

Westwood Primary School

February 1, 2025



Principal: Sherry Flynn
Vice-Principal: Colleen Taylor

Dates to Remember

February 3rd - Professional Development Day (**NO SCHOOL**)

February 10th – 14th - Staff Appreciation Week

February 11th – Love and Kindness Celebration 12:30 pm (1C, 1D, 1G & 1H)

February 13th – Love and Kindness Celebration 12:30 pm (1A, 1B & 1E)

February 17th - Islander Day – Statutory Holiday (**NO SCHOOL**)

February 26th – Pink Shirt Day

March 6th – Parent Teacher Conferences (Evening)

March 7th - Parent- Teacher Conferences (Day) (**NO SCHOOL**)

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parents/Guardians will be able to log on and book parent-teacher conferences on February 21st and will close February 28th at 10:00 pm. We will send out an email reminder to parents later in the month. Parents are able to book parent-teacher conference times for students attending both Westwood Primary and Eliot River Elementary Schools at the same time. **We recommend that you allow at least for 15 minutes between multiple interviews when booking.** A link to the Parent-Teacher Conferences Scheduler is on our main web page. <https://eliotriver.schoolappointments.com/admin/>

Emergency Early Closure

Occasionally schools need to close during the day because of emergencies beyond our control or poor weather conditions. There will be an announcement on local radio stations in the event of an emergency early closure. In the event of an emergency early closure, we follow the **emergency early closure plan** you indicated at the beginning of the school year (yellow form). We do not follow any bus notes that may have been sent in that day.

Please note: During an emergency early closure we are unable to phone individual children's homes, so it is critical that we have this emergency bus plan on file. Calling the school is not an option during an emergency early closure because we may have had to evacuate the school or you may not be able to get through to the school, as the phone lines are busy. We do not take calls for pick-ups as we do not hold children at the school during emergency early closures. If you are able to arrive at the school prior to the dismissal of the buses we will call your child(ren) up to the office for pick-up.

Student Drop Off

Please make sure when you enter the Student Drop Off Area that you are pulling your vehicle up as far as you can towards the stop sign to allow additional vehicles to fill in behind you along the curb at the front of the school. Please ensure your child is ready to exit the vehicle quickly when you pull up to the drop off area (jackets are on and back packs ready to go). **If your child needs extra time to get ready to exit the vehicle, please park in the new designated parking lot area (tennis courts) and walk your child to the sidewalk.** The drop off traffic can get backed up and it creates a safety concern when students do not exit their vehicles quickly. **We ask that students do not get dropped off by the garbage cans or staff parking lot, as there is a great deal of staff traffic in this area in the morning and the lanes are very narrow there. This poses a safety risk if people are parked or pulled over in this area.** Students should be getting dropped off either in the drop off area or parents are parking in the designated parking lot (tennis courts) and walking their children to the sidewalk.

The Student Drop Off Area is a **continuous flow area** – there is no parking permitted along the front of the school. There is no passing in this area and please do not move the pylons we have placed out front. Thank-you for your cooperation and keeping students safe.

Bus Safety

Our bus drivers work hard every day to get our students to and from school safely. As we move into the winter season it is more important than ever that the children are being safe and orderly on the bus. Please take some time to review appropriate bus safety with your children. All classes have had bus safety discussions, but from time to time 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) When waiting for the school bus during winter weather we ask that you have your child wait in the drive way, **NOT on the side of the road**. Often vehicles cannot see the students because of the snowbanks
- 7) 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 and waiting outside at their bus stop 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 and helping our bus drivers keep our students safe.*

Medications

Reminder to all parents: if you are dropping off medication for your child to take at school the medication must be **pre-measured** and in a labeled container with your child's name. As well, a Medication Form must be completed for Westwood to administer medication. All medications are kept and administered in the office. Please do not send medications with your child on the school bus. All medications should be dropped off at the school.

Milk Orders/Hot Lunches Program

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 or Chocolate Milk 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.*

February orders – Deadline is Sunday, February 2

March orders – Deadline is Sunday, March 2

April orders – Deadline is Sunday, March 30

May orders – Deadline is Sunday, April 27

June orders – Deadline is Sunday, June 1

Parents are able to check their Hot Lunch Accounts to see what they have ordered, if they have paid, etc. Sometimes parents order on the wrong month and they are able to check this at home. To view your account transactions, log into your Hot Lunch account. From the menu at the top of the page, choose **Orders**, then **Account Transactions**. This will give you a summary of your transactions for the year.

2025 - 2026 Kindergarten Registration Reminder



We understand that there are still several children in the area who have not registered for 2025 - 2026 Kindergarten. If you know of someone who has an eligible child, please pass this message along to them: All children who will be 5 years old by December 31st, 2025 are eligible to attend Kindergarten in the 2025 - 2026 school year. You can register your child by dropping in to the school

between 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m (Monday-Friday). You must have documents that show proof of birth, as well as, address verification at the time of registration.

Planning for the 2025 - 2026 school year is underway, so knowing the size of our 2025-2026 Kindergarten enrollment is crucial to assisting us with staffing needs.

Winter Weather

Cold winter weather is upon us. Students **must** bring clothing appropriate for the weather. Please make sure your child has mittens (preferably 2 pairs), hats, boots and snow pants **and** a change of clothes for the kitbag. Extra clothes can be placed in a plastic bag and left on your child's hook in the classroom.

Staff Appreciation Week

Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week across PEI is coming up and runs from February 10th – 14th, 2025. The Westwood Home and School Association is encouraging parents and students to share their appreciation to the excellent staff at our school by treating them to lots of goodies throughout the week. Please review the available slots below and click on the button to sign up by February 5th (feel free to choose more than one). Here is the link to the sign-up genius

<https://m.signupgenius.com/#!/showSignUp/60B0C4DAEAA2EA4F58-54471066-teacher>

Treats can be store bought or homemade but remember that all donations must be peanut/tree nut and kiwi free. Treats can be delivered to the School Office on the morning of your chosen day between 7:30-9:00am. In the event of a storm day closure, please feel free to bring in your treat on the next day! If using a reusable container (preferably not glass) make sure to label with your child's name and class so it can be returned to you.

Thank you for your support in treating the great Staff at Westwood Primary!

Breakfast Program

The Breakfast Program runs each day with the help of volunteers, from 8:05 – 8:30. Please note there is no Breakfast Program when there is a weather related delay to the start of the school day.

We gratefully accept donations of plain or multigrain Cheerios, apples, yogurt tubes, baby carrots, bananas, cucumbers, whole wheat bread, strawberry jam and margarine.

Music News

Love & Kindness Assembly: Our Grade 1's will be spreading "Love & Kindness" in assemblies February 11th and 13th. Parents of Grade 1 students are invited to join us in the Multipurpose Room at 12:30pm on the following dates:

Tuesday, February 11th (Storm date Feb 12th)

1C (Nicole Hazelwood-McGee)

1D (Christa Schurman)

1G (Krista Dumville)

1H (Robyn Weeks)

Thursday, February 13th (Storm date Feb 14th)

1A (Jennifer Kelly)

1B (Kelly Stewart)

1E (Chrissy McCarville)

RECORDERS: Grade 3 classes are starting recorders next month. Please send in \$10 if you have not already done so. We are excited to get started!

Music Adventures: Students are almost ready to record O'Canada and Westwood Song for our morning announcements and sound beautiful!

Google Sites: Be sure to check the Google Sites to see what music classes are working on.

Ms. Hanson: <https://sites.google.com/cloud.edu.pe.ca/mshansonsmusicroom/home>

Ms. Dahn: <https://sites.google.com/cloud.edu.pe.ca/westwoodmusicroom/home>

Grade 2 Spring Concert - SAVE THE DATE! Grade 2 students will be presenting the Spring Concert on Thursday, May 1st. Stay tuned for more details!

Shelley Hanson & Dorothy Dahn

Provincial Home & School News

Home and School News, February 2025

Screentime Guidelines

New screentime draft guidelines are now available to help encourage healthy screen use behaviours in Island schools. Following the ministerial directive on restricting cell phone use in schools, these [draft guidelines](#), developed in collaboration with health expert Dr. Travis Saunders, provide educators with best practices on screen use that enhance student health, engagement and academic success while minimizing social and physical harm.

“While screens are present everywhere in our lives, it is our responsibility to help young people

develop smart screen use behaviours that positively benefit their learning and wellbeing. Providing

our educators with best practices as well as tips and tricks will give them the knowledge and flexibility

to choose when and how they use screens in the classroom. Technology can be a powerful learning tool, and we want to ensure that young people are equipped to make healthy, balanced decisions.”

- Minister of Education and Early Years Rob Lantz

PEI residents can review the guidelines and send their feedback to educationpolicy@gov.pe.ca

until February 6, 2025. Comments received will help inform the development of future resources for parents, guardians and students to apply similar approaches outside the classroom.

Presidents' Annual Reports

Each Home and School President is requested to write and submit their Annual Report to the Federation office by February 28. Please involve your executive team in helping you with the content. All reports will be included in the 72nd Annual Book of Reports. In your report, include activities from this school year, starting in September and ending in June. You can find tips on how to write your report by reviewing last year's 2024 Book of Reports at: <https://peihsf.ca/agm/>. If you need assistance, please contact Jeana MacIsaac at the PEIHSF office at info@peihsf.ca or 902-620-3187.

Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week

Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week is from February 10-14, 2025. Home and School Associations are planning ways to thank school staff during this week. Start brainstorming ideas now to express your gratitude to the staff.

Volunteer & Life Member Awards

The Federation's Volunteer of the Year Award recognizes one volunteer's significant contributions to helping volunteers in their local school communities. The Life Member acknowledges service to the provincial Federation. Associations may nominate Home and School volunteers for these awards by the deadline: March 2. Criteria and Form are online at: <https://peihsf.ca/awards/>

👉 AGM coming in April

The P.E.I. Home and School Federation's Annual General Meeting will be on April 12, 2025, at the Rodd Charlottetown Hotel. The Federation office will mail the AGM package to presidents and information will be posted at: <https://peihsf.ca/agm/> Plan to register 2-5 delegates to represent your school.

👉 What do you know about the harms of youth vaping?

The Chief Public Health Officer has developed a Smoking/Vaping presentation for junior and senior high students. The Tobacco Enforcement Officer (TEO), Kelly Campbell, has been actively trying to combat youth smoking/vaping in various ways and has presented to several intermediate-level classes. This presentation, aimed at parents/adults, highlights associated with electronic smoking devices (ESDs). The high-level topics addressed include:

- Terminology/Types of Electronic Smoking Devices
- Nicotine Replacement Therapies
- What is in a Vape
- Effects of Social Media
- Nicotine Content of Vapes
- PEI Examples of Confiscated Products (from schools)
- Ways to Hide Vapes (e.g. highlighter, sharpie, etc.)
- Safe Disposal
- Fire Safety Concerns
- Resources

I urge all Junior and Senior High Home and School/Parent Council groups to schedule a time for Kelly to speak to parents during your local school meetings. The goal is to equip adults with comprehensive information so they can effectively discuss the harms of vaping with their children and be more aware of the products available and their potential health effects. He wants to present to every school community in Prince Edward Island. Please contact him directly at kdcampbell@ihis.org.

👉 Pink Shirt Day Canada 2025 "Choose kindness!"

Join in the national celebration on February 26th and help to eliminate bullying and discrimination in all its forms.

For more information go to: <https://pinkshirtdaycanada.ca/>

Happy Valentine's Day from Westy

