

Westwood Primary School Newsletter

May 1, 2024



Principal: Sherry Flynn
Vice-Principal: Lynette MacKinnon

Dates to Remember

- May 2nd** – Grade 2 Pyjama Party Musical (1:00 pm & 7:00 pm) Classes 2B, 2E, 2D, 2G & 2I
- May 3rd** – Area Association Meeting (**NO SCHOOL**)
- May 9th** – Welcome to Kindergarten Program 2024-2025 (Early French Immersion Students)
- May 16th** – Welcome to Kindergarten Program 2024-2025 (English Students)
- May 20th** – Victoria Day (**NO SCHOOL**)
- May 31st** – Half Day Orientation Day for Kindergarten 2024-2025 students (**NO SCHOOL for present Kindergarten Students**)
- June 3rd – 7th** – Parent/Teacher Conferences by request (Parent or Teacher)

School Day Success

At Westwood Primary School our School Day **STARTS at 8:30 am**. We have seen a large number of students arriving right at 8:30am or after. The ideal time for a student to arrive is 8:10-8:20am. (First bell rings at 8:20 am)

Arriving on time for school ensures that your child doesn't miss out on the important learning activities that happen early in the day when they are most alert. Set your child up for success and make certain your child arrives to school **On Time. Every Time.** The importance of arriving on time:

**On Time.
Every
Time.**

"Being on time sets my day up for success. I can visit my friends, get ready for learning and hear all of my teacher's instructions."

- Smooth transition period - students who arrive at school with time to spare have the opportunity to settle into the classroom, prepare their materials and focus their minds on the lessons to come.
- Important information – a typical school day starts with classroom morning meetings, announcements and introductions to new lessons and concepts. Students who show up late may miss out on important details and be unprepared for future class events or key learning concepts.
- Many school intervention programs, resource supports and specialist classes begin at 8:30am. Students are missing key instruction if they are not on time and may end up being unable to continue in a specific program.
- Develops long-term positive habits – when students show up on time to school every day, they develop the habit of being punctual with important commitments.
- Self-esteem - arriving on time every day ***makes children feel good about themselves.***

Parent – Teacher Conferences - The final parent-teacher conferences are by request only, requested either through the teacher or parent. Parent-Teacher conferences will take place between June 3rd to the 7th. Should you wish to have a conference about your child's progress please contact your child's teacher.

It's Spring !

Please make sure that your child(ren) is wearing waterproof boots, splash pants, and clothing appropriate to the season. Please label all of your child's clothing. ***It is also important to pack some spare clothing in your child's kit bag (socks, underwear and pants) that can be kept in a bag at school on their hook in the event that they get wet outside. Thanks!***

Kindergarten Orientation Day

Parents of Kindergarten students for the 2024-2025 school year will be contacted by school through email regarding the drop off and pick up times. **The orientation day is for students only.** Please pack a small snack for your child and indoor footwear. **Keep in mind we are a scent free, tree nut, peanut and kiwi free school.**

Kindergarten students currently attending Westwood Primary are reminded that they are not to come to school on May 31st.

Sunscreen

The warmer weather has started. Now is the time to start thinking about sunscreen for your child. Students are outside for 15- 30 minutes for recess every day. Our Physical Education program also takes advantage of the great weather and often will hold its classes outside which increases your child's exposure to sun. Sunscreen and sun protection are very important for children and adolescents. Skin cancer is becoming more common in young people. Protecting your child's skin from too much exposure to the sun can greatly reduce this risk. Sunburn is a sign of skin damage that you can see, but invisible damage occurs too, in all skin types.

It is important to remember when selecting sunscreen for your child that Westwood School is a **SCENT FREE School**. Please make sure that you select a product that is not scented. We also recommend putting the sunscreen on in the morning before heading to school. Students can then keep a small tube/bottle in their back pack should they need to reapply it later in the day. We also recommend a hat that can be worn outdoors as an extra measure of sun protection. Thanks ☺

Bus Safety

Students can be unsettled on the bus this time of year with the nicer weather. Please continue to have conversations with your child(ren) about staying safe on the bus. Students should be sitting seat to seat, back to back, using quiet voices, keeping hands on their own bodies, remaining seated for the entire bus ride and being kind to others.

Student Drop Off

When dropping children off in the morning, they should be dropped off using the drop off lane in front of the school or parents can park in the parking area and walk them to the front of the school. Students **should not** be dropped off at the side of the school by the garbage bins or inside the curved lane entrance. Cars should be pulled up to the CURB before students disembark from the vehicle. Please try to have your child ready to exit the vehicle to keep the traffic running smoothly. If your child requires more time, please park in the visitor parking lot and walk your child to the sidewalk.

End of Year Field Trips

Our Kindergarten classes will be going to Alexander and Darlene's Farm Haven in Stanley Bridge and Cavendish Grove. Classes will be split into 2 groups and spend half the day at each location.

The Kindergarten Field trip will be taking place on June 20th with a rain date of June 21st.

The Grade 1-3 Field trip will take place on June 19th with a rain date of June 20th. Students will be going to Shining Waters.

Volunteers for Field Trips

In order to make our field trips successful, we are going to need parent volunteers to help supervise groups of students. Volunteers will need to provide their own transportation to and from the field trip locations. We are unable to accommodate volunteers taking additional children with them on the field trip.

If you would like to volunteer, you will need to provide a Criminal Record Check (vulnerable sector check). The school can provide you with a letter to obtain the CRC free of charge. Please call the school at (902) 368-6855 between 8:30 – 2:00 or 3:00 – 3:30. We will need your full name and date of birth to prepare the letter. If you already have a CRC on file with us, they are valid for 2 years.

Hot Lunches

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.*

May orders – Deadline is Sunday, April 28th

June orders – Deadline is Sunday, June 2nd

June is not currently open for orders. Parents will be emailed when the June schedule is open for orders.

3E Class Student Garden

The students and teacher in 3E are looking for help with tilling their Student Garden area. If you or someone you know is available to come and till the garden area for the students, please contact Ms. Johnston at 902-368-6855 or by email at kxdewey@edu.pe.ca

Lost and Found

We have an abundance of items in our Lost and Found boxes. Parents and children are welcome to look through our bins in the lobby to find some of their lost items. It is helpful to label your child's belongings so when items are found they can be easily returned.

Home & School News

Home and School News, May 2024

1. School Bus Driver Award

Reminder: Home and Schools can nominate a school bus driver to receive recognition for keeping our children safe as they travel to and from school. Submission date: **Friday, May 3, 2024**. More at: <https://peihsf.ca/school-bus-driver-of-the-year-award/>

2. Newly Elected Board

Congratulations to Shannon Bruyneel, the newly elected PEI Home and School Federation president and the incoming 2024-2025 board. Thank you to outgoing president Dionne Tuplin, board reps Matthew McNally and Elina John, and local Home and School delegates and guests for participating in the AGM on April 13th. Vacant positions include Bluefield, Colonel Gray, Morell, and Souris. If you want to join the PEIHSF board, contact the Federation office at 902-620-3186 / peihsf@gov.pe.ca for details.

3. Provincial Science Fair Specialty Awards

The PEI Home and School Federation presented Specialty Awards at the 2024 Provincial Science Fair on April 9th. Congratulations to **Mariella Walsh**, West Royalty, Grade 6, "Which Environment Affects Your Memory the Most?" and **Charlotte Beatty**, Donagh, Grade 5, "Hey Mold? Whatcha Eatin'?"

4. Public Schools Branch

The PSB Review of Schools Report for the Charlottetown Family of Schools (Charlottetown Rural and Colonel Gray) is available and can be found at: <https://psb.edu.pe.ca/news-updates>. PSB Board of Trustees meeting dates will be posted online at <https://psb.edu.pe.ca/board-meetings-and-minutes>

5. School Calendar

The Department of Education and Early Years released the 2024-2025 School Calendar on April 17th. Find posted at [2023-2024 School Calendar | Government of Prince Edward Island](#)

6. COMPASS Student Health Results 2023-24

The 2023-2024 COMPASS Student Health Survey results are posted at: <https://www.livewellpei.ca/compass-project-0>.

7. The Guardian Home and School news column

President Shannon Bruyneel's first Home and School column will be published on May 3rd and the ensuing first Fridays of the month during the school year. The Guardian columns are posted online at <https://peihsf.ca/news/>.