

# Port Williams Elementary School

## October Newsletter

www.pwes.ca

### SCHOOL NEWS

It was wonderful to see so many families during our Parent/Guardian information evening. This evening gave teachers an opportunity to share curriculum outcomes, assessment, school expectations and communication. In September students and staff wore pink to 'Stand up Against Bullying', walked in support of the Terry Fox Marathon of Hope and participated in a bus evacuation drill. The cross country running team is off to a great start with 40+ runners and the junior (gr. 2/3) and senior (gr. 4/5) school choir has begun to meet on a weekly basis.

You may follow us on Twitter @PWES\_AVRSB



Gr. 4 Cross Country Run at LESES



Healthy Lunchroom Choices



Grade 5 Math Class

### October is Mi'kmaq History Month

#### Mi'kmaq Grand Council Flag

The Mi'kmaq are the founding people of Nova Scotia. Archeological evidence suggests our Ancestors, prior to European contact, have been living in and occupying what is today known as Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, PEI, Newfoundland, Maine and the Gaspé Bay Peninsula for close to 13,000 years. A culturally rich and vibrant civilization has developed and existed over this period. In order to celebrate and share Mi'kmaq culture with all of Nova Scotia, in 1993 Premier John Savage and Mi'kmaq Grand Chief Ben Syliboy declared the month of October Mi'kmaq History Month. **Treaty Day** – held annually on October 1<sup>st</sup>, celebrates the signing of the 1752 Treaty of Friendship and Peace as well as marks the beginning of Mi'kmaq History Month in Nova Scotia. The purpose of Treaty Day is to promote public awareness about the Mi'kmaq culture and heritage for all citizens of Nova Scotia.



#### Student Accident Insurance (sip.ca)

As you may know the Nova Scotia School Insurance Program (SIP) is the non-profit insurer owned by school boards across Nova Scotia. Since 1988 we have paid for basic student accident insurance for every student in the Province for school hours and activities. In previous years we sent all schools flyers to give to each student providing parents and guardians the option to purchase the Gold Plan for 24/7 coverage. This year we would like to promote the Gold Plan only online, in an effort to take the eco-friendly route, reduce costs and staff time. Port Williams Elementary has the link posted on our website.

## **Terry Fox Update**

We had a wonderful walk on the morning of Thursday, September 29<sup>th</sup>. We thank everyone who joined us and/or helped in any way. It is truly appreciated. Remember to return your pledge sheets if you have not already done so.

## **Safety Drills**

The safety and security of our students and staff are a top priority for us at PWES and AVRSB. At school, we teach children to be safe in numerous situations, such as bus safety, fire drills, “stranger danger”, lockdowns and relocation drills.

- **Fire Safety** - 6 fire drills per year  
Members of the Port Williams Volunteer Fire Department will be conducting a fire drill and fire prevention sessions at our school on Friday, October 9<sup>h</sup>. We appreciate their support in helping our students learn this important information.
- **Lockdown Drills** – 2 per year (fall/spring)  
During a lock down, class room doors are secured and students remain in the room in a safe location not visible from the door window until instructed by the Principal to resume their activities. All exterior doors are locked and no one is permitted to enter or leave the building. Before the lock down drill, we share a common story script (which has been written by our Guidance Counsellor) with all classes that explains the importance of lock downs. The students are always aware when we are going to practice a lock down drill.
- **Hold and Secure** – 1 per year (winter)  
Hold and secure measures are implemented to ensure safety of students and staff from external situations such as adverse weather conditions, wild animal (i.e. coyote, bear) on school property or a person who has restricted access to places where children are present. Building access is controlled by locking all exterior doors and students are kept inside at play times.
- **Relocation**  
If our school needs to be evacuated, we may need to move to a relocation site. Our first relocation site is the Newcombe’s barn across from the school. Buses would then transport students and staff to the second relocation site at Port Williams Community Centre. (In good weather, we would walk directly to the Community Centre.)

## **DEECD - New year and new initiatives for students and teachers**

As we head into year two of Nova Scotia's Action Plan for Education, there are many more exciting initiatives for students at all grade levels this school year.

This fall, students in grades primary to 3 will benefit from hands-on learning, including using floor robots to learn sequencing and programming. Students in grades 4-6 will benefit from Innovation and Exploration Kits that include Spheros and Makey Makey invention kits. Students in grades 7 to 12 will learn coding through events, such as the Hour of Code and STEAM Olympics, and courses, such as Computer Programming 12. Coding promotes problem solving, teamwork, critical thinking, creativity and innovation. These skills are not only related to learning math, science and the arts, but they are also directly linked to many careers, including computer programming and the marine industries.

With the province's first literacy strategy for students in all grades, there will be a greater focus on the teaching of reading and writing and the development of oral communication skills. Reading Recovery support has been increased for grade 1 students. Students in Grades 4 to 6 will have a renewed curriculum, with more time for literacy and math. Class caps are expanded to grades 4 to 6.

To help more students succeed in math, additional supports will be made available for both teachers and students. Career education outcomes will assist students as they begin thinking about their futures and the many possibilities ahead. To learn more about what is new this year, go to <http://novascotia.ca/educationactionplan/> to sign up for ongoing updates from the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

## **MediAlert's No Child Without Program is at PWES**

The No Child Without program offers a free MediAlert membership to students who attend our school and are between the ages of 4 up to their 14<sup>th</sup> birthday. If your child has a medical condition, allergy or is required to take medication on a regular basis then you should consider a MediAlert membership through this program. Your child's voice in an emergency, MediAlert membership; it gives emergency first responders immediate access to your child's medical information on their MediAlert bracelet or necklet; enables first responders to quickly obtain up-to-date medical information by means of the child's Electronic Health Record through the 24 Hour Emergency Hotline; communicates with the parent or emergency contact upon activation of the Hotline; allows free updates of the child's medical record as needed. MediAlert identification can alert school staff, friends, coaches and others about your child's medical condition should an emergency occur. For further information, come to the school office for a brochure or visit [www.nochildwithout.ca](http://www.nochildwithout.ca) To register your child, you will need a No Child Without brochure from the office. If your child is already part of the No Child Without program and there have been changes to the medical condition, medications or emergency contact information, call Medicalert at 1-866-679-3220 Ext 1 to update your child's file.

## **HOME & SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

- Welcome PWES families to a new school year – and for some of you, welcome to PWES! My name is Lia Hennigar and along with Karen Rovers, we co-chair the Home & School Committee. Please note that our first H&S meeting is on Wednesday, October 12th at 7pm in the Library. We would love for you to join us on a regular basis (or drop-in when you can). Our monthly meetings are held on the second Tues. or Wed. of each month. Here, you will receive an update from Principal Burns on school developments, an update from our Board Representative, Mr. Sandy Fraser and you will get the first-hand scoop on what the H&S team is planning in terms of activities and initiatives for the school year. And if you cannot attend meetings, we do ask for help several times a year for large-scale activities. This is an excellent opportunity to have some fun with other parents and demonstrate to your children the importance of giving back.
- At our first meeting on Oct 12th, we are happy to welcome Melissa Roop-White and Tracey Bartie of Lice Matters. The goal of Lice Matters is to educate and reduce the stigma surrounding lice. Sadly, many health care professionals are recommending outdated products to try and eradicate lice and we would love to share what we have learned.
- Please visit our Facebook page. As many of you know, PWES has a Facebook page which you can find under PWES. For current school information (or information that would be helpful to students), please visit this site. We will not be posting close-up pictures of children on this site, and we ask that you respect this decision. We also ask that you do not advertise on this site.
- We host many events throughout the school year, many of which are of no cost to you. If you and your family need assistance attending these events, please speak with Margaret in the office.
- If you have any questions about H&S, please contact Lia (542-9648) or Karen (698-7725).

**Do you consider yourself a Van Gogh or Monet?** That's okay, neither do we! Having said that, we are pleased to announce our first fundraiser of the year with Paint Nite! The Paint Nite craze has taken over Canada and the US and for good reason. You get a two-hour lesson with an enthusiastic art instructor who brings with her everything you need to create a fun piece of art! There is absolutely NO EXPERIENCE necessary to take part (trust me as I have the work to prove it!). **Paint Nite at PWES** will take place on Thursday, October 27th at 7pm at PWES. Please visit our facebook page to find out how you can reserve a ticket and to view the piece we will be painting. For more information, please contact Lia at, 902-680-5331. Important: A minimum of 35 tickets must be purchased by Oct. 13th or this event will be cancelled.

## **COMMUNITY NEWS**

### **KEYSS: Kings Early Years Screening for School**

KEYSS Clinics are a community partnered program and offer parents valuable information on child development, preschool behaviors, school readiness, healthy living, physical activity, child safety and community resources. Our expertise provides an interactive experience for children and their parents. Screening includes preschool development, hearing, speech, gross and fine motor and vision. Our professionals are able to inform families about available programs and services in Kings County. A total of nine KEYSS Clinics take place during October and November each year at various Kings County elementary schools. The clinics are not school specific so you may attend which ever location or date is most convenient for you and your family. Any three year old living in the area is encouraged to register and make valuable community connections.

Please call 678-6111 or register online at [www.valleychilddevelopment.ca](http://www.valleychilddevelopment.ca) in September 2016.

### **Calling all Building Blocks Preschool Alumni!**

This year marks the 20th Anniversary for Building Blocks Preschool and we are hoping you will help us celebrate! As a staff, we are putting together a scrapbook of memories for the school's Director – Hanneke Bouter. We would love to include entries from as many preschool alumni as possible. If you would like to be a part of this journey down memory lane for Hanneke, feel free to be creative by drawing a picture, sharing a memory by writing a poem, giving updates of where you are now, even include a picture of yourself ..... Hanneke would love to see how grown up you are.....whatever you choose. You can either email your scrapbook entry to [kimberlydrogers@hotmail.com](mailto:kimberlydrogers@hotmail.com), or return your entry to the school's office. The deadline for any entry is Tuesday, October 11th.

Thanks so much! - *Building Blocks Staff*

### **Cotton Tale Café and Play - 902-680-1691**

The kids are back to school and now is the time we all plan our Fall activities! Come in and try a Pumpkin Latte and our gluten-free pumpkin muffins and black bean brownies while your children happily play with our new Thomas train table. Mario Morning! September 30th - which is a PD day (9:00 - 12:00). Cost is \$20 per child. Geared toward age 6+. Parents need not stay on the premise. Call now to sign up!

Valley Harvest Kids Run - Cotton Tale has been approached by the Valley Harvest Marathon committee to set up activities while parents register their kids from 12:00- 2:00 for this awesome FREE [event](#) on Saturday, October 8.

Birthday Parties - Call us to inquire if you've got a party to plan

Painting with Colleen - Come join Colleen Gerrits on Friday, September 30 from 7-9ish for another evening of artsy fun at Cotton Tale! \$40/person but only \$35 if you come with a group of 5 or more. See you there!

### **Fall /Winter Clothing Give Away**

Centreville Baptist Church (870 Murray Drive - off Hwy. #359)

One day only! Friday, Oct. 21st , 2016 from 8:30 a.m – 11:30 am. Everyone welcome! Sponsored by Centreville Baptist Church Missions In Action. Donations of clean Fall and Winter clothing, footwear (including skates) , bedding, towels, and curtains are greatly appreciated. (No summer clothing accepted at this time.) These items can be dropped off at the Church anytime after Thanksgiving. For more info, call Marilyn (902-678-3939) or Madeline (902-678-7584).

**Kings County Family Resource Centre** Happy Fall! Come check out the programs at the this year. We have programs for all ages and stages! We offer programs just for adults, parent-child interactive programs, cooking programs and preschool. All of our programs are free! Hope to see you soon? For more information contact us at: 902-678-5760 [family.centre@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:family.centre@ns.sympatico.ca)



KINGS COUNTY  
FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE

[www.kcfrc.ca](http://www.kcfrc.ca)

### **Sobeys - Back to School Healthy Lunches**

Looking for some healthy school lunch ideas? Join Sobeys' Wellbeing Counsellor Tracey and Community Room Coordinator Dale for some creative 'Lunchable' ideas that will have you thinking beyond the traditional sandwich. We'll show you how to build healthy and tasty lunch combinations that even the pickiest kids will love. And, we'll give you the containers to take home. Saturday October 15th (11-1 pm) in the Sobeys' Orchards and Tides Community Room (\$5/child) Space is limited so register at the Courtesy Desk before October 12th \*Please pay \$5.00 at the Courtesy

- Over -

Desk upon arrival\* For more info, contact: Dale Woodland Rogers, Sobey's Community Room Coordinator (902) 681-3723.

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

Monday, October 3	Grade 4 Math Assessment
Tuesday, October 4	Grade 4 Math Assessment
Wednesday, October 5	Grade 3 Reading/Writing Assessment
Thursday, October 6	Grade 3 Reading/Writing Assessment
Thursday, October 6	Cross Country Meet – Glooscap (3:30 Start)
Monday, October 10	Thanksgiving Day – School Closed
Tuesday, October 11	Cross Country Meet – PWES (3:30 Start)
Wednesday, October 12	Kings Early Years Screening for School (KEYSS) Clinic @ PWES
Wednesday, October 12	Home & School Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
Thursday, October 13	Cross Country Meet – KCA (3:30 Start – Kentville Baseball Park)
Wednesday, October 19	Early Dismissal (11:30 a.m.)
Wednesday, October 26	School Picture Retakes & Group Photos (Best, Dunham, Gallagher, Smith, Tatlock)
Friday, October 28	Provincial Conference Day ( <i>No School for Students</i> )

**ASSEMBLY: October 21**