

# PORT WILLIAMS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

September 7, 2016

- *PARTNERS IN LEARNING* -

## **SCHOOL NEWS**

Welcome to a new school year. We hope you and your family enjoyed a fun and active summer. We are looking forward to a year of learning. We have 10 classes which range in size from 20-25. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

### **Alert Solutions**

In October 2016, PWES will send newsletters and notices electronically through Alert Solutions. All notices and newsletters, as well as PWES Google Calendars, can be found on the website at [www.pwes@ednet.ns.ca](mailto:www.pwes@ednet.ns.ca). Families that do not have access to technology may request a paper copy through the school office.

### **Food for Thought**

Port Williams Elementary School, in conjunction with the Wolfville Rotary, service and corporate partners and local schools, is putting on a fundraiser whose purpose is to raise much needed money for breakfast and lunch programs. Further info in regards to ticket sales will be sent home soon.

### **Peanut / Tree Nut Smart School**

**We are a "PEANUT/TREE NUT SMART" school.** No peanuts or tree nuts (or products containing peanuts/tree nuts) may be brought to school. Please check ingredient labels carefully to ensure that food items do not contain traces of nuts. We have checked with the manufacturers and providers of our food items, and have been assured that they are peanut/tree nut free and have been produced in peanut/tree nut free environment. Following these procedures will help us provide a safe environment for our students. We thank you for your cooperation.

### **Terry Fox**

This year we will once again support our greater community by participating in the Terry Fox Walk September 29 at 8:40. This walk will take us throughout the community. Families may request official Terry Fox pledge sheets. Please join us in celebration of the Marathon of Hope as we walk to support cancer research.

### **Office Hours**

The school office will be open from 8:00a.m. -3:30p.m.

### **Prepaid Supplies**

We ask that our school supply fee (\$35) be paid by the end of Sept. If this is not possible, please see Mrs. Burns.

### **Parent/Guardian Orientation Night - September 15th at 7:00 p.m.**

This evening provides an opportunity for parents/guardians to meet their child's teacher and learn about classroom routines, expectations, curriculum outcomes, assessment, homework guidelines, etc. Childcare will be provided in the Library 6:30-7:30. The schedule for the evening is as follows:

6:30-6:50 – General meeting in the Gymnasium; 6:50-7:10 – Classroom Visits; 7:10-7:30 – Classroom Visits

### **Volunteers at School**

We love having people volunteer at our school. In order to help out at school, volunteers must complete a Criminal Records Check (CRC) and a Child Abuse Registry Check (CAR) **for our school board every 3 years**. The necessary forms are available at the school and may be picked up at our Orientation Night on September 15<sup>th</sup> or at the school office.

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### **Early Morning Drop-Off Time**

Our morning supervision for **bussed** students begins at 7:45 a.m. Non-bussed students may be dropped off by parents/guardians starting at 7:55 a.m.

### **Student Attendance**

Consistent student attendance is important. When a child is frequently absent from school, he/she misses important learning experiences including specific skills and knowledge that may be necessary for further learning. The real danger of frequent absences from school is that students will develop gaps in their learning that will hinder future learning.

It is understood that there are legitimate reasons why students must miss school. When this occurs, the school will work with you to ensure your child does not fall behind. Please communicate these situations with the child's teacher and the school principal.

There are also many examples of students missing significant time when it is not necessary. Please take school attendance seriously. Be consistent in ensuring that your child values the importance of a good education. Make sure he/she goes to bed at a reasonable time and gets a good night's sleep. Plan your vacation at times that will have no impact, or at the least a minimal impact, on school attendance.

Do not hesitate to phone the school if you are encountering difficulties getting your child to attend school. Allow us to work with you to find solutions. We are willing to sit with you to look at your child's programming and school experiences as well as any other factors that may impact on your child attending school.

### **Modelling Appropriate Social Media Behaviours for our Children**

Social media has become an important means of communication and of seeking information for most people. It is proving to be of particular importance for our youth as technology has become a significant part of the identity of this generation. Unfortunately, increased technology has also resulted in new social issues. It is sometimes used as a means of cyber-bullying or an exchange of inappropriate information. **It is up to us, as adults, to serve as proper role models with regards to technology use.** We need to teach our children to respect the use of technology and to be good digital citizens. In order to do this properly, we as adults must also learn to be good social citizens and to model appropriate use of social media. We must use social media tools like Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, Instagram, etc. appropriately, because our children are watching and emulating our behaviours.

Please be advised that inappropriate use of technology falls under the Provincial School Code of Conduct. Inappropriate use of technology and social media can result in serious consequences for students. Inappropriate use of technology and social media may also fall under the Criminal Code. We have recently seen criminal charges resulting from the sharing of inappropriate photos. Please be informed and help to inform your children.

For more information around proper use of social media and good digital citizenship, please visit our website at: [avrsb.ca/digital](http://avrsb.ca/digital)

### **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. The place and dates of the KEYSS 2014 clinics are:

- . New Minas Elementary - October 5
- . Kingston Elementary - October 19
- . Somerset Elementary - November 1
- . Aldershot Elementary - November 17
- . L. E. Shaw Elementary - December 5
- . Port Williams Elementary - October 12
- . Kings County Academy - October 24
- . Cambridge Elementary - November 9
- . Glooscap Elementary - November 23

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## **School Bus Safety**

In the afternoon, the bus drivers will drop your children off at their required stops. Primary and Grade One students must have a parent/guardian meet the child at their stop. If a parent/ guardian is not at the bus stop, in the interest of safety, the child will be returned to the school and the family will be contacted.

## **COMMUNITY NEWS**

### **Port Williams Recreation:** After School Programs, Activities and Clubs for September

- **“Let’s Dance!” Breakdance, Hip-Hop, Creative Movement, Ballet Tap & Jazz**  
Instructor: Jessica Cherry. Jessica taught at the Maritime Dance Academy in Halifax and at the Acadia Dance Collective Community while she completed her studies at Acadia. She has certifications from the Russian Syllabus and Canadian Dance Teachers Association. Dance sessions will start Sept. 12 and end Nov. 29 in the school gymnasium: Grades P-2 - Monday, 2:30-4:00pm; Grades 3-5 - Tuesday, 2:30-4:00pm Cost: \$60 for the 12 weeks program. Register via e-mail: [pwrecreation@ns.aliantzinc.ca](mailto:pwrecreation@ns.aliantzinc.ca) by Sept. 09.
- **Junior Team-Tennis - Instructor: Joseph Memet**  
4 weeks program, on the outdoors tennis courts, starting Sept. 12th. Grades 4-5 – Mon., 2:30-4:00pm  
Grades 2-3 – Tues., 2:30-4:00pm. No fee to register and play! E-mail: [pwrecreation@ns.aliantzinc.ca](mailto:pwrecreation@ns.aliantzinc.ca) by Sep.12. Space is limited, max. of 16 children per age group. Rain dates will be made up in Oct.
- **Sports in the Park - Instructor: Joseph Memet**  
Every Wed., group walk from the school to the Park. Ball hockey, basketball, field handball, soccer, mini-rugby.  
4 week outdoor program, starting Wed., Sep. 14. No fee to come out and play. Rain dates to be made up in Oct.

### **The Booker School**

The Booker School is now accepting applications for its 2016-2017 Community After-School Program. The program is open to children from kindergarden to grade 8 and operates daily from 2:30-5:15. For more information or to register, contact [admin@bookerschool.com](mailto:admin@bookerschool.com) (902-585-5000).

### **Acadia Minor Basketball - 2016 – 2017 Season Registration**

Fri., Sept. 23: 3:00 pm – 7:00 pm & Sat., Sept. 24: 11:00 am – 2:00 pm at the Wolfville Recreation Center. There will be an option for online registrations through Goalline; please visit <http://www.acadiaminorbasketball.ca/> for more information when that becomes available. Questions: Please contact Jeff Hanshaw ([jeff.hanshaw@gmail.com](mailto:jeff.hanshaw@gmail.com)); 902-670-7936; [www.acadiaminorbasketball.ca](http://www.acadiaminorbasketball.ca)

### **Wolfville Skating Club**

We are now accepting registration by mail for CanSkate, Pre-CanSkate and Jr. StarSkate programs. Our first session is October 1 at the Acadia Rink. For more information about the programs, fees, registration form, etc. please see our website: <http://www.wolfvilleskatingclub.ca/>

### **Valley District Soccer Association**

We now accepting registrations for its 2016 indoor fall programs—ages U-4 to U-18. These programs are run out of the indoor facility in Kentville. For more information and registration forms, please visit [www.valleysoccer.org](http://www.valleysoccer.org)

### **Nourish Your Roots** - An initiative of Nourish Nova Scotia ([nourishns.ca/nourish-your-roots](http://nourishns.ca/nourish-your-roots))

This December, the Nourish Your Roots Healthy School Fundraiser is coming to our School! Support our school and local farmers by selling boxes filled with vegetables and fruit fresh from the farm. Our School is taking part in the Nourish Your Roots healthy school fundraiser. This fundraiser will promote local food and healthy eating as well as raise funds to support food related health promotion activities at our school. Educational tools and resources will be included with every package to help with food preparation, storage, recipes and “kids in the kitchen” ideas. Stay tuned for more information in November.

**Beavers/Cubs/Scouts/Ventures**Registration for the 1st Gaspereau Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Ventures will take place on Sept. 13th at 7 pm at Gaspereau Elementary School and Sept. 14th at 7 pm at L. E. Shaw Elementary. For more information contact Jim Nelson [horatio@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:horatio@ns.sympatico.ca)

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### **Theatre Classes**

Kerri Leier and Edalene Theatre are pleased to be offering theatre classes for children ages 5-18 at the Al Whittle Theatre's Studio Z starting in September 2016. With 16 years of theatre education experience, Kerri is excited to bring her love of theatre to children of the Annapolis Valley! To see a full list of classes, information about enrollment, or to contact Kerri with questions, go to [www.edalenetheatre.ca](http://www.edalenetheatre.ca) or call [902-799-9009](tel:902-799-9009).

### **Free Kids Run Valley Harvest**

Once again the Wolfville MudCreek Rotary will be sponsoring our Free Kids Run on Saturday, October 8th at Raymond Field, Acadia University and the event is open to children aged 2-14. Races start at 2 pm and will be organized by age groups. Please register your child online in order to ensure they will get a t-shirt and finisher medal. ([www.valleyharvestmarathon.com](http://www.valleyharvestmarathon.com)) The event is limited to 1000 children so be sure to sign up soon to guarantee a spot. Please contact us if you have any questions at all.

### **Acadia Dance Community Club**

We are a non-profit dance organization run out of Acadia University in Wolfville. Our program offers a unique dance experience, with classes taught by Acadia Students in a broad range of styles. We are pleased to provide an exciting and fun opportunity to the community at a very reasonable cost. Styles Include: Ballet/ Tap/ Jazz/ Lyrical/ Musical Theatre/ Hip-Hop/ Contemporary/ Acro/ Irish. Info: Facebook (Acadia Dance Community Club); Email: [acadiadancecommunityclub@gmail.com](mailto:acadiadancecommunityclub@gmail.com); Website: [acadiadancecommunityclub.blogspot.ca](http://acadiadancecommunityclub.blogspot.ca)

### **Brownies/Sparks/Guides/Pathfinders**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> New Minas Brownie Unit is looking for girls (7 & 8 years old) who are interested in joining Brownies. We meet Monday nights from 6-7:30 at the Louis Millett Centre. For more information, please contact either Betty Jean Tupper (902-542-3432) or Laura Huntley (902-681-2787). Laura will also be able to help you with any Sparks, Guides or Pathfinders questions. Sparks 5&6 yrs old, Guides 9-11 yrs old. Pathfinders 12-15.

## Dates To Remember

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Thursday, September 15

Stand Up Against Bullying Day (Wear Pink)

Parent/Guardian Orientation Night – 7 PM

Thursday, September 29

Terry Fox Walk (approx. 8:45); Early Dismissal (11:30)

Friday, September 30

Regional Inservice – Kings County (No School for Students)

Mon., Sept. 26 & Tue., Sept. 27

School Photos (Grades P-2; Grades 3-5)

## **ASSEMBLY: September 23**



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