



Vernon River Consolidated School
Parent Newsletter #1 – Monday, September 14th, 2020

www.gov.pe.ca/edu/vrcs

Phone: 902-651-8520

David Wood, Principal

Shylo Burke, Vice-Principal



Welcome Back: Welcome back to another school year! We are excited to start the school year and welcome our kindergarten students, new and returning students and staff. We encourage all parents to become involved with our school, and to maintain open communication with your son or daughter's teachers!

Parent Drop-Off (8:30-8:40am) – As per VRCS's Operational Plan, students will disembark the vehicle that they have arrived in and proceed into the school. Students will wait in the lobby in designated areas, following physical distancing, until they are permitted into the classroom area.

As per the PSB Guidelines for Return to School September 2020, parents will not be permitted to leave their vehicles during drop-offs, enter schools with their children during arrival or walk their children to the doors. **Note: Students should not be dropped off at school prior to 8:30am, as no supervision is provided until that time – please respect this policy.**

Parent Pick-Up (2:50-3:00pm) – As per VRCS's Operational Plan, students will be dismissed based on cohort prior to bus dismissal. As each student leaves the school, they will hand sanitize, while being strongly encouraged to wear a non-medical mask, and physically distance as they leave the school.

Parents are asked to please remain in their vehicles during pick up where possible. If students are being picked up during the day or at dismissal time, please send a note with your child indicating this.

Reminder - bus passes will be granted to students to travel on alternate buses for child care purposes only.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the school (902) 651-8520, or email Mr. Wood at dawood@edu.pe.ca or Ms. Burke at scburke@edu.pe.ca.

Student Allergies: Due to severe student allergies, we are not permitting strawberries, strawberry products or shellfish at Vernon River Consolidated School this year. It is our responsibility to provide a safe environment for all students; your cooperation with this is appreciated by the school and the families involved.

Staffing Update: Welcome to the following new and/or returning staff members:

Michelle Thomsen (Kindergarten)
Ashley Paquet (Grade 5)
Nikki Cheverie (Grade 7)
Paige Richards (Grade 8/9)
Sara Visser (Resource)
Teresa Aitken (Educational Assistant)
Michelle McCarthy (Educational Assistant)
Natalie Bulger and Natalie Greene are presently on leave



Thank You: A huge thank you to Eileen Bishop and Kerry MacPhee for all of their work over the summer to get the school ready for students and staff, with all of the additional protocols in place. The school looks wonderful...we appreciate your effort and hard work - **Thank You!**



School Newsletters: School newsletters (published every second Monday), monthly calendars, and any other notices will be emailed to the address provided by parents. These will also be posted to the school's website (www.gov.pe.ca/edu/vrcs). Paper copies of newsletters are available upon request.

Home and School: The first Home and School meeting of the year will be held on **Thursday, September 17th at 6:30pm at the Uigg Community Centre (please note change in location).**

School Pictures: School pictures are scheduled for **Friday, September 18th**. Picture day flyers were sent home with students. When you receive your picture proofs, you may order your pictures online at mylifetouch.ca by using your **Portrait ID and Access Code** which can be found on your picture proof package.

Bus Information: The following is a list of buses at Vernon River Consolidated School:

Bus #402	Mary O'Donnell
Bus #444 (#449-temporary)	Johanne Ings
Bus #425	Judy McIsaac



School Schedule: A morning bell will ring at 8:50 followed by O'Canada and morning announcements. At 8:55 all regular classes will begin. This year we will again be operating on an elementary schedule (K to grade 6) with a six day cycle, and an intermediate schedule (grade 7-9) with a two day cycle (odd & even).

Elementary Schedule

8:45-8:55	Homeroom
8:55-9:25	Period 1
9:25-9:55	Period 2
9:55-10:25	Period 3
10:25-10:35	Snack
10:35-11:05	Period 4
11:05-11:35	Period 5
11:35-12:00	Outdoor Recess
12:00-12:25	Lunch
12:30-1:00	Period 6
1:00-1:30	Period 7
1:30-1:45	Outdoor Recess
1:45-2:15	Period 8
2:15-2:45	Period 9
2:45	Dismissal
2:55	Departure Bell

Intermediate Schedule

8:45-8:55	Homeroom
8:55-9:55	Period 1
10:00-11:00	Period 2
11:05-12:05	Period 3
12:05-12:35	Lunch
12:40-1:40	Period 4
1:45-2:45	Period 5
2:45	Dismissal
2:55	Departure Bell

Nutrition Break: (10:25-10:35) K-6 have an indoor nutrition break.

Lunch Break: (12:00-12:25) for elementary students
(12:05-12:35) for intermediate students

Afternoon Break: (1:30-1:45) Only K-6 will be going outside.

Attendance: To allow teachers to keep up-to-date attendance in Students Achieve (SAS), we require parents to notify the school when their child will not be in school. Parents may send an email to your child's teacher, call the school (651-8520) or send an email to Helen hemcisaac@edu.pe.ca.

Milk: White and chocolate milk will be available each day, in both the small and large sizes. It would be greatly appreciated if parents could send in the exact change for milk and ice cream orders with your students – no large bills please – thank you!

White: 237 ml - 50 cents
473 ml - 80 cents

Chocolate: 237 ml - 75 cents
473 ml - \$1.25



Ice Cream: Ice cream products will be sold every Thursday - cost is \$1.00 per item.

Grade 7 HPV Immunization: On Tuesday, September 22nd, grade 7 students will be offered immunization against infection from Human Papillomavirus (HPV). This is a “catch-up” for students who were in grade 6 last year and received their first dose in the fall of 2019, but due to COVID-19, did not received their second dose in the spring of 2020.

Toonies for Terry/Terry Fox Run: This year's Terry Fox Walk/Run will be held on Friday, September 25th. The walk/run will be held on the soccer field, by cohorts in half hour increments. We are asking each student to please bring in a toonie to donate to cancer research. Thank you for your support!

Montague Family of Schools: Student Well-being Team (SWT) News: The team members of the Montague Family of Schools wish all students and their families/caregivers a wonderful school year. We look forward to offering service and programs this school year - Sincerely, Sherri, Juliana, Debbie, Julie, Craig and Colleen.

Looking to connect with your Student Well-being Team? Call our main office at Montague Regional High School (902-838-0835 Extension 241), or check out our website for more information:
<https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/education-and-lifelong-learning/montague-family-schools-student-well-being-team>

Parenting Sessions:

What is Triple P? Triple P is a free Positive Parenting Program that is regularly offered in your school area by the Student Well-being Team! It gives parents simple tips to help manage the big and small problems of family life! Triple P is one of the few parenting programs in the world with evidence to show it works for most families. **Now Triple P is available online to parents for easier access!**

Want more information: <https://www.triplep-parenting.ca/can-en/find-help/triple-p-parenting-in-prince-edward-island/>

From the PEI Home and School Federation - Home & School News, September 2020:

1. AGM Registration

It's time to register for the P.E.I. Home and School Federation's 67th Annual Meeting coming up on Monday, September 14th, 2020, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. This meeting will be held virtually using Zoom. The board will conduct a condensed business followed by an update from the **Hon. Brad Trivers, Minister of Education and Lifelong Learning**. The Minister will answer questions about students return to school during a Q&A. We urge presidents/co-chairs to ensure your Home and School Association is registered which ensures a quorum!

Details include:

- **REGISTRATION: [Click here to register for the AGM](#)**. Submit one registration per delegate.
- We request that you register early - by Sept. 11th. However, registration will remain open to **12 noon on the day of the meeting**, Sept. 14th
- Those who register will be sent a link to join the virtual AGM.
- Each home and school can send *five* voting delegates, but there is no limit to the number of additional parents/guardians, teachers, administrators/staff who can attend. No fees to attend.
- **RESOLUTIONS: [Review \(4\) Proposed 2020 Resolutions](#)** and come prepared to vote.
- **Election of Officers: [Nomination Form](#)** Elections of Officers will be part of the AGM. If you are interested in a board position, contact the federation office.

Registered Associations will each receive a \$50 gift card to purchase books for their school library or contribute to their school food program.

For more info: peihsf@edu.pe.ca / [902-620-3186](tel:902-620-3186) / [1-800-916-0664](tel:1-800-916-0664). Follow us on [Facebook](#) / [Twitter](#)

2. NEW Healthy School Lunch Program

The School Food team shared exciting news. As of August 27th, the Registration page for the NEW Healthy School Food Program is LIVE! Families can begin preparing for the school year by registering their family NOW!

The school food program will provide an opportunity for families to order healthy lunches 5 days a week alongside existing school food programs. Meals will be prepared and delivered directly to schools at lunch time by local food service providers. All students will have access to the same healthy lunch options, which will include nut free, gluten free, dairy free and vegetarian options.

The Pay What You Can Program offers families 3 options:

- 1) You can pay full amount of your child's lunch max \$5/day
- 2) You can pay an amount that you can afford to pay at that time
- 3) You can order lunch for your child if you are unable to pay

Sign up your child today at: [Food for Thought](#)

3. Back to School Plans

Parents and guardians will play an important role in helping children / youth return to school safely. Working together with school communities and the Chief Public Health Office is essential to make sure we protect the health and safety of students and staff in the education system and in the whole community of PEI. At each school, the administration is responsible to develop and socialize an operational plan based on the [PSB Guidelines for Return to School](#) that is customized to suit the composition, physical layout and grade levels of the school. This working plan will help to ensure optimal learning and safety for students, staff, families and the larger school community. Find all [School Operational Plans](#) - Public Schools Branch

4. School Well-Being Teams

Does your child need support? Email taroche@ihis.org or contact your school's Student Well-being Team using the links below:

- [Bluefield Family of Schools](#)
- [Charlottetown Rural Family of Schools](#)

- [Colonel Gray Family of Schools](#)
- [Kensington-Kinkora Family of Schools](#)
- [Montague Family of Schools](#)
- [Morell and Souris Families of Schools](#)
- [Three Oaks Family of Schools](#)
- [Westisle Family of School](#)

5. Back to Home and School Requests

Your local Home and School meeting is a place to discuss the upcoming school year calendar, back-to-school plans, how the new Covid-19 adaptations are working and offer suggestions moving forward. Here are a few suggested items to add to your first Home and School meeting's agenda:

- Student physical and mental wellness and respective processes in the school and on school buses
- Personal Protective Equipment (supply/use)
- Cohorts and Physical Distancing; Student Transitions; Extracurricular
- Breakfast and Lunch programs
- Curriculum (reach back for 2020 home-based learning/home readiness)
- Enhanced Cleaning; Visitors

The participation of parents and guardians in their child's education is vital! We look forward to hearing from you during the 2020-2021 school year. Do not hesitate to contact us at: 902-3186 / 1-800-902-0664 / peihsf@edu.pe.ca

- **Presidents: Fill in the new Contact Info Form for your school:**
[2020-2021 Home and School Association Contact Information](#)

- **Treasurers: Fill in the new Membership Form and mail with payment as directed:**
[2020-2021 Home and School Association Membership Fee Form](#)

Resources:

* **Why Outdoor Play:** Four reasons children need to be outdoors: play – nature connection, community connection and belonging, physical health and well-being and curiosity and learning. [Get outside and play free resources](#)

* **Children First Canada:** CFC has compiled several resources from trusted, credible sources to help guide and support children and their families impacted by COVID-19. [Resources for children and families impacted by COVID-19.](#)

* Government of Canada: [COVID-19 guidance for schools Kindergarten to Grade 12](#)
