

Westwood Primary School Newsletter

September 9, 2022



Principal: Sherry Flynn

Vice-Principal: Lynette MacKinnon



Dates to Remember

September 14th – Meet the Teacher: Session 1 @ 6:30pm, Session 2 @ 7:00pm

September 30th – National Day for Truth & Reconciliation Day (**NO SCHOOL**)

October 3rd – Breakfast Program Starts

October 7th – Professional Development Day (**NO SCHOOL**)

October 10th – Thanksgiving (**NO SCHOOL**)

October 21st - Professional Development Day (**NO SCHOOL**)

October 26th & 27th – School Pictures (*Lifetouch*)

Welcome Back To Everyone!

I am sure everyone had a wonderful summer and enjoyed the beautiful PEI weather! It is great to be back at Westwood Primary School! The staff has been working hard over the past several weeks making sure that our school and classrooms are clean and safe for the students and we are very excited to see all of the new and returning Westwood Students. I encourage all parents and Guardians to contact your child(ren)'s teacher if you have any questions at all about the school start up.

This year the Government of Prince Edward Island has released a *Back to School Public Health Guidance for K-12* document to support the return to school. You can locate the document at the following link https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/publications/pei_covid-19_back-to-school_guidance_2022-23.pdf. If you have any questions about the document please do not hesitate to contact the school.

If you are picking your child up after school we are asking that parents park in the tennis court area (converted to additional parking) and walk over to the school to meet your child at the front door. Please do not park along the side of the lane way as this makes the driving space too narrow for buses and vehicles. At dismissal, teachers walk the students to their buses first and then bring the pick up students to the front of the school to meet parents. Please keep in mind dismissal is 2:30 pm.

We want to take a minute to remind everyone to please be kind to each other.

Westwood Primary School Office Hours

Westwood Primary office hours are from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday thru Friday. Administrative assistants will be available at 8:00 am to 4:00 pm daily to accept phone calls to assist you.

Westwood Primary Webpage and School Facebook Page

Did you know that Westwood has a webpage? You can find it at <https://westwood.edu.pe.ca/>. You can find newsletters, staff information, classroom Google sites, links for HotLunches and other helpful information. We do our best to keep this page as up to date as possible. We also have a School Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100057288586113>. Be sure to like our FB Page... information is posted there regularly.

Westwood Primary Staff Changes

Westwood Primary would like to welcome some wonderful people to our team this year:

Caley MacLean – 3E
Cassandra Leblanc – 3G
Kristy Johnston – 3A
Jeremie Brisson – 2F/FI Lit Support
Jessica Fuller – KA
Nana Puiia-MacDonald - Kindergarten
Tammy MacDougall – 1J
Chrissy MacCarville – 1E
Kelly Jones – Resource
Krista Rogers - Resource
Helen Mullaney – Resource
Jessica Kennedy – YSW
Nikki MacArthur – EA
Carolyn Wiki-Doucette – EA
Jessica Myers – EA
Shelley Hanson - Music

School Bus Tags

Students will be arriving home with bus tags on their kitbags. We ask that you do not remove these tags. The information on the tag is used by teachers, bus drivers and substitutes in our building. If you notice that there is an error on the information on the bus tag, please send a note to the school indicating what the correct information should be and we can make the changes. We will be making changes to many of these tags as we get up to date after school plans from families. Thank you.

School Day Start Time & End Time

Instruction begins at 8:30 am each day, so please ensure that if you're dropping your child(ren) off that they are here by 8:25. If you arrive after 8:30 am, your child will need to enter through the front door and will be signed in. The late sign-in book is located in the office on the counter this year.

Also, please note that there is no supervision provided before 8:05 am. Children cannot be dropped off before 8:05 am. Children can be dropped off anytime between 8:05 am and 8:30 am. We also would like to remind parents that we are encouraging students to walk to their hollow doors on their own in the mornings to enter their classes. This helps to develop independence and routine for our students.

If you wish to speak to the classroom teacher please enter through the front doors to register as a visitor, collect an ID tag and proceed down to the classroom.

Our school day at Westwood Primary ends at 2:30 pm. If you are picking your child up early for an appointment, please phone the school and we will let the child and the teacher know. You should park in the additional parking area (old tennis court) and come to the front door. Buzz the front door and we will send your child out.

We do not encourage picking your child up early to "beat the rush" at dismissal. Instruction for students continues until 2:30pm everyday.

Westwood Cares for our Environment

In an attempt to lower our environmental footprint at Westwood, we do not provide plastic spoons, fork and straws at snack and lunch or snack time. Please make sure you are packing utensils for your child in their lunch bag.

Morning Drop Off & Afternoon Pick Up

Children may be dropped off any time after 8:05 a.m. **Please note that there is no supervision provided before 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 PERMITTED ALONG THE CURBSIDE AT THE FRONT OF THE SCHOOL OR ALONG THE LANE IN AND OUT OF THE SCHOOL. Additional parking has been created in the old tennis court area for families and visitors.**

For safety and courtesy, we ask that you drive your vehicle to the end of the drop-off lane before stopping to make the drop off. **Please have your child exit the vehicle on the SIDEWALK SIDE** for safety reasons. Students are expected to enter the school via their hollow door when they arrive in the morning. **The main door entry is for Kindergarten, 1J and 3A students only.**

Cars are not permitted to use the bus lane way or park in the bus parking lot between 8:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.

If you are picking your child up at the end of the day, please park in the parking area (tennis court) and come in to the front door of the school to meet them. Thanks for working with us to keep the children safe!

Parents are not permitted in the BUS area. If you are arriving unexpectedly for a pick-up, please go into the school and request your child through the office. The office will radio the staff in the bus area to bring your child to the front of the school to meet you. This is for safety of all students and staff.

PLEASE NOTE: Any unexpected changes to your child's afterschool plan **must be phoned in prior to 1:00 pm** in order to ensure that a new bus note or pick up message arrives to your child's class on time. We cannot accept any changes after 1:00 pm each day, as the office staff is too busy preparing and delivering bus notes and pick up messages to the classrooms. Thank you for your support with this.

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
- New or 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.

Breakfast Program

We are excited to announce that Westwood's Breakfast program will be going back to a pre-Covid program this year. The start date for the breakfast program will be Monday, October 3rd. Students in Grades 1-3 will be coming to the multi-purpose room and volunteers will be serving milk, water, fruit, veggies and toast. After 8:20, students will be asked to take their breakfast to eat in their classrooms so clean up can begin. Students in Kindergarten will eat their breakfast in their classrooms. Their breakfast will consist of Cheerios and fruit.

Volunteers Needed for the Breakfast Program

In order for our breakfast program to be a success, we need volunteers. We are looking for volunteers who can commit to a day a week (it works best if it's the same day each week for planning purposes). Volunteers are required from 7:50 am – 8:50 am (approximately). Volunteers will be preparing toast, cutting fruit and veggies, serving students and cleaning up. Volunteers will need to submit a criminal record check. You can obtain a letter from the school to get a criminal record check free of charge. We will need your full name and date of birth. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Lynette MacKinnon (VP) at lmackinnon@edu.pe.ca.

Online Milk Program

Milk can be purchased for students using the Hot Lunches ordering system. The website is westwood.hotlunches.net. Parents can purchase white Milk (50 cents) or chocolate Milk (80 cents). 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. The September schedule is now open for ordering. The October schedule will be available for ordering by the end of next week.

September orders – Deadline is Sunday, Sept. 11th

October orders – Deadline is Sunday, October 2nd

November orders – Deadline is Sunday, October 30th

December orders – Deadline is Sunday, November 20th

January orders – Deadline is Sunday, January 1st

February orders – Deadline is Sunday, January 29th

March orders – Deadline is Sunday, March 5th

April orders – Deadline is Sunday, April 2nd

May orders – Deadline is Sunday, April 30th

June orders – Deadline is Sunday, May 28th

PEI School Food Program

The PEI School Food Program is a provincial lunch program that offers ALL island students K-12 a healthy and affordable lunch 5 days per week! Parents can place their orders online <https://www.peischoolfood.ca>. Please note, this is not run by the school. If you have questions about the program, the contact information is on the website.

Ordering will take place biweekly (10 school days at a time). Ordering will open on Saturday mornings and close on Thursdays at noon for meals to begin the following Monday.

When meals are ordered online, they will be prepared with the student's name and delivered to the school at lunch time. Your school will offer a pickup location or will distribute meals directly to the student's classroom!

The PEI School Food Program will offer a Pay What You Can Program (PWYC). The PWYC Program allows students to choose the amount they can pay:

- 1) I can pay the entire meal value (\$5.50)
- 2) I can pay a partial amount of the meal value
- 3) I cannot pay the meal value

Please pay for your meal if you're able to, to help those who are not! Collectively, we play our part so that every Island student has access to a healthy lunch to help them grow and learn.

Orange Shirt Day – National Day for Truth & Reconciliation, September 30th

On September 29th we will be celebrating the National Day for Truth & Reconciliation by wearing Orange. For more information on National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and resources please visit <https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/campaigns/national-day-truth-reconciliation.html> and <https://www.orangeshirtday.org/> *Note: There is no school on Friday, September 30th*

Meet the Teacher Evening

Westwood Primary is hosting its Meet the Teacher on Wednesday, September 14th. We have two 25 minute sessions to allow parents with multiple children in our school meet with multiple teachers, specialist and/or counsellors. Our first session is from 6:30 - 6:55pm (5 minute transition time) and 7:00 - 7:25pm. If you have any questions, please contact the school. We can't wait to see you on the 14th!

Peanut/Nut/Tree Nut/Kiwi/Egg Allergies and Scent Free Environment

Due to severe, life-threatening allergies, Westwood is a peanut/nut/tree nut/kiwi (including kiwi juice – please check juice boxes carefully) free school. We ask you to take the time to read labels carefully, so that we do not have foods containing any of these products in student lunches. **Please note:** Some classes may have class specific allergy restrictions. If this is the case, a letter will be sent home notifying you of the prohibited item. E.g. Egg, strawberries, bananas, etc

We ask parents **not** to bake or send in food items for their child(ren)'s classes. If you would like to send something special to your child(ren)'s class, please contact the teacher about suggestions other than food. Thanks!

The Public Schools Branch also has a **SCENT FREE POLICY** in all of its schools and at the school branch office. We would ask that any visitors, staff & students refrain from wearing any scented products in our building. This includes and not limited to; strong fabric softener, colognes or perfumes, scented body lotions, etc. We have several students and staff in our building who become ill or have reactions around scented products. Please share this information with family or friends who may be picking your child up from school. Thanks for your cooperation and support with this. Further information will be sent home pertaining to life threatening allergies.

Gently Used Clothing

Westwood is looking for any extra clothing in good shape that can be donated to the school. We are looking for pants, shirts, gym pants and sweat shirts that would fit students aged 4-8. Often the students have spills or accidents at school and do not have extra clothing packed in their bags to change into. We would greatly appreciate any donations. Kindly drop off all laundered donations to the office. Thanks ☺

School Pictures

Lifetouch will be at school on October 26th & 27th to do the school pictures. Any students who are absent will have their pictures taken on a later date. **Please note: we do not have any way of ensuring which classes will have their pictures taken on specific dates.**

PEI School Accident Insurance Program

Every eligible student attending a PEI school is automatically insured by the PEI School Accident Insurance Program's basic student coverage. This program is provided without a deductible and at no cost to the student, parents/guardians. Basic coverage is provided during school hours, school activities, community-based learning activities and travel to and from school and community-based learning activities.

Students Under 39 lbs.

All Kindergarten students will be weighed to determine if they are under 39 lbs. Students who are under 39 lbs. are required to be buckled in a 5 point harness on the school bus. Parents will be notified next week if their child is under 39 lbs. Students must be able to buckle and unbuckle independently; bus drivers are not permitted to get out of their seats to assist. Teachers and Educational Assistants can buckle/unbuckle students at school; however, parents will have to make arrangements to have an adult board the bus to buckle/unbuckle students in the morning and afternoon. We encourage parents to practice buckling and unbuckling their car seats with their children. If parents would like their child buckled on the bus before the end of next week, please contact your child's teacher to let them know as they will have to buckle them at the end of the day.

Important Bussing Information

Our drivers are continuing to fine tune their pick-ups and drop off times. Please make sure that your child is at the bus stop a few minutes early as we continue to work through this process over the next few weeks. Please note: Parents are **NOT** permitted in the bus area for any reason. If you are picking up your child, please contact the office. We will then get your child(ren) for you from the bus and take them to meet you. Thank you for your cooperation with this.

Bus Safety

Students have been discussing bus safety in their classrooms. Please continue to discuss bus safety at home. Here is the link for the bus video they were shown. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n-vx9zN_nGA&t=758s

At Westwood, we ask the students to follow the following safety rules:

- How to properly wait for a bus (no fooling around, being kind to others, no pushing)
- Holding the handrail getting on and off the bus.
- Sitting seat to seat, back to back with backpack on lap, seat (if room) or floor (if room)
- No eating, drinking or taking things out of backpack on bus
- Use quiet voice
- Stay seated the entire bus ride facing forward
- Keeping our bodies to ourselves

- Walking to and from the bus
- When walking to the school, students should NEVER walk on the curb. Students should walk close to the grass to be safe.

School Therapy Program at Westwood Primary

School Therapy Occupational Therapy (OT) Program

Hi everyone! I would like to introduce myself as the OT with the School Therapy, Occupational Therapy (OT) Program. My name is Alyssa Reeves and I am the OT for the Bluefield Family of Schools. I am very much looking forward to working at your child's school for the 2022-2023 school year. I will be at Westwood Primary School every Day 1 and 2 beginning September 15th, 2022.

Occupational Therapists (OTs) work with children of all ages and know a lot about children's development in the areas of:

- **Fine motor and visual motor skills** (e.g., support: printing, drawing, cutting, keyboarding, completing fasteners, tying shoelaces, using a lock, etc.).
- **Sensory processing** (e.g., being comfortable with sounds, lightening, smells, texture/touch, and movement within the school environment that we encounter during our day).
- **Environmental set-up** (e.g., ensuring the environment works to meet everyone's needs from flexible seating to wheelchair accessibility, etc.).
- **Safety and Participation** (e.g., support moving safely within the school, participating in movement breaks, specialty classes, school clubs, recess, etc.).

The focus of the School Therapy OT program is to work together with classroom teachers, school staff and parents /guardians to support children's motor and sensory development in order to assist children in achieving their learning goals, successfully participating in school and most importantly feeling good about themselves and school! To do this, I will be spending time in classrooms, small group settings, gym, music and library classes as well as on the playground. Throughout the day, I will be offering guidance, suggestions and tips.

Please feel free to contact the school or myself if you have any questions about the School Therapy OT Program. I can be contacted at the school on Day 1 or 2 or at areeves@ihis.org and [902-213-4715](tel:902-213-4715). I look forward to a wonderful school year working together with school staff, students and you as parents/guardians!

Alyssa Reeves, OT Reg.(PEI)

Occupational Therapist, School Therapy OT Program

School Therapy Physiotherapy Program

We are very excited to have Annie Macartney (Physiotherapist) working with schools in the PSB to support our students.

Westwood Primary School Newsletter

The school newsletter comes out at the beginning of each month. It will be posted on our school's Webpage.

Provincial Home & School News

Slow down and watch for students on the road

Another school year begins Sept. 7. Students will be walking, cycling, riding on a bus or in family car to school. It is a strategic time to remind all motorists that with awareness and education, children can get to school and back home again safely.

PEI's Healthy School Lunch Program

It's a new school year and everyone is invited to sign up your child for healthy school food meals that will be served daily in schools. Register and order by Sept. 8 at: [Healthy Lunch for Island Kids! | PEI School Food Program](#) / www.peischoolfood.ca

Meet the Teacher

"Meet the Teacher" Nights are planned for parents to meet your child's teacher at the beginning of the school year. It's an informal opportunity to chat, face-to-face, say hi, to become acquainted with your child's teacher. Find the date on your child's school website.

Home & School Contact Information

Are you still the President? Treasurer? The Federation requests your current details.

Presidents - Fill out your Home and School's info on the Contact Form and email to: peihsf@gov.pe.ca

Treasurers - Submit 2022-2023 Membership fees to the PEIHSF office by mail or pay online at: https://peihsf.ca/become_a_member/ (Eventbrite fees apply for online payments)

Forms are also online at: https://peihsf.ca/become_a_member/

Semi-Annual Meeting

The 2022 Semi-Annual will be an in-person meeting held Tuesday, October 18th, 6:00 PM, Central Queens Elementary School, Hunter River, PEI. More details to follow.

School Board Elections Mail-In Ballot Only

Consider putting your name forward to run as a trustee candidate in your school zone. **Candidates** submit nomination papers, **Sept. 23. Check** Candidate Profiles at: www.peihsf.ca , Sept 26

GO to Elections PEI to request your ballot. **NO** in-person voting for this important election. Eligible voters must request their **ballot** beginning Sept 1. **Fill it out and return by mail to Elections PEI by Oct. 21.** Learn more at: <https://www.electionspei.ca/school-trustees-elections/>

<https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/role-of-school-board-trustees>

Community News

Piano Lessons

Spaces available for private piano lessons for anyone ages 6 and up (adults welcome!) in the Cornwall area from an established teacher. For more information, please text or call Lisa at 902-388-7119.