

PORT WILLIAMS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

September 6, 2017

- *PARTNERS IN LEARNING* -

SCHOOL NEWS

Welcome new and returning families 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 21-27. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Communication

PWES will send newsletters and notices electronically through emails and texts that are provided on your child's registration form. All notices and newsletters, as well as PWES Google Calendars, can be found on the website at www.pwes@ednet.ns.ca. Families that do not have access to technology may request a paper copy through the school office.

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 in our lunch room, 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 28 at 8:30. 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. Please see Community News in this newsletter sharing an exciting opportunity in our community to support the Terry Fox Foundation on Sept. 16th and 17th.

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 14th at 6:30 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:

6:30-6:45 – General meeting in the Gymnasium; 6:50-7:10 – Classroom Visits; 7:10-7:30 – Classroom Visits

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.

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 14th or at the school office.

.....Over

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

Home and School

Welcome to another year at PWES! Karen Rovers, Courtney Strong and I (Elizabeth Jackson) are co-chairs of the Home and School Committee. We would like to invite you to our first H&S meeting on Wednesday, October 4th at 7pm in the school library. Our monthly meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month. At each meeting we receive updates from our principal, Mrs. Burns, and our school board representative Mr. Sandy Fraser, and discuss and plan fun activities and initiatives for the school year. We would love for you to join us on a regular basis or drop in when you can. If you are unable to attend the meetings but would like to be involved, we ask for help several times a year for our larger events. It is a wonderful way to have fun with other parents and show your children the importance of volunteering. PWES has a Facebook page which can be found under PWES. Please visit the page to find current school information and information that is helpful to students. We ask that you do not post close-up pictures of children on this site or place advertisements. Thank-you in advance for your cooperation.

We host many events throughout the year, many of which are no charge for admission. If you and your family require assistance attending these events, please contact the school office.

If you have any questions about Home and School, please contact Elizabeth (698-1006), Karen (698-7725) or Courtney (790-3366).

Save the date! Home and School is pleased to host a school-wide corn boil on Thursday September 28th for students and their families. Join us for a fun way to reconnect after the summer break and meet other PWES parents! Please mark the date on your calendars – further information to follow.

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 in September 2016.

The place and dates of the KEYSS 2017 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

Wolfville Skating Club – We are now accepting registrations for CanSkate, Pre-CanSkate, StarSkate and Synchro programs. Our first session is October 14 at the Acadia Rink. For more information about the programs, fees, registration form and to register online please see our website:

<https://sites.google.com/view/wolfvilleskatingclub> or our Facebook site: Wolfville Skating Club.

Brownies/Sparks/Guides/Pathfinders

New Minas Sparks- Tuesday evenings 6pm until 7:30 pm at the New Minas Fire Hall
Start September 12, 2017

New Minas Brownies, Monday evenings 6pm until 7:30 pm at the Louis millet Complex
Start September 11, 2017

New Minas Guides, Wednesday evenings 6:00 pm until 7:45 pm at the Louis Millet Complex.
Start September 13, 2017

New Minas Pathfinders, Wednesday evenings 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm at the Greenwich fire hall.
Starting September 13, 2017

Thanks for your support in Girl Guiding

Contact person is

Laura Huntley

home 902-681-2787

cell 902-680-1743

huntleylaurae@gmail.com

Family Show at CentreStage Theatre

Higgelty, Piggety and Hamlet are three devil may care pigs who spend their days avoiding work. *Biggity Bad and the 3 Little Pigs* is another delightful family show by Edith Weiss. Would be appropriate for 4 and up. Come and enjoy this show in the Upper Performance Centre, CentreStage Theatre on September 9, 10, 16, 17, at 2 PM and September 23 at 11 AM and 2 PM. Tickets are all \$5.00. Call 902-678-8040 for reservations.

Kid Ink provides opportunities for students of different ages and skill levels to learn the process of creating their own illustrative work. Whether you have experience drawing, or want to begin now, these art classes will show students how to use materials to create their own comic book. We have various courses for different ages available at patbez.wixsite.com/kidink.

Teacher: local artist Patrick Bezanson. Limited spacing

1st course Sep. 13 - Oct. 4 2:45-4 pm \$70

Call 902-680-1691 or stop in to:

Cotton Tale Café + Play

.....Over

Edalene Theatre is pleased to be offering theatre classes for children ages 4-18 at the Al Whittle Theatre's Studio Z starting in October, 2017. With 16 years of theatre education experience, Edalene is excited to bring their 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 or call [902-799-9009](tel:902-799-9009).

Victory Taekwondo

We have a new home! We are now located in the County Fair Mall in New Minas.

Taekwondo is a Korean Sport Martial Art focusing on confidence, physical literacy, and team work. Victory Taekwondo has classes for ages 4 and up. Instructors are 3rd and 4th degree black belts and have earned multiple National medals. Two instructors each have over 20 years experience in WTF Taekwondo. Classes also help improve flexibility, conditioning, focus and discipline. Contact us for our new fall schedule. Call 902-670-7897 or email tkdvictory@hotmail.com.

Dates To Remember

Thursday, September 14	Stand Up Against Bullying Day (Wear Pink) Parent/Guardian Orientation Night – 6:30-7:30
Friday, September 15	8:30 School Assembly
Wednesday, September 20	11:30 Common Early Dismissal
Thursday, September 21	School Photos – Grades 2 – 5
Friday, September 22	School Photos – Grade P-1/2
Thursday, September 28	Terry Fox Walk (approx. 8:30) Home and School Corn Boil
Friday, September 29	Regional Inservice – Kings County (No School for Students)

ASSEMBLY: September 15

