


Birchwood Intermediate

February
2019

Mr. Ron Carragher, Principal
Ms. Patsy McDonald, Vice Principal Ms. Jolene Johnston, Vice Principal

School website <https://edu.princeedwardisland.ca/birchwood/>
Twitter feed @BirchwoodCobras Instagram @birchwoodcobras1

Dates to Remember



Feb. 5&6	Grade 9 Grad Pictures (Retake day Feb. 28)
Feb. 5	Grade 8 Varicella (Chicken Pox) Vaccine
Feb. 5	Birchwood Parent Engagement Session 6:30-7:30 in Library
Feb. 5	Home & School Meeting 7:30-8:30 in Library
Feb. 7	Grade 7 Varicella (Chicken Pox) Vaccine
Feb. 11-15	Staff Appreciation Week
Feb. 12	Grade 6 Late French Immersion Information Night 6:00pm (storm date Feb. 13)
Feb. 11-17	Family Violence Prevention Week
Feb. 13	Wear Purple
Feb. 13	Tim Keizer & fellow officers – Presentation on Technology Usage
Feb. 14	Valentine's Day
Feb. 18	Islander Day (No School)
Feb. 20	Grade 9 Immunization Needle
Feb. 21	Grade 7 Off Grounds at lunchtime
Feb. 21	Chris Nilan Presentation on Mental Health Awareness
Feb. 25	Professional Development Day (No Classes)
Feb. 27	Pink Shirt Day – Awareness Anti-bullying
Feb. 28	Yearbook Deadline to Order
Feb. 28	National Pink Shirt Day – Wear Pink
Mar. 2	UPEI Engineering – Go CODE Girl Day
Mar. 7&8	Parent/Teachers Interviews

"A school needs to be a place for all children, not based on the idea that they are all the same, but that they are all different."

Congratulations Joanne MacAdam

Mrs. Joanne MacAdam Retires!

The Birchwood community, past and present, would like to extend congratulations to Mrs. Joanne MacAdam on her recent retirement. Thank you for her many years of service to education, Mrs. MacAdam, and best wishes for a very happy retirement and a wonderful journey ahead.

Grade 9 Trip

We had an exciting opportunity to take 114 students to Ottawa and Quebec last month. Students were fantastic and lots of great memories made.

Thank you to chaperone staff, Ron Carragher, Tamara Gavard, Scott MacKay, John Michael Murphy, Trish Walsh, and Krista Connolly.

LOST & FOUND from trip - There are a number of items that were left behind on the buses. These items are in the main office. Announcements were made all last week for students to come and look through the items. Students and/or parents are encouraged to stop into the office to check out the lost & found.

Grade 9 Graduation Photos

Grade 9 Grad pictures took place on February 5th & 6th by Lifetouch. Retakes will be on February 28th.

Birchwood Parent Engagement Session

The Birchwood Home & School, in conjunction with Birchwood administration, are pleased to host a session for parents and their students (who are enrolled at Birchwood Intermediate) on "Supporting Study Skills & Note-Taking and the Art of Organization & Time Management" to be better prepared for school. At the same time, there will be assistance for families on how to navigate Google Classroom. This joint parent/student session is scheduled at Birchwood for **Tuesday, February 5th 6:30-7:30**. Funds for this event are being provided from a grant the Birchwood Home & School received from the PEI Home & School Federation. Pre-registration is required and can be done by clicking here: [Birchwood Study Skills Night Sign Up link](#)

Family Violence Prevention Week

February 11-17th is Family Violence Awareness Week. We are asking staff and students to wear purple on Wednesday, February 13th in support of Family Violence Prevention.

Technology Presentation

Tim Keizer & fellow officers of the Charlottetown Police Dept. will be here on Wednesday, February 13th to do a presentation on the proper and appropriate use of technology including cell phones, computers, laptops, etc.

Mental Health Awareness Presentation

Chris Nilan will be here on Thursday, February 21st to do a presentation on Mental Health Awareness. There will be an assembly in the gym at 9:00 a.m. for all students.

Grade 7 Parents

Birchwood Grade 7 students have permission to go off grounds Thursday, February 21st. If you do not wish your child to go off grounds, please have that discussion with your child. The dates will be noted in each month's newsletter and posted on Birchwood's website.

National Pink Shirt Day

Wednesday, February 27th will be National Pink Shirt Day. All staff and students are encouraged to wear pink shirts to support anti-bullying.



Coaches Corner

Congratulations to R.J. Heatherington!!!!

The top eight judo competitors in the country were invited to a tournament in Montreal mid January. R.J. won the silver medal in the under 46-kilogram division at the Elite National Championship. He is now ranked 2nd in Canada in under 18 group. He will be competing for PEI at the Canada Games in Red Deer, Alberta.

PEISAA Gymnastics Provincials

Provincials are Saturday, February 9th at Kensington Intermediate Senior High (KISH) starting at 3:45pm

Library News

The library will be celebrating Valentine's Day with a few love of literacy activities throughout the week. We look forward to celebrating a special week with our students.

Family Literacy day was celebrated on January 27th. Developing and sustaining a love of literacy from an early age is crucial for the development of our children. ABC Life Literacy has a great list of activities that you and your children can do together to further promote literacy at home.

<https://abclifeliteracy.ca/flid/activity-ideas>

Our library is currently accepting donations of all kinds. It is important to us that we create an atmosphere that is warm and welcoming for your children. Thank you so much to everyone that has donated items already; we truly appreciate it.

Please visit the link below to find a list of items that we are seeking.

<https://sites.google.com/cloud.edu.pe.ca/thebirchwoodlibrary/home/donations>

The Birchwood library is still registered for the ongoing FlipGive Indigo fundraiser. With every e-gift card purchase, **our library receives 20% back to go toward new books**. Every purchase made online, through the link provided below, benefits our library. If you choose to shop in store, but would still like to support our library, you are able to purchase an e-gift card (through the link below) and use the gift card in store. Thank you in advance for your continued support.

<https://indigo.flipgive.com/teams/111511-birchwood-intermediate-school-library>

We are so pleased with the renewal of our library. We want to continue to thank our school community for the ongoing support.

Band News

Things are progressing well thus far in 2019 with our band program at Birchwood. Students are improving their skills, gaining confidence, and becoming leaders in their sections and ensembles. Students are reminded to submit their weekly playing skills in a timely manner to ensure these assignments are completed. Students who wish to play skills in person, Monday, Thursday, and Friday at lunch is prime time to complete these assignments. Friday after school is not prime time!!

The grade 8 and grade 9 bands are preparing for a performance at the PEI Band Days in early March. This takes place at the Delta Hotel in Charlottetown. Admission is free and open to anyone who would like to attend and listen to the performances. More info will follow once the schedule is set for this activity.

The grade 7 band will be travelling to Summerside for Beginning Band Day in early April. This is a fun day that gives about 400 beginning band students the chance to share music with one another. It's a full day event. Information about this performance opportunity will be shared once it becomes available in March.



Here is our schedule for band rehearsals each week: (if school is delayed opening or cancelled, early morning band (EMB) is cancelled on that day)

Tuesdays 7:45am -- Grade 9 (EMB)
Tuesdays at lunch -- Jazz Band
Wednesdays 7:45am -- Grade 8 (EMB)
Wednesdays at lunch -- Grade 7 Band
Wednesdays 3-4pm -- Rock Band
Fridays 7:45am -- Grade 9 Band (EMB)

Parents/Teacher Interviews

All conferences will take place in our gymnasium. This will allow parents to meet with a number of teachers. Please note there are no assigned times. Please use the gymnasium entrance. Report cards will be distributed to parents as they arrive in the hallway outside the gymnasium.

Interviews will take place	Thursday, March 7	4:00 - 7:00
	Friday, March 8	8:30 – 11:30

Reports that are not picked up during these sessions will be sent home at a later date.

Code Club at Birchwood

Thank you to Brilliant Labs for their generous support and funding for materials to offer a free code and maker club at Birchwood on Monday afternoons from 3:00-4:00pm. Brilliant Labs is a not-for-profit, hands-on technology and experiential learning platform based in Atlantic Canada who support the integration of creativity, innovation, coding, and an entrepreneurial spirit within classrooms and educational curricula. The after school club is a tremendous learning opportunity for Birchwood students who have an interest in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics). Let's code and create! Thank you to Frances Squire and Carron McCabe, Program Director PEI Brilliant Labs, for facilitating. <https://www.brilliantlabs.ca/>

PEI Human Rights Commission

Thank to Mr. Tom Hilton of the PEI Human Rights Commission for his excellent presentation to Ms. Squire's grade 9 Language Arts classes who are studying Human Rights. Students were introduced to the PEI Human Rights Act legislation, policies, and procedures. When we know better, we do better.

Community Theater Festival

Thank you to Rob Thomson and Kate Martin of the Community Theatre Festival who workshopped with a group of grade 9 students (Isabel Acorn, Grace Gauthier, Ellen Fraser, Hannah Thompson, Max Schneider, and Sam Sharpley) who will be performing an original play "The Tipping Point" written by Isabel, Grace, and Ellen at the Community Theatre Festival in March. Thank you to Ms. Squire for facilitating this collaboration.

Home & School News

Home & School Meeting rescheduled for Tuesday, February 5th, 7:30-8:30 in Birchwood Library.

COMING UP FEB 5th:

Register today for this family event to help build skills for student success!

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At the same time, there will be assistance for families on how to navigate Google Classroom. This joint parent/student session is scheduled at Birchwood for Tuesday, February 5th. Funds for this event are being provided from a grant the Birchwood Home & School received from the PEI Home & School Federation. Pre-registration is required and can be done by clicking here: [REGISTER for FEB 5th FAMILY NIGHT: STUDY SKILLS](#)

FEB 11-15:

School Staff Appreciation Week 2019

School staff will be celebrated across Canada February 11 -15, 2019 during Staff Appreciation Week. Birchwood Home & School is seeking parent volunteers to help make the week a success in showing our thanks to school staff for the contributions they make to our children and their education. Specifically, we are in need of food donations for treats/snacks in the staff lunchroom, as well as food donations for the staff luncheon to be held that week; as well as volunteers to help setup, serve and clean up after the staff luncheon. Please sign up here to contribute: [SIGN UP FORM: Staff Appreciation 2019](#)

Public Schools Branch

The Public Schools Branch Board of Directors will be meeting on Wednesday, February 20, 2019, 7:30 p.m. at Mount Stewart Consolidated, 120 South Main Street, Rte 351, Mount Stewart. (Storm date: Feb. 21) Members of the public are welcome to attend. Any member of the public who wishes to make a presentation to the Board must submit a written request to the Board Chair or the Director of the Public Schools Branch by 4 p.m. on Feb. 11, 2019 to the Public Schools Branch Stratford Office, 2-234 Shakespeare Drive, Stratford, PE C1B 2V8, or email: sxgauthier@edu.pe.ca Call 902-368-6850 for additional information.

Coalition For Healthy School Food

Canada is the only G7 country without a national school food program. Help us ensure every child in Canada has access to healthy food at school.

[Sign the E-1957 \(Food Policy\) Petition to the House of Commons](#)

For more info contact Debbie Field at: <https://www.healthyschoolfood.ca/> | 416 537-6856



[School Food | Canada | Coalition for Healthy School Food](#)

www.healthyschoolfood.ca

The Coalition for Healthy School Food is a group of non-profit organizations working to ensure all Canadian children have access to healthy meals at school.

PEI's School Food Initiative

"Keep up-to-date on the school food project by following their new social media pages!"
www.facebook.com/PEIschoolfood | *Instagram and Twitter: @PEIschoolfood*

#NourishKidsNow = Reminder of Campaign

Nourish Kids Now - Invest in School Food is a grassroots campaign that is calling on the federal government to make a cost-shared investment in healthy, universal school food programs, which would build on the investments of our provinces, municipalities and communities.

Campaign landing page -> <https://www.healthyschoolfood.ca/nourishkidsnow>

Home and School Speaker Resources

The "[Speaker Resources for Home and Schools](#)" resource is posted online. If you have more to add to this list, send to: peihsf@edu.pe.ca | 902- 620-3186 / 1-800-916-0664 (Toll Free).

E-cigarettes / Vaping

E-cigarette use (i.e. vaping) among PEI youth is on the rise and can be linked to future use of alcohol and other substances such as tobacco and cannabis. The PEI Tobacco Reduction Alliance (PETRA) has developed a public awareness campaign focused on the harmful effects of youth vaping, aimed at adult influencers of youth (i.e. parents, teachers, health-care professionals, coaches, etc.). Check out the poster/info-graphic which highlights the harmful effects on the developing brain, and a tip sheet which provides adult influencers with strategies on how to start the conversation with youth at: <http://www.peitobaccoreduction.com/vape/>

President's Annual Reports

The Annual Book of Reports is being compiled for circulation at the Annual Meeting in April. Presidents are asked to submit your Home and School Association's Annual Report to the Federation by **February 28th**. A report template is online at: <http://peihsf.ca/content/template-presidents-annual-reports>

*Remaining Home & School meeting dates will be held in the school's library at 6:30pm on **April 3rd** and **May 15**. All parents, caregivers and guardians are encouraged to attend and participate in meetings.*

Birchwood Dental Clinic

Attention Parents/Guardians:

The Dental Public Health Preventative Clinic will be starting at Birchwood Intermediate mid-February 2019.

Purpose of Dental Clinic: Screen children to assess risk of oral disease; provide oral health education, topical fluoride, scaling/polishing and sealants, according to your child's individual needs.

Screening: All children will be seen for a two-minute screening to determine their risk of oral disease. If you do not wish your child to have this dental screening, please notify the school secretary or classroom teacher.

Consent: After the screening, all children will be given a consent form which will be necessary for you to complete and return before services are provided.

Fees: There is no cost involved as the preventative services are covered by the Children's Dental Care Program.

Further Information: Please note that only preventative services will be provided and the screening is not a substitute for an annual dental examination. It is strongly recommended that parents take their children to a dentist for regular examinations and treatment. The Children's Dental Care Program assists

with the cost of basic dental care delivered in private and public dental offices for children from ages 3 - 17. For more information, please visit <http://www.healthpei.ca/dentalhealth>

Provincial Science Fair

This year's Science Fair will be held at the Chi-Wan Young Sports Centre at UPEI on Wednesday March 27th (storm date March 28th). Students interested in participating are asked to follow the link to sign-up <https://goo.gl/forms/wnsRrcC0tK1kbDee2>

Provincial Heritage Fair

The Provincial Heritage Fair will be held on Thursday, May 2, 2018. The Heritage Fair is an engaging way to learn about history and make new discoveries. Students choose a topic that has to do with Canadian Heritage, research it, and present their findings. Depending on interest, there may be a school fair to narrow down the projects that will go on to the Provincial Heritage Fair. At the Provincial Fair, students are interviewed by judges and take part in engaging activities related to heritage and history. Any students interested in participating should see Mrs. Breedon in Room 313 for more information.

Community Events

UPEI Engineering – Go CODE Girl Day

The Faculty of Sustainable Design Engineering at UPEI warmly invites Grade 7-10 girls to **Go CODE Girl Day** on March 2, 2019. **Go CODE Girl Day** is an exciting opportunity to spend an afternoon learning about the wonderful world of computer programming applied to engineering. We will introduce girls to the digital skills needed to pursue interests in the fastest growing technology, computing, and engineering industries. We are excited to be one of 20 other Engineering programs at universities across Canada all holding this event this Winter!

Registration is FREE but space is limited, register here: <https://events.onwie.ca/>

Additional details can be found at <http://www.onwie.ca/programs/go-code-girl/> OR at the UPEI site: <https://sites.google.com/upei.ca/fsde-go-code-girl/home>

Deadline to register is Monday, February 25, by 12 noon.

Any questions, please contact: Dr. Amy Hsiao, ahsiao@upei.ca

Confederation Centre Public Library

Code Club for Teens

Thursdays, 6:30 p.m. February 7- March 14 (6 weeks)

Teen Space, Confederation Centre Public Library

Registration required. Teens will be learning to code Microbits. Computers and microbits will be provided.

Call (902) 368-4642

Celebrate Black History Month

Galimoto Maker Space for Teens

Saturday, February 9 at 2:00 p.m.

Teen Space, Confederation Centre Public Library

Teens, ages 13-18, are invited to make Galimoto toys by bending and wrapping wire.

All supplies will be provided

“Challenge of the day: Find something good in everyone.” Author Unknown