

Westwood Primary School Newsletter



January 8, 2024

Principal: Sherry Flynn
Vice Principal: Lynette MacKinnon

Dates to Remember

January 4th – Professional Development Day (**NO SCHOOL**)

January 5th - Professional Development Day (**NO SCHOOL**)

January 8th – First day of school for 2024

January 25th – Home & School Meeting @ 6:00 pm

January 26th – Dress Up As Your Favourite Literary Character (Family Literacy Day Jan 27th)

February 1st – Administrative Day for High Schools (**No classes for high school students ONLY**)

February 16th – Winter Wellness Day

February 19th – Islander Day (**NO SCHOOL**)

Happy New Year & Welcome Back!

Happy New Year to all of our Westwood families! We hope you had a wonderful holiday season. We are looking forward to a productive and enjoyable next few months full of learning and fun at school!

Winter Weather Clothing

Please make sure that your child(ren) are coming to school dressed for the outdoor weather. It is important during the winter months that children have warm boots, snow pants, winter jacket, hat and mittens/gloves (2 pairs). All of our classes have recess outside for 30 minutes daily. The only time we would have an indoor recess is if there is extreme cold (Eg. Wind chill -20C). We do not have extra snow pants or winter coats on hand at school. It is also important to pack a change of clothes and extra socks in the event your child becomes wet or soiled during the day (E.g. spilled lunch on themselves, toilet accident, wet and cold from recess, etc). Thanks for your help with this.

Westwood Primary Home & School Meeting

We hope you will join us on January 25th at 6:00 pm in the Staff Room at Westwood Primary School. Come meet the new Home & School Executive and hear about the great things happening at your child's school.

End of Day Pick Up

Please do not arrive at the school until 2:00 pm or later. Otherwise the lane at the front of the school becomes blocked and we cannot receive deliveries and/or parents who are picking up children for appointments get blocked in the pick-up lane. Thanks for your cooperation.

Morning Drop Off

Please do not drop students off to school until 8:05 am. Staff are **not** available until this time. If you arrive early and are in the student drop off lane, please keep children inside your vehicle until 8:05 am. This is when our staff head outside for outdoor supervision and when our staff inside the school are ready to receive students and exterior doors are unlocked to receive students. Thank you for your cooperation!

Bus Safety

Parents/Guardians, as we move into the winter season it is more important than ever that the children are being safe and orderly on the bus. Please take some time to review appropriate bus safety with your children. All classes have had bus safety discussions, but from time to time they require review.

At school we stress the following when we talk with the students about safe and appropriate bus manners:

- 1) "Back to back & seat to seat" describes how they should be sitting on the bus
- 2) Sitting at all times when the bus is moving and staying seated until the bus arrives at your stop
- 3) Using a quiet voice - Level 1 (silence) or Level 2 (whisper, soft talk) voice.
- 4) No eating or drinking on the school bus
- 5) Keeping hands and feet on their own body
- 6) When waiting for the school bus during winter weather we ask that you have your child wait in the drive way, **NOT on the side of the road**. Often vehicles cannot see the students because of the snowbanks
- 7) Please remind the students that it is not safe to be playing in the snow while waiting for the bus

Please make sure that your children are ready at their pick-up location a few minutes prior to bus pick up time. Please keep in mind the bus cannot wait for students, as this can put the bus driver behind schedule at other schools. Most of our buses also drive for the junior high and high school. Please stress that everyone's safety is compromised when students are not following these procedures. Thanks for reviewing this important information at home.

2024-2025 Kindergarten Registration

All children who will be **5 years old by December 31st, 2024** are eligible to attend Kindergarten in the 2024-2025 school year. You can register your child by dropping in to the school between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. You must have documents that show proof of birth, as well as, address verification at the time of registration. ***Planning for the 2024-2025 school year is happening NOW, so knowing the size of our 2024-2025 Kindergarten enrollment and any student that require additional support is vital in assisting us with staffing our school appropriately to support student learning.***

Breakfast Program

A huge thank-you to our wonderful breakfast volunteers. You help our students have a great start to the day. ***Please keep in mind there is no breakfast program when there is a school delay in the morning.***

Breakfast Program Donations

If families are interested in donating breakfast food, we gratefully accept whole wheat bread, strawberry jam, yogurt tubes, apples, mini-carrots and cucumbers. There is also an option to donate to the breakfast program on the January Hot Lunch menu.

PEI School Food Program

PEI School Food Program is a "Pay What You Can" model up to \$5.75 per meal. It provides healthy lunches to students each school day. Lunches are ordered in advance. ***We ask that you please ensure that you enter your child's class (E.g. 2B) when ordering to ensure that your child receives their food.*** Having the correct class helps to ensure your child's lunch gets delivered to the correct classroom.

Please see the website for more information. <https://www.peischoolfood.ca/>

Milk Orders /Hot Lunch Online Program

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). On Wednesdays, students can purchase 4 Crazy bread from Little Caesars 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.

January orders – Deadline was Sunday, January 7th

February orders – Deadline is Sunday, January 28th

March orders – Deadline is Sunday, March 3rd

April orders – Deadline is Sunday, March 31st

May orders – Deadline is Sunday, April 28th

June orders – Deadline is Sunday, May 28th

Family Literacy Day – Dress as Your Favourite Character

To celebrate Family Literacy Day at Westwood Primary, we will be having a "Dress-as-your-favorite-book-character" Day on Friday, January 26th, 2024 (in lieu of Jan 27th – Saturday). To participate, simply come dressed as the character from one of your favorite books and if possible, bring along a copy of the book to share with your friends. We are looking forward to meeting Westwood's most-loved characters!

Christmas Projects 2023 – Thank You All!

We wanted to take a moment to thank our generous community members for their support on the Westwood Christmas Families Project this year.

- The Knights of Columbus through its signature "Coats for Kids" Project and the generous donation of beautiful and warm snowsuits for our students. Their project goes on in eight countries around

the world. Locally, it is supported by the Knights of Columbus of the Good Shepard Pastoral Unit and Catholic Women's League of St. Francis of Assisi. A huge thank you to Basil Favaro, Grand Knight and the Knights and Cathy Favaro and Elaine Black, Co-Presidents of the CWL for their fund-raising efforts and support on this project.

- Colleen McGaughey, St. Francis of Assisi Church, Coordinator of the Food Baskets for approximately 75 families from Westwood, Eliot River, East Wiltshire and Bluefield.
- Pastor Philip Woodworth, Pastor Dana Ingersoll and Pastor Mike Hamilton and the elves at Cornerstone Baptist Church were amazing as always in supporting five families this year in the Christmas Project as well as throughout the year with several initiatives to help families in the area. They also provided food for these families for Christmas dinner.
- Fire Chief Anson Grant and the North River Fire Department
- Shane and Pam McGuigan, Island Homes PEI Real Estate
- West River United Church coordinated by Jennifer Fields
- Town of Cornwall
- Elaine Blanchard and the knitting elves at Riverview Terrace for their donation of beautiful hand knit mitts, caps, scarves, slippers and socks as well as the other residents who collected necessary items for little students (e.g., socks, underwear) at their Annual Christmas Party.
- Karen and Bobby Carmichael, Cornwall Quick Stop
- Joel Watts, Allstar Cresting Embroidery and Screen Printing
- Atlantic Riders for Kids
- Moore Well Drilling
- Many corporate donors who wish to remain anonymous

Friends/Parents/Grandparents of our students supporting families in a significant way this year:

- Matt & Noel Burns
- Miranda Tremere Phelan & Nick Phelan
- Sheila Blacquiere & Family
- Amelia Fuentes & Family
- Candace MacPhail & Family
- Carmen & Donna MacArthur
- Donna, Dave, Selynn & Sarah Butler
- Ken & Bev Cleavland
- Katelyn & Kyle Reardon
- Lloyd & Sarah Larter
- Jo-Ellen & Bobby Craig
- Whitney Batchilder & Family
- Alison Gaudet & Family

We also received many donations through the "Hot Lunch Program" from parents and guardians and many other families who dropped off gifts and donations anonymously. Thank you.

I also want to thank the staff and administration of Westwood who contributed to the project this year. You have been incredibly generous and thoughtful in the lovely gifts you purchased for your students.

Finally, thank you to administrators Sherry Flynn and Lynette MacKinnon for their support with this project. Together, the Westwood Christmas Families Project was a great success this year. We have a beautiful, kind and generous community.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Cindy Wood, School Counsellor

A very special thank you to our Elf behind the scenes who makes all of this happen, Cindy Wood. With all of her organizing, contacting, shopping and delivering Christmas is so much brighter for a number of Westwood Families! Thank you Cindy!

Supporting Family Literacy Day at Home

Family Literacy Day is a national initiative that takes place on January 27th every year to raise awareness about the importance of reading and engaging in other literacy-related activities as a family. At Westwood Primary we value the importance of strong literacy skills and the positive impact it has on child

development. This year's theme is **"Let's Have a Family Party"**. For more information go to <https://abclifeliteracy.ca/all-programs/family-literacy-day/>

Here are a few great activities to try at home:

1. Popcorn Reading: A family member can read a page or two the "popcorn pass" to the family member of their choice.
2. Camp Out Reading: Pitch a tent in the living room and "camp out" while you read a favourite book or build a bear cave and read books about bears.
3. Bookmark Making: Design and create bookmarks for your favourite book.
4. Learn about a favourite author: Barbara Reid <https://barbarareid.ca/>
Eric Carle <http://www.eric-carle.com/home.html>
Tomie DePaola <https://www.tomie.com/>
Kevin Henkes <https://kevinhenkes.com/>
Robert Munsch <https://robertmunsch.com/>
5. Visit your local Library (Cornwall Public Library) <https://www.library.cornwall.on.ca/>
6. Board Game Night: Play a board game with your friends or family. A number of board games incorporate reading.

School Cancellation/One-Hour Delay Information

Information regarding school cancellation and one hour delays can be found on the school website on the Public Schools Branch site at <https://psb.edu.pe.ca/news-updates>

Further information about closures can be found at <https://psb.edu.pe.ca/parent-and-student-resources/storm-closures>

Please Note: in the event of a delay of opening the school's **BREAKFAST PROGRAM DOES NOT OPERATE.**

School Absences

Parents, please ensure that if your child is absent for any reason that you contact the school to make the school aware of the reason for the absence by 8:45 am. We record all absences in our SAS system each day at 8:45 am. The Public Schools Branch has an Attendance and Engagement Policy and Procedure to promote regular school attendance and punctuality for school age children. Attendance in school is key to educational achievement and school success. Thanks for your support.

Special Thanks

We would also like to say a special thanks to folks who have dropped off extra hats and mittens for our students. Often children arrive to school without their hats and mittens or sometimes mittens get really wet at first recess; we are very appreciative to have extra mittens and hats on hand for our students. Thank you!

Westwood Primary School Apparel

Show your school spirit by ordering some school clothing! Simply click on the link below and chose your favourite item you wish to order! Thanks to *All Star Cresting* (local company) for being the provider of our school clothing!

https://allstarcresting.ca/westwood_apparel/shop/home?fbclid=IwAR0Ffh9OetqH7HrQdfPbpUVoS3PmNoC3DDYy72a_id-CsoJ7t-ISivt7Ohs

Home & School News

PEI Home and School News, January 2024



2024 Extra Mile Awards for Teachers/Staff

Local Home and School Associations can consider nominating a school teacher/staff person for going the "extra mile" for students. The Federation is accepting nominations until **Jan. 19, 2024**. Find criteria and application at: <https://peihsf.ca/extra-mile-award/>

Resolutions Impact Change

The Federation supports equal opportunity for all students and promotes this by passing pertinent resolutions at annual meetings. Resolutions are the single most important tool that Home and School can use to influence decision-makers in government and school boards. Approved resolutions are forwarded to decision-makers who can make changes for the benefit of all island students. Guidelines on how to write and present a resolution and examples of previously passed resolutions are available at www.peihsf.ca/resolutions. Discuss topics with local association parents and teachers and consider submitting a resolution. Deadline to submit resolutions is **Jan. 31, 2024**

Annual Reports

Presidents/Co-Chairs are asked to submit your 2023-2024 Annual Reports to the Federation by **Feb. 29**. Annual reports are compiled in the Federation's Book of Reports posted at: <https://peihsf.ca/agm/>.

2024 School Staff Appreciation Week, February 12th – 16th

School Staff Appreciation Week is an opportunity for parents and students to recognize the dedication and hard work of school staff: teachers, administrative support, educational assistants, and custodians. Set up a small committee to brainstorm ways the school community can thank school staff. Keep plans simple!

2024 Annual General Meeting Notice

Book your calendars! The Prince Edward Island Home and School Federation will hold its 71st Annual General Meeting (AGM) on **Saturday, April 13, 2024**. All member Home and School Associations are invited to attend the AGM. Each Association is invited to designate five of your school's attendees as voting delegates. Registration details will be posted in February at: <http://peihsf.ca/agm>

Home and School and You

Dionne Tuplin, PEI Home and School Federation president writes a monthly column for The Guardian. Her January 2024 news column will be published in The Guardian and posted at: <https://peihsf.ca/news/> on Friday, Jan. 5.