

Port Williams Elementary School

December Newsletter



December 2, 2016

SCHOOL NEWS

November has been a very busy month with students participating in the Remembrance Assembly, the grade 2/3 and 4/5 choirs performing at the Remembrance Ceremony in Port Williams, first term reports sent home followed by Parent/Teacher/Guardian Interviews and Open House. The Port Williams Home and School and Port Williams and District Lion's Club hosted a very successful Santa Pancake Breakfast with the help of Acadia Axemen hockey and soccer players. The total raised was \$1315.05 for the Port Williams Breakfast Program and Port Williams and District Lion's Club Christmas Hampers.



Canning Legion Veterans



Acadia Athlete Breakfast Volunteers



The Rovers and Santa

Supporting Families during the Season "We make a living by what we get but we make a life by what we give." Winston Churchill.

As we enter the Holiday season, it is always inspiring to reflect on the compassion and generosity of our greater Port Williams community who in the past have lent support to others who are in need, at this time of year. People are often eager to help but can sometimes not know how. Within our school's community there are many families, who for a multitude of reasons, find this time of year extremely stressful being unable to meet their family's basic needs let alone their Christmas wishes. In the past, families, individuals and community organizations have come together to support and share with these families by making donations. If you or your family would like to be part of making a difference this holiday season by helping another family contact Ms. MacPhee.

Your financial donation at the school will be used to purchase gift cards from Sobeys, Superstore and Wal-Mart to share with our families. Wal-Mart has offered to match gift card purchases with equivalent valued gift cards, so your financial donation doubles. All financial donations can come with a special holiday card to notify friends or loved ones of your financial gift in their honour. Sponsoring a family is also possible. Contact the school office for more details on this option.

Looking for other ways to help during this Season

- perform random acts of kindness
- visit the Elderly in local nursing homes and sing carols
- write letters of appreciation
- help the Salvation Army work their kettles or help out at their Christmas Store
- offer to help the Port Williams Lions with packing their Christmas Food Hampers

Make the holidays a little brighter for a family who could use a little extra by doing the little extras!

NSTU Job Action

Earlier this week, the Nova Scotia Teachers Union announced that it intends to begin a work-to-rule strike action on Monday, December 5th at all schools in Nova Scotia. The NSTU has described the work-to-rule in this way: Teachers will continue to carry out their instructional duties in classrooms, but will not support any extracurricular activities. They will arrive 20 minutes before school and

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leave 20 minutes after, as stipulated in the Teachers Provincial Agreement. For PWES this means that the following will be cancelled; Winter concert, Dec. 9th Assembly (Tatlock), Home and School Shopping Party and Dec. 21st Early Dismissal. Volunteers are supported to continue the time they have committed i.e. lunch program, Special Friends, volunteering in classrooms. Please continue to check the school board website www.avrsb.ca and @avrsb on Twitter for further updates.

Unexpected Early Dismissals

If we have to dismiss our students unexpectedly during the school day, i.e. weather related, power outage, etc. we will send out a message through our Alert Solutions system as a phone call, email and text to notify parents and guardians. We are asking that once you receive the notification that you email pwes@avrsb.ca (preferably) or call the school to notify us your child's plan i.e. bus as usual, after school program, home to a grandparent, etc. Thank you in advance for supporting this process.

Food Bank Donations:

As in the past, we will be collecting food items and cash donations to help families in our school/area who are in need. We need foods like powdered milk, canned meat, fish, luncheon meat and vegetables; staples such as flour, sugar, oatmeal, cereals and pasta and extras like ketchup, peanut butter and cheese whiz. We would like to do what we can to ease the burdens of hard working families during the holiday season. Money and food collected throughout the month and during our winter concert will be forwarded in good will. In lieu of gift exchanges, we are asking that you make a donation to the food bank. Thank you in advance for your kindness.

Library News - Winter Break Library Book Returns

Please return library books by Dec. 13th before our winter break. Borrowing will begin again on Jan. 3rd.

Jane Holmes Memorial Fund In 1997, Jane Holmes was a parent at this school who believed that we could offer more nutritious choices at affordable prices. Jane along with other parents formed a committee called Port Williams Nutrition for Health. This committee was instrumental in changing what we offered our students for snacks and lunch. They replaced many less healthy food choices such as hamburgers, chicken burgers and hot dogs. They replaced them with healthier choices such as baked potatoes, spaghetti and wraps. They also introduced fruit offerings such as kiwi, bananas, apples and clementine's for only 25 cents. Nineteen years later we still offer fruit choices at 25 cents. Sadly, in 2001, Jane Holmes passed away when her youngest child was still a student at this school. The Jane Holmes Memorial Fund was established through our School Board. Donations are used to support emergency food to our students who need it. Your family or a business you may know might like to donate to this worthy cause in lieu of gifts to family or friends. A monetary donation may be left with Ms. MacPhee at the school office. You will receive a card recognizing your gift of a donation for you to send to the person you are honouring with your gift.



COMMUNITY NEWS

PAINT NIGHT with artist Colleen Gerrits ** Beginner level event. Treat yourself or give a Christmas gift!
Location: Horton High School. Fri., Jan. 20th, 7:00-approx 9:15. Cancellation date: Wed., Jan. 25th. Price: \$50/individ.; \$45 each for group of 2+. Come out to discover the artist in you! Enjoy a night out with friends!
Refreshments served. Please call 902-542-3805 to book your ticket. Limited to 40 participants. (Horton's Safe Grad 2017 Fundraiser)



Cadance Academy will be presenting its eleventh annual production of The Nutcracker on Saturday, December 10 at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, December 11 at 2:00 p.m. at Festival Theatre, Wolfville. Tickets are \$20 for adults; \$15 for students, seniors, and children and can be purchased at the Acadia Arena Box Office - 902-542-5500 or from Cadance Academy. For information:

www.cadanceacademy.ca or by phone: 902-679-3616 or email: info@cadanceacademy.ca

Christmas Tree shopping? Why not enjoy the day with family selecting a tree from Browning's Tree Farm. This season, when you purchase a \$25 Tree Tag from Browning's, (Gibsons Road, Centreville), they will donate \$10 to Cystic Fibrosis Canada. PWES is pleased to appeal this fundraiser in support of one of our students who battles CF and faces challenges on a daily basis. Cystic fibrosis (CF) is the most common fatal genetic disease affecting Canadian children and young adults. At present, there is no cure. CF causes various effects on the body, but mainly affects the digestive system and lungs. Great strides are being made every, single year to cure CF. There are 50 local CF Chapters across Canada who rely on fundraisers such as these to help in the fight against CF. **For more information about purchasing a Tree Tag, please contact Leslie at, [902-680-2964](tel:902-680-2964).** For more information about CF, please visit the web site at, www.cysticfibrosis.ca



Acadia School of Music

We are presenting a FREE concert by the Horton Community Youth Orchestra and Acadia University Orchestra, conducted by Dr. Christoph Both. Free Concert. Festival Theatre, Wolfville; Thurs., Dec. 1 at 7:30 pm.



Caravan Theatre

Our theatre brings alive the magic of Christmas with its dramatic retelling of Dylan Thomas' timeless classic, "A Child's Christmas in Wales". Performing on a modest stage embellished only by Thomas' poetic and evocative language, four actors transport the audience back to old-time Christmases of years gone by. Meet teacup-tipping aunts, snoring uncles, and boys who tumble into adventures out in the snow. Join them for this family-friendly story recounting the awe and wonder of childhood immortalized in holidays past.

Joining us will be special guests, The East Coast Carolling Co. "A Child's Christmas in Wales" will be performed:

- Bridgetown, Mon., Dec. 5 @ 7pm at Dawn Oman Art Gallery, 298 Granville St. Tickets \$10, or \$30/family, available at the gallery.
- Wolfville, Fri., Dec. 9 @ 7pm at Manning Memorial Chapel, Acadia University. Tickets \$10, or \$30/family, available at Box of Delights Bookstore, 466 Main St., Wolfville
- Windsor, Mon., Dec. 19, 7pm at Windsor United Church, 613 King St. Entry by free-will offering. www.caravantheatre.ca

Exercise is Medicine Canada at Acadia

Our purpose is to educate on the benefits of physical activity and to host family friendly community events. We have a community event coming up on December 3rd. Exercise is Medicine Canada at Acadia is partnering with Acadia Mental Health Society to bring you "The Hot Chocolate Run". This is an event designed for people of all ages and athletic abilities to come out and be active. There is a 5k route for those who want to run and a 3k route for those who want to walk. Runners and walkers are welcome to join us for a great time and learn how exercise can benefit your health and your life! Besides, did we mention there will be hot chocolate at the finish line... We are starting the Hot Chocolate Run/Walk at 3:00, snow, rain or shine.

When: Saturday, December 3rd @ 3:00 pm

Cost: By Donation

Where: Start and finish is Waterfront Park, Wolfville, NS

How to register: Raceroster.ca

Although, we hope everyone enjoys the event and are excited to be providing hot chocolate at the finish line, we are not able to accommodate special dietary restrictions.

Valley Youth Project hosts drop-in social evenings for LGBTQ+ youth and allies. On December 7, our drop-in has the theme of GSA night. We're inviting GSAs (and all youth) in the Valley to join us at drop-in, meet each other, and share the social space for the evening. We are able to provide transportation from any location in Annapolis, Hants, or Kings Counties at no cost, and there is never a cost to attend.

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+When: 6:30 - 8:30PM, Wednesday, Dec. 7

Where: Youth Room, Louis Millett Community Centre, New Minas

What: Socialize, share stories, eat snacks, play games, borrow from our library, and meet people from GSAs across the valley

How: Just show up! Free and wheelchair-accessible transportation can be arranged from anywhere in Annapolis, Kings, or Hants county (please [book transportation](#) no later than Friday, Dec 4; earlier is better. Note that a separate request should be made for each person who will attend). As always, all youth 25 and under are welcome -- but GSA participants are the guests of honour. Bring your entire GSA and meet others from around the Valley for a relaxed evening of food, socializing, books, and games. We're putting the word out early to give groups time to plan. Feel free to discuss carpool arrangements in the [facebook event](#), but also keep in mind that we can provide free transportation if you let us know a few days in advance. Also as always, there will be food, games, books from our library, and good conversation. The Valley Youth Project (<http://valleyyouthproject.wordpress.com/>) (valleyyouthproject@gmail.com) (<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Valley-Youth-Project/22418494995>)

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Wednesday, Dec. 21** - **Last Day of School before Winter Break (Full Day)**
- **Lunchroom Menu: Bagels & Counter Foods only**
- Tuesday, Jan. 3** - **First Day of School after Winter Break**

