

Westwood Primary School Newsletter

September 6, 2024



Principal: Sherry Flynn

Vice-Principal: Lynette MacKinnon



Dates to Remember

September 12th – Meet the Teacher: Session 1 @ 6:30pm, Session 2 @ 7:00pm

September 18th – 19th School Photo Days

September 19th – Westwood Home & School Association Meeting @ 6:00 pm

September 23rd - Professional Learning Day (**NO CLASSES**)

September 30th – National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (**NO CLASSES**)

September 25th – Breakfast Program Starts

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

Welcome Back To Everyone!

We hope all of you had a wonderful summer and enjoyed the beautiful PEI weather! It is great to have our students and staff 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.

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.

Meet Our Staff Evening

Westwood Primary is hosting its Meet Our Staff Evening on Thursday, September 12th.

We have two 25 minute sessions to allow parents with multiple children in our school meet with multiple classroom teachers.

Our first session is from 6:30 - 6:55pm (5 minute transition time) and 7:00 - 7:25pm.

Please feel free to mingle about the school to meet our amazing resource teachers, specialist teachers and counsellors. If you have any questions, please contact the school. We can't wait to see you on the 12th!

Westwood Primary School Facebook Page

Have you visited our Westwood Primary Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100057288586113> . Lots of information and reminders are posted here. **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:

Colleen Taylor – Vice Principal

Amy Sawler – 3F

Amanda Coulson – 3H
Lauren Gagne – 3G
Beth Merkley – KG
Kelley Aiken – KB
Brittany States – KH
Michelle Ledgerwood – KH
Donna Lannon - EA
Gina MacLeod – EA
Daisy MacAdam - EA
Amanda Fall – EA
Deborah Mobbs – EA
Shelley Good – EA
Kelly Murray – EA
Ellen Westcott – Administrative Assistant (AM)

Attendance Matters!

For the 2024-2025 school year, there is a renewed emphasis on the critical importance of regular attendance and punctuality in your child's time in school. Our school, along with all schools across PEI, is placing a strong focus on accurately tracking attendance data and actively engaging with students who experience frequent absences or tardiness. Consistent attendance and attention are key to academic success, and it starts as early as students in kindergarten. We will be working hard to provide an engaging and welcoming space for students to come each day and we need support from you in reinforcing the value of being present and on time each day. In the 2023-2024 school year, 5,980 of 20,747 students in Public Schools Branch schools have missed 10% or more of total school days, that's approximately 18 school days, and it can have a lasting impact on their academic success. To help understand how our school is doing, each month we'll include PSB data in our newsletter with hopes to see improvement throughout this school year.



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 8:25am**. If you arrive after 8:30 am, your child will need to enter through the front door and will need to be signed in late by you. The late sign-in book is located in the office on the counter.

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 visitor 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.

Utensils for Lunch

PEI Healthy School Lunch Program and Westwood Primary do not provide plastic spoons, fork and straws at snack or lunch time. Please make sure you are packing utensils for your child in their lunch bag.

New Signage on School Grounds

There is a lot of signage on School Property. Please make sure to yield to BUSES at all times on school property. Also, the posted speed limit on school property is a **MAXIMUM** of 10km. Crosswalks and parking areas are now clearly marked. There is **NO PASSING** in the student drop off lane.

Thanks you for helping to keep everyone safe at Westwood Primary School.

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.** Visitor parking is to the left as you enter the school property.

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 when school staff are outside on duty. **The main door entry is for Kindergarten, 2D and 3F 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. (Unless otherwise specified; such as, a concert during the school day)

If you are picking your child up at the end of the day, please park in the visitor parking area and come to the front of the school to meet them. **NOTEL** Students are dropped off to parents waiting out front **AFTER** students have been taken to their buses. Please do not grab your child out of the line, as the teacher may not see it and it can create some panic thinking a student is missing. 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 for students and staff is not impacted by illness.

Breakfast Program

We are excited to announce that Westwood's Breakfast program is back for another great year. The start date for the breakfast program will be Monday, September 23rd. Beginning at 8:05 am, 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 8:20am, 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 one 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). It is important that volunteers arrive early in order to have breakfast ready for student arrival at 8:05. Volunteers will be preparing toast, cutting fruit and veggies, serving students and cleaning up.

Volunteers will need to submit a criminal record check in order to volunteer in schools. You can obtain a letter from the school to get a criminal record check free of charge. It usually takes a week to obtain a CRC. We will need your full name and date of birth to prepare the letter. Along with your letter, you will also need to take a copy of your driver's license as well as your health card. We can copy those documents here if you do not have access to a photocopier. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Colleen Taylor (VP) at cgtaylor@edu.pe.ca.

Westwood Online Hot Lunches and Milk Program

At Westwood, we use the [hot lunch program](#), an online ordering system for parents to order milk, food and field trips for their children. Parents must set up accounts at the beginning of each year. Information on how to do this was sent home at the beginning of the year, but is also available here. [Online Ordering Parent Instructions and FAQ](#)

All orders must be completed and paid for online. Please do not send cash to school.

Milk and food is ordered on a monthly basis. Milk and food must be ordered and paid for the Sunday before the menu begins by 11:59 pm. Orders that are unpaid will be deleted. We are unable to accept late orders. The order cut off dates for orders are as follows:

September Orders – Deadline is Sunday, September 15

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

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 program is not run by the school. If you have questions about the program, the contact information is on the website.

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

On September 27th we will be celebrating Orange Shirt Day and the National Day for Truth & Reconciliation by wearing Orange. For more information on National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day resources please visit <https://www.orangeshirtday.org/> **Note: There is no school on Monday, September 30th National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Day**

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, an email will be sent home notifying you of the prohibited item. E.g. Egg, strawberries, bananas, eggs, 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 September 18th & 19th to do the school pictures. Any students who are absent will have their pictures taken on the retake 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 40 lbs.

Kindergarten students who were under 40 lbs at registration will be weighed to determine if they are still under 40 lbs. Students who are under 40 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 40 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 at school 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 will be engaging in bus safety sessions at the school.

Please continue to discuss and support bus safety at home. Here is the link for a great bus video to share at home. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n-vx9zN_nGA&t=758s

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

- 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.

Music News

Ms. Dahn and Ms. Hanson are excited to welcome Westies for a great year in Music!

MUSIC ADVENTURES - Music Adventures will be offered for Grade 2 & 3 students at Big Recess. This will include preparation for Thanksgiving and Remembrance Day Assemblies, Recorder Rock Band, Choir, Instrument Club, Dance Club and more! There will be announcements prior to each new Music Adventure. Tune in for when your class/grade level is invited to participate!

CONCERTS AND ASSEMBLIES at a glance. All dates are TBA:

Thanksgiving Assembly - October

Remembrance Day Assembly - November

Grade 3 Winter Concert - December

Kindergarten Christmas Concert - December

Grade 1 Love & Kindness Assembly - February

French Week Assembly - March

Grade 2 Spring Concert - May


EXCITING NEWS! Grades 2 & 3 will be invited to Music Adventures to prepare to record O Canada and the Westwood Song to be played at our morning announcements.

GRADE 3 RECORDERS - All Grade 3 students have been asked to send in \$10 for a recorder. There are 3 reasons why we require students to buy:

1. There is no sharing of instruments. It is healthier for each student to have their own instrument.
2. Not all recorders are created equal. We have ordered quality instruments.
3. It becomes a souvenir and their own personal musical instrument. During the first few months we will be learning songs, proper holding and breathing techniques and be ready to start playing our recorders in January. We can't wait!

Provincial Home & School News


Home & School News, September 2024

 Drive slowly! Watch for students on the road

Another school year begins Sept. 5. Students will walk, cycle, or ride to school on a bus or in their family cars. This is a strategic time to remind all motorists that children can get to school and back home safely with awareness and education. Which school does your child attend? Can they ride a bus? Find out more on the Public Schools Branch's [School Bus Planner](#).

 Update your Local Home and School Contacts

Are you still the President? Treasurer? If not, send current contact info to the Federation office. Presidents - Submit the local Home & School Association contact details using the new Google Form. Click here: [Home and School Association Contacts](#). Treasurers - Submit 2024-2025 Membership fees to the PEIHSF office by November 1st. Send e-transfers to peihsf@gov.pe.ca OR mail a cheque to PEIHSF PO Box 1012 Charlottetown PE C1A 7M4

 "Meet the Teacher"

"Meet the Teacher" evening sessions are planned for parents to meet their child's teacher and teachers to meet parents at the beginning of the school year. It's an informal opportunity to chat, say hi, and become acquainted with your child's teacher. Find the date/time on your child's school website.

 What is Home and School's role in education? Is there volunteer training available?


Experienced facilitators Vicki Bryanton and Stephen Gould will lead Volunteer Training Workshops as follows:

Monday, Nov. 4, Ellerslie Elementary School, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 5, Eliot River Elementary School, 6:30 p.m.

Register by email: ssmedleyjay@gov.pe.ca By: November 1st/2024

These sessions will equip you with practical knowledge of how volunteers can effectively collaborate with school staff and support their school, benefiting all students!

 What's on your Home and School agenda?

- Meet with the principal in September and discuss setting goals for the 2024-2025 school year.
- PEI Dept. of Education's updated Cell Phone Use Policy - https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/publications/md_2024-06_responsible_use_agreement_cit.pdf
- Inclusive Education Model Background Report completed November 2023: https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/publications/better_together_report.pdf
- Inclusive Education Action Plan: https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/publications/inclusive_education_action_plan_en.pdf
- Brainstorm collaborative ways to support the school
- Circulate PEI Home and School Federation monthly news articles
- Inform parents about provincial announcements applicable to student learning and supports
- Establish a purpose for fundraising initiatives. Finalize with a Motion and Vote to approve. Is there a need to fundraise this year?

REMEMBER: Everything parents and teachers do benefits PEI students' education and well-being!

Community News

NORTH RIVER MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

In Person Registration will be held at the APM Centre:

- Saturday - September 14th 9:00AM - 12:00PM
*online registration link will be available on August 24th, 2024.

We will also be offering:

- New to Hockey Session – Sept. 14th from 12:50-1:50pm APM Centre. Gear is required, and must pre-register with sign up.
- New to Hockey Camp- Offered to both male and female this year.
- Pre-Season Development camps
-

For Registration online link, registration to programs, and other details, please watch our NRMHA

Facebook page or go to our website www.northriverflames.ca under current news.

Piano Lessons - Spaces available in the Cornwall area for Piano lessons from an experienced teacher. For more information, call or text Lisa at 902-388-7119.