

Westwood Primary School Newsletter

November 1, 2023



Principal: Sherry Flynn
Vice-Principal: Lynette MacKinnon

Dates to Remember

- November 9th** – Remembrance Day Assembly for Students
- November 13th** - Remembrance Day Observed (**NO SCHOOL**)
- November 15th** – School Picture Retakes (*Lifetouch*)
- November 16th** – PEITF Convention/CUPE Convention (**NO SCHOOL**)
- November 17th** – PEITF Convention/CUPE Convention (**NO SCHOOL**)
- November 23rd** – Parent Teacher Conferences (**EVENING**)
- November 24th** – Parent Teacher Conferences (**DAY - NO SCHOOL**)
- November 30th** – Home & School Meeting 6:00 pm
- December 7th** – Report Cards

Starting the Day Off on a Positive Note

As you know, being on time for school has a huge impact on learning. The best time for students to arrive is between 8:05am – 8:20am. This allows students the time to settle in and participate in the morning breakfast program before the FIRST BELL rings at 8:20am.

When the FIRST BELL rings students exit the breakfast program and return to class to get ready to start at 8:30am when the SECOND BELL rings. It is very important for the students to be ready to start their day at 8:30am. There are often announcements at this time, classes are moving to their specialist classes (Music, Physical Education or Library) and some students are participating in a variety of interventions, such as resource support, IPLE or even consulting with outside agency specialists such as Speech & Language Pathologist, Occupational Therapists, Counselling Consultants and/or Physiotherapists.

Sometimes when children arrive late and do not have the time to settle in and get ready to start the day or their class has already left for a specialist, it can cause confusion and stress... sometimes leading to a rough day.

There will, of course, be times when your child has a dental or medical appointment and may arrive late! ***If your child does happen to arrive late for school, please walk your child into the school and sign them in.*** Thanks!

Thanks to all families for making the effort to get your children to school on time, we appreciate it!

We Are a Growth Mindset School

Westwood Primary School is a Growth Mindset school. We focus on Growth Mindset and Character Building with our students with the belief that all students are capable of learning and growth. Growth mindset is the belief that a person's intelligence and abilities are not fixed traits, but rather all students are capable of academic achievement with effort, perseverance and the right supports.

As a school, we are asking for your partnership in this journey. You can help by valuing growth and improvement that you see in your children every day. Here are some ways you can promote Growth Mindset at home:

- Encourage your child(ren) to tackle challenges and take risks at school
- Praise your child(ren) for the *effort* they put into learning new things
- Communicate with the school around your child's learning
- Emphasize *effort* and *perseverance* in activities your child is involved in. (For example: *"I am proud of how much effort you put in to your soccer game"* versus *"I am proud of how many goals you scored"*)

We welcome you joining us on our Growth Mindset journey at Westwood Primary School. The home and school partnership is vital for student success.

Westwood Primary School Parent-Teacher Conferences

Westwood Primary and Eliot River Elementary Schools use On-Line Bookings for Parent-Teacher Conferences for November 23rd and 24th. A link is located on our school web page where you can register and book parent-teacher conference times. <https://eliotriver.schoolappointments.com/admin/>

The Parent Teacher Conference Schedule will be open for Parents to book appointments on Nov 12th at 9am and closes on the 17th at 10 pm

We would like **ALL** parents/guardians to go online and create an account and book your child(ren)'s time(s).

Parents/Guardians are able to book children at both schools at the same time. **Please leave approximately 15-30 minutes between appointment times between the two schools.** This will allow for you to get to the next appointment at the other school.

For instructions on how to set up an account:

- Click on link → <https://eliotriver.schoolappointments.com/admin/>
- Click on the **Help** button (top left of the page)
- Select **Parent Instruction Guide**
- Follow the information.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school between 8:00 am – 4:00 pm.

Bus Safety

Please review bus safety expectations with your child on a regular basis. Students should be sitting seat to seat, back to back, staying seated for the entire bus ride, using quiet voices and keeping hands and feet to themselves. The following YouTube video was shared with all students and can be used as a good review of bus safety. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WtUNK9zo8Ek&t=390s>

Westwood Primary School Christmas Families Project

Westwood Primary School supports a number of our Westwood families at Christmas time. We join together with local church groups of all denominations, local businesses and organizations, and staff of Westwood and Westwood families to help families in need during the festive season. Last year we supported approximately 50 children. This help can be in the form of gift cards, monetary donations, toys or clothing for children. We also have a donation button on our HOTLUNCH menu should you wish to contribute that way. Please contact Cindy Wood, School Counsellor, at 902 368-6855 if your family would like to contribute. Thanks for your support!

Scholastic Book Fair

Looking to start your holiday shopping? Westwood will be hosting its annual Scholastic Book Fair from November 20-24th. This event is a key fundraiser for our school library program, as 50% of our net sales remains here at Westwood to purchase resources for our school library collection. The fair will be open each school day until 4:00pm for parents who have scheduled P/T interviews, as well as Thursday evening until 8:00pm and Friday until noon. Thank-you in advance for your support for our school library program.

Puzzles to Donate?

Our school library is looking for donations of gently used 24 or 48 piece puzzles. If you have any to spare, we will put them to good use 😊

Parenting Resources

Our Home & School has purchased a number of resources for parents. Some titles include:

The Explosive Child by Ross Greene

Secrets of Discipline by Ronald Morrish

The Unwritten Rules of Friendship: Simple Strategies to Help Your Child Make Friends

These resources may be signed out from our school library. A complete list of titles can be found by searching "parenting resources" in our school library collection. You can find a link to the school library collection on the school webpage.

Thanks to Our Amazing Bus Drivers

Westwood bus drivers would like to thank parents for being considerate of the buses when they drop off and pick up their children. The drivers appreciate that parents are leaving a lane for buses to enter and exit the school. Thank-you! 😊

Fall Weather

Fall has arrived... parents/guardians are reminded to ensure that your child(ren) is appropriately dressed for the cool and wet weather we have been seeing on some days. Please don't forget the hats, mitts, boots and splash pants. We head outside in all kinds of weather so please be sure to be dressed for the weather. It is very helpful to have a change of clothes in the child's kitbag (they can be left at school too) so that we do not have to call home for clothes. It is important to have all clothing labeled with the child's name. We have a huge amount of lost and found items every year that go unclaimed.

Hot Lunch Program (Milk 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). We have recently added 4 Crazy bread from Little Casear's on Wednesdays 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.

November orders – Deadline is Sunday, October 29

December orders – Deadline is Sunday, November 26

January orders – Deadline is Sunday, January 7

February orders – Deadline is Sunday, January 28

March orders – Deadline is Sunday, March 3

April orders – Deadline is Sunday, March 31

May orders – Deadline is Sunday, April 28

June orders – Deadline is Sunday, May 28

Westwood School Apparel

LOOKING FOR A GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFT! Get your Westwood Primary School Apparel. Place your order by DECEMBER 1st to ensure you get it in time for Christmas. ORDER NOW! Show your school spirit 😊
https://allstarcresting.ca/westwood_apparel/shop/home?fbclid=IwAR2FePS16o-Hth57j6ALPJY4SMhFQc1vWRxM3Te6tK4YelanwvkuL4wfn2g

PEI Healthy School Food Program

If you haven't ready signed up for the Provincial Healthy School Lunch Program, here is the link: <https://www.peischoolfood.org/>. This is a Pay What You Can service to a maximum of \$5.75 per meal.

Breakfast Donations

The Westwood breakfast program kindly accepts donations of Cheerios (not Honey Nut), jam, margarine, apples, baby carrots and yogurt tubes. There is also the option for a monetary donation on the Hot Lunches site.

French Tutor

Westwood Primary is looking for a French tutor. This 60 hour position has flexible hours. If you are interested, please contact Christine Stavert castavert@edu.pe.ca or Alison Gagnon algagnon@edu.pe.ca

Music News

Remembrance Day Assembly: Grade 2 French students have been invited to Music Adventures to prepare for a Remembrance Day Assembly. The assembly will take place on Thursday, November 9 and

is for students only. The assembly will include a presentation from WO Ben Miller of the PEI Regiment. It will be wonderful to welcome WO Miller back to Westwood to help our students make connections to this important day.

Grade 3 Recorders: Grade 3 students have been working hard on making a beautiful sound on the recorder and are preparing their first song, Hot Cross Buns. Students are now invited to bring their recorders and booklets home to practice. We appreciate your support having them play for you. Students will be responsible for packing their recorders and books to bring back to school for music class. Thank you!

Grade 3 Winter Concert: The Music Department and Grade 3 classes are happy to reprise FLAKES! for our winter concert. The concert for parents will be Wednesday, December 6 at 7pm (Storm date December 7). There will be a concert at 1:00pm the same day for parents unable to attend the evening concert. Students will be sent home with QR codes to access information about the concert, practice videos and more.

Volunteering at School

Westwood Primary is always looking for volunteers for a variety of opportunities at our school. Everything from reading with students, to helping run clubs, school wide events, field trips, etc. We want you to become involved in your child's school! Although... life is busy and complicated... you are probably wonder where you will find the time and why it is so important. There are so many important benefits to volunteering at school—both for you and your child. If you're wondering, "Why should I volunteer?", here are a few ideas I'd like to share:

Volunteering Makes a Difference in your Child's Education

Children whose parents are involved in their schools do better. Research has shown that children of a school volunteer make better grades and perform better. They're also better behaved, have better attendance, and are more likely to graduate and continue their education post secondary. The more parents participate at school, the more successful their children will be.

Volunteering Allows You to Spend More Time with Your Child

Our children spend A LOT of time at school. Becoming a school volunteer gives you the opportunity to share in school-related experiences. It gives you more in common. It also allows you to be a fly on the wall and see your children in a different environment. It's rewarding to watch them as they put all the skills you've taught them into action.

Volunteering Helps Create Community

I know it sounds cliché, but raising children takes a village. Volunteering at school is a great way to connect with other parents and create a circle of adult friends. Over time, these friends grow to know and love your children. Never underestimate the power of community in raising children.

Volunteering Allows You to Get to Know Teachers and Staff

Your child's teacher and school staff are your teammates in parenting during the school year. They have a tremendous impact on children, both academically and socially. Having a presence at school is a great way to get to know them better and show them your support.

Volunteering Makes Schools Better

Schools that have a strong school volunteer base do better. There are so many demands placed on schools with limited resources. Any volunteer effort can help bridge that gap. Supporting the school by taking things off the plate of teachers, administration, and staff frees them up to do what they do best—educate our children.

Volunteering Allows You to Use Your Strengths

Why volunteer with kids? Volunteering is a great way to showcase your strengths. Look for opportunities that are within your wheelhouse. Using the skills that come naturally to you makes things easier (and often more enjoyable). If you love baking, sign up to help with the bake sale or start a baking club. Volunteering will feel less burdensome, and your natural talents will be appreciated.

Volunteering is Good for Your Health

I can't share the benefits of volunteering without mentioning that it's good for your health. Research shows that people who volunteer live longer, have lower stress levels, and are generally healthier. You can't beat an opportunity that allows you to spend more time with your children AND decreases your stress. This is another great answer to the question of how to get parents to volunteer at school.

To add your name to our volunteer list please contact the school with your name and a phone number and email where you can be reached. Please share an area of interest that you may have. Please note, that a criminal reference check is required in all Public Schools in order to volunteer. This check can take up to a week or more to process. The school will provide you with a letter to submit for the reference check. The criminal reference check is valid for 2 years. We hope you will consider volunteering at Westwood Primary 😊 After all... you are a big part of our team in educating our children!

Home & School News

SIGN UP for FREE Volunteer Training

The Federation is hosting two Home & School Training Workshops. Parents, teachers, and students may attend! Workshops are designed to enhance Home & School effectiveness and parent engagement in public education. New volunteer executive members should attend these sessions.

Monday, Nov. 6, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m., Miscouche Consolidated School

Tuesday, Nov. 7, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m., West Royalty Elementary School

SIGN-UP by Nov. 4 by emailing Shirley at: ssmedleyjay@gov.pe.ca ... Or call 902-620-3186 / 1-800-916-0664. No Cost. Light refreshments provided.

Reminder: 2023-2024 Membership Fees

Home and School Association Treasurers are reminded to submit this school year's membership fees by November 1st. You can now pay by e-transfer to peihsf@gov.pe.ca OR mail cheques to the Federation office. Questions? 902-620-3186 / ssmedleyjay@gov.pe.ca

Parent Leadership Grants

Parent Leadership Project grants for up to \$500 are available to Home and School Associations. Leadership projects are to focus on parent leadership and engagement in your school community.

Go to: <https://peihsf.ca/grants>. Submission deadline: Nov. 30th.


Recognition and Awards Programme 2023-2024


Awards recognize deserving individuals in school communities. The P.E.I. Home and School Federation's 2023-2024 Programme begins with the Crossing Guard Award nominations due Nov. 24. [Find more details online at PEIHSF Awards](#)


ADD this to your agenda...


1. Plan a productive Home and School meeting by identifying tasks and duties
2. Focus agenda items on educational objectives/outcomes that work to benefit all students
3. Involve everyone around the meeting table
4. Ask the principal for a school report
5. Practice basic parliamentary procedure


Happenings in our community...

 Donagh Home & Schools Craft Fair will be held on Sat., Nov. 18, 2023, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Donagh Regional School (928 Bethel Road, Donagh).

 Literacy Champion Award - Call for nominations for our Literacy Champion Award. This award recognizes leadership and commitment in the field of literacy and lifelong learning. For more information, contact Amanda Beazley, PEI Literacy Alliance www.peiliteracy.ca

 Dyslexia Canada - Alicia Smith, Executive Director of Dyslexia Canada, to speak about Dyslexia & The Right to Read on Oct. 25, 6-7 p.m. at Three Oaks Senior High School, Summerside.

 Live Well PEI accepting applications for Wellness Grant Program
Community organizations may apply for Community Catalyst Grants. Schools may apply for School Health Grants. (\$2,500, \$5,000, and \$7,500). Applications for both grant streams will be accepted online until 9:00 AM on Nov. 6, 2023. More info at: [PEI Wellness Grant Program](#)

 Dates to remember: **November 11** [Remembrance Day](#)
 November 20 [National Child Day](#)
 November 21–27 [Canada History Week](#)

For more information, contact PEI Home and School Federation

902-620-3186 / 1-800-916-0664 / 902-218-8916 (cell)

peihsf.ca / peihsf@gov.pe.ca

