Westwood Primary School Newsletter

November 2, 2026

Principal: Sherry Flynn
Vice-Principal: Patrick Richard

Dates to Remember

November 5th – PEITF Convention/CUPE Convention (**NO SCHOOL**)
November 6th – PEITF Convention/CUPE Convention (**NO SCHOOL**)
November 10th – Remembrance Assembly
November 11th - Remembrance Day Observed (**NO SCHOOL**)
November 16th – Teacher Administrative Day (**NO SCHOOL)**
November 26th – Parent Teacher Conferences **(EVENING)**
November 27th – Parent Teacher Conferences (**DAY - NO SCHOOL**)
November 23rd – 27th – Kindergarten 2027 - 2028 Registration Week
November 30th – Westwood Home & School Meeting at 6:00 pm
December 7th – Report Cards

Attendance Matters - Starting the Day Off on a Positive Note

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 FINAL 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, consulting/working 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 start to the day or dysregulated behaviours.

In just a few weeks, schools across PEI will be holding parent-teacher interviews. It is a time to talk to your child(ren)'s teacher about their academics and the connections they are making at school. Research shows that having a greater sense of belonging is associated with higher academic performance, persistence, and positive mental health.

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!

Thank you parents and guardians for reinforcing the importance of students attending and engaging in school.

What is PBIS?

Did you know?... Westwood Primary School is one of many schools on PEI using Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) with our students to promote school safety and positive behavior. In schools using PBIS there is a focus on teaching children about behavior expectations and strategies with a main focus on prevention. PBIS is a proactive approach schools use to improve school safety and promote positive behavior. PBIS is a framework for creating safe, positive schools where everyone feels successful and seen. By implementing evidence-based practices within a PBIS framework, schools support their students' academic, social, and behavioral success, engage with families and community

stake holders to create positive, safe and engaging schools and use data to make informed decisions that improve the school culture and environment for everyone.

PBIS has several important guiding principles:

- Students can learn behavior expectations for different situations.
- Schools teach expected behaviors through explicit instruction, with opportunities for students to practice behavior and get feedback.
- Stepping in early can prevent more serious behavior problems.
- Each student is different, so schools need to give many kinds of behavior support.
- How schools teach behavior should be based on research and science.
- Tracking a student's behavior progress is important.
- Schools gather and use data to make decisions about behavior interventions.
- School staff members are consistent in how they encourage expected behavior and discourage misbehavior.

Westwood is currently implementing a schoolwide behaviour matrix. The behaviour matrix is simply a table that defines teachable expectations in various settings throughout our school. The schoolwide matrix outlines what positive behaviours look like in the school's common areas, such as hallways, bathrooms, the playground, classroom and so on. The school staff then work together to teach the expected behaviours and strategies to the students.

Our school matrix focuses on: Safety, Kindness and Responsibility

Westwood Primary School Parent-Teacher Conferences

Westwood Primary and Eliot River Elementary Schools use On-Line Bookings for Parent-Teacher Conferences for November 26th and 27th. 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 is open for Parents to book appointments on Friday, November 13th at 8 a.m. and close on Friday, November 20th, at 10 p.m.

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.

Westwood Primary School Christmas Families Project

If your family wants to help a family in need at Westwood through a donation to the **Christmas Families Project** through a monetary gift or by supporting a child or family please contact Cindy Wood at

clwood@edu.pe.ca or 902 368-6855. A monetary donation may also be made through the Westwood Hot Lunch Program. This money goes directly to buy clothes and gifts for children in our school.

Separation And Divorce Groups

Cindy Wood, School Counsellor, will be starting Separation and Divorce Groups soon. If your family would like your child to participate or for more information please contact (clwood@edu.pe.ca).

Food

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

1. St. Francis of Assisi Church (Cornwall) Pantry call for an appointment (902) 566-1812
https://pe.211.ca/food-banks-and-community-fridges/society-of-saint-vincent-de-paul-food-bank-cornwall

2. Charlottetown Food Bank
https://www.urhm.org/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 & 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

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.

Kindergarten Registration 2027-2028

- Parents are asked to register prior to **November 27, 2026**
- Children must be 5 years of age by December 31, 2027
- Children should be registered at the school they are zoned for
- Parents are asked to bring a government issued piece of ID verifying the child's proof of age: such as Passport, Birth Certificate, Health Card, etc.
- Verification of Proof of Address must also be provided: such as a current utlity bill.

NOTE: Registrations at the school are between 9:00AM – 2:00 PM and 2:45PM – 3:45PM. This is to allow for office staff to deal with the arrival and dismissal of students.

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.

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-Hth57j6ALPJY4SMhFQc1vWRxM3Te6tK4YeIanwvkuL4wfn2g

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/.

Annual Scholastic Book Fair

Looking to start your Christmas shopping? This month, Westwood will be hosting our annual Scholastic Book Fair in the library from November 23rd-27th. Plan to pop into the library to check out the fair when you visit us for Parent/Teacher conferences. During that week, the fair will be open each school day until 4pm as well as Thursday evening until 8:30pm and Friday until noon. This event is a key fundraiser for our school library program, as 50 cents of every dollar spent remains here at Westwood to purchase books for our school library. Last year, our book fair proceeds allowed us to add just over $5000 in books to our collection and a whole lot of excitement for reading within our school. A big thank-you for your continued support of this worthy fundraiser.

Breakfast Donations

The Westwood breakfast program kindly accepts donations of Plain Cheerios, jam, margarine, apples, baby carrots and yogurt tubes. There is also the option for a monetary donation on the Hot Lunches site.

Westwood Primary Home & School Fundraiser: Anne's Chocolates

What a perfect time of year for Anne's Chocolates Fundraiser! It is a great opportunity to pick up some gifts for Christmas or a special treat for yourself.
Simply click on the link below and order your favourites! There are some really great gift packages! Payment and ordering is all online... simple and easy!
You're order will be delivered to the school and you can pick up your order during Parent Teacher Conferences on November 26th and 27th!
Thank you for supporting our school fundraiser!
https://www.efundrs.com/fundr.../rzte4ovwkclmsbyp5wg1jzkp...

Westwood Home & School Association – Facebook Page

Check out the Westwood Home & School Association Facebook page. Click on the link below and like the page so that you are kept up to date on the newest information from our Westwood Home & School Association.
Link https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61564576327421

Music News

Grade 2 and 3 students will be performing songs and poems in a message of peace for our Remembrance Day Assembly, Tuesday, November 10th. This assembly is for students only.

Grade 3 Holiday Musical
This year Grade 3 students will be reprise How to Train Your Reindeer (How to Fly!) on Wednesday, December 9th (Storm Date December 10) at 1:00pm and 7:00pm. This musical is full of rocking tunes and an inspiring message. Students have been sent home with a QR code with information. Please contact your child's music teacher for any questions.

Ms. Dahn - dhdahn@edu.pe.ca Ms. Hanson - slhanson@edu.pe.ca

Kindergarten Christmas Concerts

French Kindergarten - Tuesday, December 15th (Storm date December 16th)
English Kindergarten - Thursday, December 17th (Storm date December 18th)

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!

Provincial Home & School News

Volunteer Leadership Training Workshops
The PEI Home and School Federation is offering Home and School Leadership Training Workshops in early November:
Monday, November 2, Spring Park Elementary School, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, November 3, Souris Regional School, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
No cost to attend. Light refreshments will be provided.
These workshops offer helpful tips and practical information for volunteers serving in executive positions, as well as general members interested in becoming more involved.
Please register by **Friday, October 30**, by email ssmedleyjay@gov.pe.ca or call 902-620-3186

Recognition and Awards Program 2026/2027
Awards recognize deserving individuals in our school communities.
Nominations for **Crossing Guard Award of the Year** are due November 6, 2026.
Nominations for **Extra Mile Awards** for school staff members are due January 16, 2027.
Nominations for **Volunteer of the Year Award** are due March 1, 2027.
Nominations for **School Bus Driver Awards** are due May 7, 2027.
More at: https://peihsf.ca/awards/

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: **November 30, 2026.**

Reminder to pay 2026-2027 Membership Fees & Update Executive Contacts
Treasurers are reminded to submit this school year's membership fees.
Pay by e-transfer to peihsf@gov.pe.ca or mail cheques to the Federation office.
Presidents are reminded to update executive member's contacts using our Google Form at:
https://forms.gle/vagSKKaY4hBEvqeQ8

What's on your Home & School meeting's agenda?
- Add the November 2026 newsletter topics to your local meeting's agenda for discussion
- Invite your principal to present an overview of the COMPASS 2025-26 results at the next Home and School meeting. https://peihsf.ca/news/
- Invite your Public Schools Branch Trustee to report on school review reports and other PSB news.
- Discuss issues needing change in PEI schools. View a slideshow about writing and submitting a resolution at https://peihsf.ca/home-and-school-training/

Pubic Schools Branch Board of Trustees News
The next Board of Trustees public meeting is at **7:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 12, 2026**, at Tignish Elementary School. The public is more than welcome to observe in person or virtually: https://psb.edu.pe.ca/about-us/board-of-trustees/board-meetings-and-minutes.
Following a school study, the Board of Trustees approved a public consultation for Montague Interm. School (October 14, 2026) and Westwood Primary School (Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.,

November 18, 2026, at Westwood Primary School). After each consultation date, the public can provide feedback for a full month. Please visit the Public Schools Branch Website for more information: https://psb.edu.pe.ca. If you would like to connect with the Trustee for your zone, please visit the Board of Trustees Website for their e-mail address, Board of Trustees meetings and minutes, school studies and other reports, and news: https://psb.edu.pe.ca/about-us/board-of-trustees.

Other Community News…

~STEAM PEI fall programming: PD Full Day Camps (Grades K-4) featuring hands-on topics like sound, digital art, weather, and innovation offered on November PD days in Charlottetown and Summerside. Clean Tech Club (Girls, Grades 5-9): An evening club focused on renewable energy, green tech, environmental solutions, and connecting with girls in STEM. Contact: Veronica veronica@steampei.com

Dates to remember:

November 5-6	PEI Teachers' Federation Convention (no classes)
November 11	Remembrance Day (no classes)
November 13	World Kindness Day
November 16	Report Card Day (no classes)
November 27	Parent Teacher Interviews (no classes)
November 15-21	Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week
November 20	National Child Day
November 23–27	Canada History Week

