

Westwood Primary School Newsletter

October 1, 2024



Principal: Sherry Flynn
Vice-Principal: Colleen Taylor

Dates to Remember

October 2nd – Terry Fox Walk

October 4th – Lockdown Practice (School wide – students in home rooms)

October 11th – Thanksgiving Assembly for Students

October 14th – Thanksgiving Day (**NO SCHOOL**)

October 24th – Home & School Meeting 6:00 pm

Westwood Primary is SCENT FREE LEARNING SPACE

Please do not enter our building for any reason if you are wearing scented products of any kind. We have several students and staff who become very unwell when they encounter scents. Some examples (but not limited to) include: body lotions/sprays, fabric softeners, essential oils, perfumes/colognes, hair sprays, after shaves, etc. Thank you for keeping our students and staff healthy and safe.

Wellness at School

A reminder to parents/guardians, students, staff and visitors to Westwood Primary School that you should not attend school if you are feeling unwell.

If you or your child has any of the following symptoms you should NOT attend school:

- Fever (38°C or higher) / chills
- Worsening cough
- Body / muscle / joint aches/unusual headache
- Gastrointestinal symptoms (nausea, vomiting, diarrhea)
- Shortness of breath / difficulty breathing
- Sore/raw throat/consistent runny nose

Exemptions include on-going, existing conditions and symptoms that would not be new or unusual for that individual (e.g., chronic allergies, asthma, etc.)

It is important that we all work together to keep our school environment healthy for all students, staff and visitors so that attendance and staffing is not impacted by illness.

If your child is required to take medication during the school day a Administer Medication form must be completed first. All medications must be sent premeasured. Medications are to be dropped off at the OFFICE by a parent. Medications are kept and administered in the OFFICE.

If your child becomes unwell with COVID please follow the provincial guidelines at <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/health-and-wellness/information-for-people-who-have-tested-positive-for-covid-19>

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.

Guests In Our School

We would like to take a minute to remind all of our Westwood Families and Guests to our school that when you come into the building you **must stop in the office and sign in and pick up a visitor/guest tag**. This tag must be worn while you are inside the school. This includes walking students to class, volunteering in the building, arriving for a meeting during school hours, etc. Thank you for doing your part to keep everyone safe at Westwood.

A Note of Thanks

Thanks to all parents and guardians for working hard at getting your children to school on time for our 8:30 am start, we really appreciate it. As you know, being on time for school has a huge impact on learning. Some students have specialized programs at the beginning of the day such as Resource or specialty classes such as Music and Physical Education. It is **very** important that students arrive on time to receive all of their school instruction.

There will, of course, be times when your child has a dental or medical appointment and may arrive late but overall we're noticing that most are arriving on time and it's helping us to get off to a great start this year! ***If you do happen to arrive late for school (after 8:30 am), please walk your child to the front door, we will buzz you and your child in and you can sign them in at the office.***

Attendance & Engagement

As we mentioned in our first newsletter of the year, schools across PEI are renewing their emphasis on the importance of regular attendance. Being present and on time ensures that students have the best opportunity to

engage fully in their learning and stay connected with their peers and teachers. In September, more than 80% of students missed fewer than 10% of school days. This is an optimistic start to our school year that we can build on! Let's continue working together to help reinforce the value of consistent attendance, as every day counts towards building a successful academic year.

End of Day Pick Up

Dismissal time at Westwood Primary is 2:30 pm. We are asking that all parents/guardians please respect this time. If you need to pick your child up on a particular day early for an appointment, we ask that you please send a note or call ahead so that the teacher can send the student up to the office at the appropriate time. *Buzzing into the classrooms to ask for a student interrupts the instruction and learning for ALL students. We will not be buzzing in to classrooms unless there is an emergency.*

It is also important that parents/guardians please do not arrive at the school before 2:15 pm. Arriving early to pick up your child creates a great deal of congestion in the pick-up area and blocks the bus entrance. **Please do not block the bus lane entrance at any time while you are dropping off or picking up your child.** Our buses serve four schools in the Bluefield family of schools and must be on time to pick up students for their next runs.

Bus Notes/Passes

This year students are not permitted to receive bus notes to go to a friend's house for birthday parties, get together, etc. Bus passes are to be issued only for primary child care. Last minute bus changes must be called in no later than 1:45 pm.

Lockdown Drill

During the month of September we practiced fire drills. The children did extremely well and are very well prepared! In October we will be practicing our lockdown drill. This drill is a three-step process.

In the first step (Week of October 2nd), the classroom teacher will explain the purpose of the drill. All teachers use a common script for this so that all the children get the same message regardless of the class or teacher. During this week, the class will practice moving to the designated 'safe area' in their classroom and specialist classes at a time that is convenient for the class.

In the second step (Week of October 7th), we will conduct a School-Wide Drill. As per Public Schools Branch policy, we have been doing lockdown drills at Westwood for many years and they have gone very smoothly. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Ms. Flynn or Ms. Taylor. If you find that your child is anxious about this procedure, please contact one of the counsellors, Mrs. Wood or Mr. Sirois.

The third-step of the process involves a school lockdown practice accompanied by the RCMP liaison officers. This will be scheduled for later October or early November. Please note that if you are visiting the school on any of the dates above, you may have to wait outside the building until the drill is completed, if we are practising at that time – there will be a sign on the front door that says "Lockdown Drill in Progress".

Shoe Tying & Safety

At Westwood Primary we understand that learning to tie shoes helps in the development of fine motor skills, dexterity in fingers, and hand-eye coordination, which are crucial for various activities like writing, drawing, and manipulating objects. It is an important milestone that promotes independence and self-care abilities. We do recognize that our students are at different areas in their development regarding this skill. However, we would like to make parents aware that if children do not have the independence of tying their shoes it can sometimes lead to an accident on the playground, in physical education class and during movement activities in music. If your child is still learning this skill there are a few things you can do to help keep them safe at school during all activities that require movement:

- Wear shoes that have a velcro closure, slip on shoe or curly laces that help keep shoes on and laces tied.
- Continue to keep practicing tying shoes at home with your child

COSPEI WESTWOOD PRIMARY GOLD RUSH

LAST WEEK'S WINNER WAS A WESTWOOD PRIMARY NUMBER!!

NEXT DRAW IS TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2nd!

Westwood Primary School is excited to join the *Creating Opportunities for Students Gold Rush "Fun"draiser* for our school.

The COSPEI Gold Rush is a collaborative fundraiser that is open to all schools on PEI. We encourage you to scan the QRC code and create an account and choose to support "WESTWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL" and play.

A \$5.00 play gets you 3 numbers. You can play up to \$20.00 (12 numbers per account per week. Once you are assigned your numbers they are your numbers forever until you choose to stop and are entered in to every weekly draw.

If you activate your numbers (pay \$5.00) you have a chance to win half the pot. If you do not activate your numbers (do not pay \$5.00) and your number is drawn you are a "non-winner" and the pot rolls over to the next week. To ensure you never miss a draw you can click on the gray circular button to the left of your numbers and activate "Auto Play". Draws take place every Tuesday at 1:00pm.

Click on the QRC code to get started.



You can further support our school by encouraging friends and families to play too!

Lost & Found

Reminder to please make sure that you are labeling your child's belongings so that it does not make its way to the lost and found. This includes; clothing, water bottles, hats, boots, sneakers, etc. Currently both of our lost & found bins are FULL.

Westwood 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 (85 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.

October orders – Deadline is Sunday, September 29

November orders – Deadline is Sunday, October 27

December orders – Deadline is Sunday, December 1

January orders – Deadline is Sunday, December 29

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

Halloween Treats

Parents/guardians, due to the high number of food allergies and life-threatening allergies in our school, we ask that you not send food for sharing in with your child during Halloween or any other holidays or events. If you would like to contribute something for a special occasion, please contact your child's teacher. In the past in lieu of food, some have donated items for a Halloween craft, stickers, fun pencils or donated a book to the class library. Thanks for your cooperation and understanding.

Personal Safety Program

Counsellors Mike Sirois and Cindy Wood will be working with our classes during the month of October on the Personal Safety Program. This program is part of our Health Curriculum for Kindergarten – Grade 3. If you have any questions regarding the program, please do not hesitate to contact our counsellors at 902-368-6855.

Winter Coats and Boots

For families that have financial need, The Knights of Columbus through its signature "Coats for Kids" Project has provided a generous donation of beautiful and warm snowsuits for our Westwood students. If you need a snowsuit for your child/children please reach out to Cindy Wood clwood@edu.pe.ca or call 902 368-6855. We will need the sizes you require.

Food Insecurity

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

1. St. Francis of Assisi Church (Cornwall) Pantry call for an appointment (902) 566-3876

<https://pe.211.ca/result/society-of-saint-vincent-de-paul-food-bank-cornwall-63670887>

2. Charlottetown Food Bank

<https://www.urhm.org/food-bank/>

Food Hampers are now available for pick up in Cornwall on Thursdays from 10-12 noon at 29 Cornwall Road. (Food Hampers must be pre-ordered by Wednesday noon by contacting the 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 and 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>

Positive Parenting From Two Homes – For Kids

Westwood we will be offering “*When Mom and Dad Separate*” which is Westwood’s version of *Positive Parenting from 2 Homes for Kids* which is operated from the provincial government. It is an excellent educational program designed to support kids in understanding that your family is still your family even after separation and/or divorce. This program talks about the changes that families often go through by discussing topics such as:

- There are many kinds of families
- The many different feelings they might have about the changes
- Tools to help communicate feelings
- Positive changes that can happen
- Challenges
- Coping with additions to the family (Mom and Dad get new partners/kids)

This group will be held once per week and run for five weeks. This will be held during school time. Students will be in two groups (Kindergarten & Grade 1) and (Grades 2 & 3). There is great power in seeing that you are not alone in this journey. If you would like your child to participate, please contact School Counsellor Cindy Wood at 902-368-6855. A permission form to participate will then be sent home.

A.M. Drop Off & P.M. Pick-Up Reminder

Children may be dropped off any time after 8:05 a.m.

Please note: there is no supervision available for students prior to 8:05 am.

If you’ll be dropping your children off at school, we ask that you drive slowly on the inside of the yellow barriers and drop children off in front of the school. **There is NO PARKING at the front of the school or by the dumpsters or along the lane in/out of the school.** Please park in the newly converted visitor parking area (old tennis courts) and walk over to the school using the crosswalk area.

When parents are dropping their children off in the morning, we ask that you stay in the line until the cars ahead of you have exited. There are pylons in the lane so **no passing** is permitted. This is to ensure student safety while exiting the vehicles. Students **MUST** be ready and dressed and exit the vehicle quickly on the sidewalk side of the car. If your child is not ready to exit quickly, please park in the visitor parking lot and walk them to the sidewalk in front of the school. Please be considerate of others by having your child exiting the vehicle quickly. Parents should be staying in line to drop their child(ren) off. Please do not pull by the side of the school by the garbage cans to let your child out as this is an unsafe location. Thank you 😊

Bus Safety

All students attended a grade level assembly about bus safety. Students were shown a video which parents can view by clicking on this [link](#). Students are expected to stay seated the entire bus ride, sit seat to seat, back to back, use a quiet voice on the bus, keep hands and feet to themselves and listen to the bus driver.

PEI School Food Program

Please make sure you are sending cutlery for lunches with your child. We do not have cutlery available at the school. Also please make sure that you **include your child’s classroom** when ordering (E.g. 2A, 3F, etc) Ordering opened this past Saturday for the next cycle and closes on Thursday, October 3rd.

Thanksgiving Assembly

Grade 2 classes will be practicing some of our favourite songs, dances and poems to get ready for our Thanksgiving Assembly.

The assembly will be for students only on Friday, October 11th.

Grade 3 Recorders

Reminder for parents of Grade 3 students... if you have not already sent in your \$10 fee for the purchase of a recorder and music booklet, please do so as soon as possible so that we can order the instruments for the students.

We will be working on making a beautiful sound in class before sending recorders home. Please help your child remember to bring them back to school for music class. Thank you! You can help your child with home practice by asking them to share the song they are working on.

Outdoor Play – Dressing for the Weather

At Westwood Primary, we value the importance of play in the growth and development of our students. This year we are going to be heading outdoors during our recess times in all kinds of weather. It is important that children are dressed for the weather when they come to school.

For example:

- Rainy Days - children should be wearing boots, splash pants and water-resistant coat (such as a rain coat).
- Snowy Days– children should have winter boots, snow pants & coat, winter hat and mittens
- Sunny Days – Hat to block the sun, cooler/light clothing, footwear they can run and play in (flip flops are sometimes not safe on the equipment)

The only time we will be remaining indoors for recess, is if there is a storm or severe cold temperatures. We are going outside! Please ensure your child(ren) are dressed for the weather.

Outdoor play is critical for young children in schools. Many of the developmental tasks that children must acquire—exploring, risk-taking, fine and gross motor development and the absorption of vast amounts of basic knowledge—can be effectively learned through outdoor play. Children need opportunities to explore, experiment, manipulate, reconfigure, expand, influence, change, marvel, discover, practice, yell, sing, and create.

Outdoor play enables young children to learn lots and lots and lots of things about the world. How does ice feel and sound? Can sticks stand up in sand? How do plants grow? How does mud feel? Why do we slide down instead of up? How do I make my tricycle go faster? How does the overhang of the building create cool shade from the sun? What does a chrysalis change into? How do butterflies have to learn to fly?

Children need lots of opportunities outdoors to develop basic social skills and social competencies: pushing each other on the swing, pulling a wagon carrying another child, playing together in the sand, imaginative play, dramatic play and so on.

Outdoor play also provides a chance to practice social and emotional skills with other children, including problem solving, turn taking, encouragement, self-control, safe risk taking, and following the rules of a game.

Westwood Primary Facebook Page

Follow us on our School Facebook Page! Stay up to date on upcoming events, bus delays, school information and much more! Our page can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100057288586113>

Westwood School Apparel

Now is a great time to order your Westwood Primary School Apparel!! Order early to ensure that your Westwood Clothing is ready for under the Christmas Tree... makes the perfect gift! Log onto the link below and order your favourite items. Remember to pick up your order when it is ready at All Star Cresting.

https://allstarcresting.ca/westwood_apparel/shop/home?fbclid=IwAR2G1XJII2oFWkSo3-JmgWVEZCs6OXfS2c9Q6Wfr3CAwGhQjxwneGYLrIMw

Community News

Theatre Classes

Victoria Playhouse Inc. is once again offering Theatre Classes for the Fall of 2024. We offer classes for youth (ages 7 - 18) and adults. Classes are led by Becca Griffin and will be held Thursdays at Victoria School House in Victoria by the Sea. Drama classes offer an opportunity to explore your own creativity, build confidence and communication skills through games, improv, skits, plays and monologues. For information about ages, times and tuition please contact Becca Griffin at thecatspajamastheatreco@gmail.com

Home & School News

Register for Semi-Annual Meeting

The P.E.I. Home and School Federation's Semi-Annual Meeting will be held on Mon., Oct. 21, 2024, 6–8 pm at Central Queens Elementary School, Hunter River. Topics & Speakers are:

STUDENT HEALTH SURVEY PLANS:

* Cody Davenport, *COMPASS* program surveys grades 7-12 students; will share survey results and plans for the 2024-2025 school year.

SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAMS & FOOD SAFETY SUPPORTS:

- * Courtney Shaffer, Inspector = What are Food Safety guidelines/supports for school food programs?
- * Samantha Dougay, Dietitian = What's in a healthy breakfast menu?
- * Heather Walker, Spring Park = This is how our breakfast program works.
- * David Schult for Sterling Carruthers = Education and Early Years funding for school breakfast and snack programs

- Parents, educators, and students in your school community are welcome!
- Invite your school's breakfast program volunteers!

REGISTER by Oct. 16/24 at: <https://forms.gle/tbamHFkUu8ebi4fv9>

Training Workshops for Volunteers

Vicki Bryanton and Stephen Gould will lead Home and School Training Workshops as follows:

Nov. 4 – Eilerslie Consolidated School, 6:30 – 8:00 pm

Nov. 5 – Eliot River Elementary School, 6:30 – 8:00 pm

Guidance for executive positions (i.e., President, Co/Vice President, Secretary); Bookkeeping tips for Treasurers and general information for all volunteers.

No cost. Register by emailing peihsf@gov.pe.ca or call 902-620-3186 by Oct. 30.

Crossing Guard Recognition Award

Awards recognize deserving individuals in school communities. The P.E.I. Home and School Federation Crossing Guard Award celebrates individuals who help keep students safe every school day. Nominations are due Nov. 1. Find the application at: <https://peihsf.ca/Crossing-Guard-Award>.

Parent Leadership Grants

Funds available for up to \$500 for Home and Schools to organize parent educational information sessions. Invite speakers to address topics of interest to your school community (i.e., Mental Wellness, Student Well Being Teams, Cyberbullying Awareness, School Food Programs, Proper Use of Cell Phones). Submission deadline: Nov. 8. PL Grant online: <https://peihsf.ca/grants/>

PSB Public meetings: Charlottetown Family of Schools study

The Board of Trustees is now engaging with the Charlottetown school community and stakeholders to receive feedback on the recommendations contained in the report. To review the report, [visit the Public Schools Branch's website](#). Share your feedback by emailing psb-schoolreview@edu.pe.ca using "Charlottetown Family of Schools" in the subject line by Oct. 18/24. Share input by attending a public meeting: Oct. 1, 6:30 pm, Spring Park Elementary; Oct. 8, 2024, 6:30 pm, Charlottetown Rural High School; Oct. 10, 2024, 6:30 pm, Birchwood Intermediate School.

PEI's Auditor General's Report: Healthiness of Food in Schools, Sept. 18/24

- READ: [The auditor general's full report on nutrition in P.E.I. schools](#)
- LISTEN: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ff1oHBRaDIU>

Education and Economic Development: Public Schools Branch Staffing Presentation, Sept. 19/24

- READ: [https://docs.assembly.pe.ca/PSB Staffing](https://docs.assembly.pe.ca/PSB%20Staffing)
- LISTEN: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ff1oHBRaDIU>

