunities and

challenges organizations are facing in their work to support youth vaping cessation on P.E.I. [This online workshop is FREE](#)

[and open to anyone who works with youth.](#) Please register and you will be sent a link to join the workshop before April 3: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/youth-vaping-cessation-workshop-online-tickets-851673728047?aff=oddtcreator>

Community News

Outdoor Soccer Registration

Delta Soccer's registration for outdoor programs opens April 1st. Our programs feature registration options that allow you to register for parts or all of the outdoor season. We specialise in programs for players born 2020 to 2015 as well as supplemental skills training for players born 2014 to 2011, including goalkeepers. Our season begins May 14th and ends September 1st. This outdoor season, try different and experience the difference. For more information go to deltasoccer.ca.

Spring Indoor Soccer Programs

Delta Soccer is offering spring indoor programs that will run between April 1st and May 11th. Programs consist of six, 1-hour sessions and there are options for participants born between 2011 and 2020. For program descriptions, schedules and to register go to deltasoccer.ca.