

West Kent Elementary – January 2019 Newsletter

West Kent Elementary School

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Tracy Ellsworth, Principal

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Happy New Year and welcome back to school. We hope that you have all had a lovely Christmas and now we are looking forward to a happy and healthy 2019.

Safe Arrival

A reminder if your child is going to be late or absent, please call the absentee line at 368-6995 before 9:00 a.m.

Visitor Check-In

All visitors to the school MUST check in at the office immediately upon arrival and proper identification must be visible.



Cancellations/Delays

Just a reminder to please listen to local radio stations or check the Public Schools Branch website in the mornings in case of delays or cancellations due to inclement weather, mechanical issues, etc.

Early Closure Plans - It is important that you review with your child their Early Closure plans. Monitor the PSB website and radio stations for announcements. Please do not call the school during an early closure. All plans need to be finalized and communicated to your child in advance.

A friendly reminder that it is important for students to arrive to school on time. Morning routines provide students with a smooth transition to a day of learning. At this time, the students review the day's schedule, copy homework assignments, listen to school announcements, and distribute notes and materials from home to their teachers. To provide your children with a positive start to the day, please plan your morning so your child arrives at school for our 8:20a.m. start. Thanks!



School Chess Club

Will resume January 8th at 2:35p.m. with pick up at 3:15p.m.

Kiss and Ride

Thank you to everyone who is helping to keep the students of West Kent School Safe. The Kiss and Ride lane is solely to be used by parents/caregivers who are dropping-off students in a timely fashion (30 seconds to 1 minute). Please help our Kiss and Ride smoothly by following the procedures below. Drop-off: **1.** Drive slowly into Kiss and Ride Lane **2.** Stop Vehicle (30 seconds to 1 minute) **3.** Parent stays in vehicle with vehicle running **4.** Child exit the vehicle on his or her own. **5.** Parent drives off once child has exited vehicle.

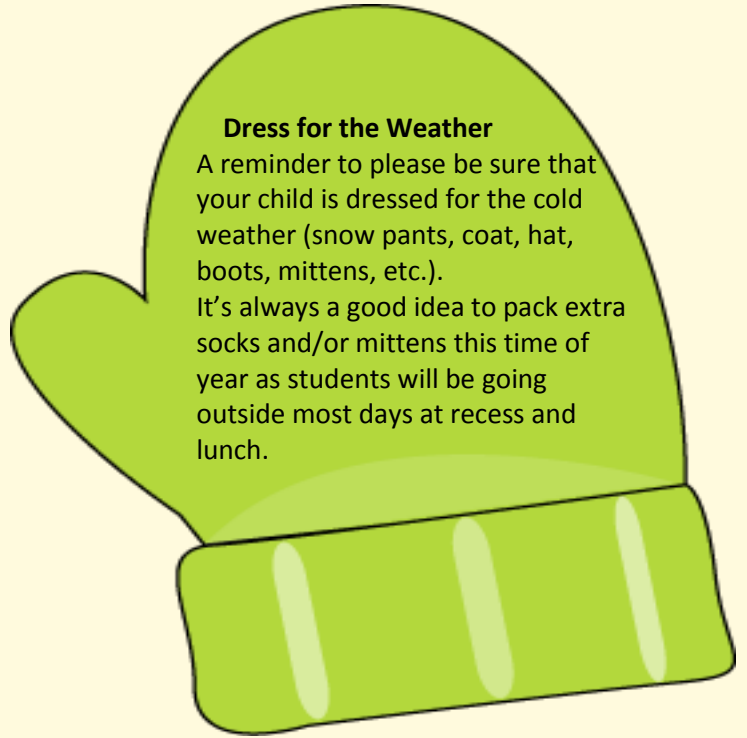


HotLunch Items

Storm Policy - There are no carry overs on orders. Food items from storm days will show as a credit in Hotlunch and must be reordered. In attempts to make the West Kent Hot Lunches website more parent friendly, parents can order for one month at a time. This means that parents can order once a month if they desire. On a weekly basis, menus will still close Monday morning at 9a.m. If your plans change after you ordered for the month, you can return to the menu prior to Monday morning of that current week to delete items. You will be given a credit on your Hotlunches account. Paypal charges the school for the number of transactions, so by ordering on a monthly basis, costs for food items will hopefully not increase as much over time.

Dress for the Weather

A reminder to please be sure that your child is dressed for the cold weather (snow pants, coat, hat, boots, mittens, etc.). It's always a good idea to pack extra socks and/or mittens this time of year as students will be going outside most days at recess and lunch.



If you have a question about bussing at West Kent School please call the school at 902-368-6065. Please contact the school for availability before making afterschool arrangements as some buses are full.

Music Update

Ten students from West Kent will be taking part in PEI Honour's Choir 2019. There are 14 schools taking part in this year's event. The music will be arriving in the New Year and will be given to the students ASAP. Rehearsals will be Day 1 & 3 and 5 at lunch recess for the month of January. The PEI Honour's Choir Mass rehearsal day is Wednesday, Feb. 6th. (Storm Date Feb. 7th) Concert day is Sat. March 2nd. (Storm Date Sunday, March 3rd) at Park Royal United Church. More information will be sent home with the PEI Honour's choir students. All other students who showed interest in the Honour Choir will be part of the West Kent Honour Choir. Both the PEI Honour Choir students and the West Kent Honour Choir students will attend rehearsals on days 1, 3 and 5 of the cycle.

Music Festival choir (Gr. 4-6) will practice at lunch recess on days 3 & 5 beginning the first week of February.

Boys' Choir (Gr. 2-3) and Girls' choir (Gr. 2-3) will begin practicing in February. Rehearsals will be held at first recess and will not conflict with gymnastics so students are able to participate in both.

All choirs will also be participating in the Music Festival which takes in the Spring. Information will be sent home with the choir students.

Grade 4, 5 & 6 students will begin recorder in February. Order forms will be sent home shortly.

Library News

Dress Like Your Favorite Book Character Day

Friday, January 25th, we will be celebrating Family Reading Day at West Kent School. This year, we are encouraging everyone to "Dress Like Your Favorite Book Character Day". There are lots of quick and fun ideas for this theme on Pinterest. Storm date the following Friday, February 1st. Please follow safety rules which includes no weapons or full masks.

A Big Thank You to the student volunteers and parents who came out to support the school library at Indigo last month. We raised \$900 in books. Students are always excited when we can buy the newest titles. Libraries help foster literacy.

Gymnastics

It's Gymnastic time again at West Kent! Students in grades 3-6 have the opportunity try out for the School's Gymnastic team. Students in grades 3-4 will compete in the pre-novice category and grades 5-6 will compete in the novice category. The Zone 3 West Royalty Meet is scheduled for Jan 30/2019 with a storm date of Jan. 31st. The Provincial Gymnastic Meet will be held at KISH on Saturday, February 9th. The St. Jean Gymnastic Meet will be held on Tuesday, February 12th with a storm date of Wednesday, February 13th.

Phys Ed Attire

Students and parents are reminded that students with long hair need to come to Physical Education with their hair tied back. Kindergarten – Grade 2 students can put their hair up in the morning before coming to school. Students should also have safe sneakers to participate in Physical Education, which may mean Velcro shoes. Some students are unable to tie their laces and are missing a significant amount of Physical Education instruction because of this difficulty. Untied laces can present a safety hazard in the gymnasium. Thank you for your cooperation in helping to keep our students safe!

UPDATED – Get informed of storm days and early closures by following:

1. PEI Storm Watch email alert systems:
<https://peistormwatch.wordpress.com/>
<https://www.facebook.com/peistormwatch>
<https://twitter.com/PEIStormwatch>
2. Radio stations:
<https://www.cbc.ca/news2/interactives/storm-centre/index.html?region=PE>
<https://www.ocean100.com/storm-centre/cfcy.fm/cancellations>
3. Public Schools Branch webpage. <https://edu.princeedwardisland.ca/p/sb/storm-closure-information>
4. Listen to the Radio and check West Kent Morning Announcements

Kindergarten Registration 2019/20

Planning is underway for next year and Kindergarten registration week will be Jan 7-11, 2018. If you have a child born in 2014, he or she is eligible to attend Kindergarten in September 2019. If you have not done so, please contact the school or drop by to complete a registration form. Two pieces of information are required: 1) Verification of child's date of birth 2) Verification of home address. Students are required to register at the school they are zoned for. Dates for the parents and children to attend the Annual Welcome to Kindergarten sessions will be announced in the spring of 2019.



Big Recess Friendship Groups

Our school counsellor, Mrs. Ramsay, will continue with friendship groups in 2019. Recess friendship groups happen one day per cycle, at big recess, in the school library. Mrs. Ramsay invites students of similar ages to play games and/or do a crafts in the school library. From time to time, your child may be asked to participate in the recess friendship group. Participation in the recess friendship group is voluntary as there are many fun activities offered in our school at recess time including: intramurals, sports teams, choir, and, of course, playing outside with friends. Priority for the recess friendship groups is given to students who may be on the shy side or who may be in need of a little extra help making friends.

Children's Library January Programs – Please check out the link on our school webpage for information from the Confederation Centre Public Library Children's Programs.

Reading Buddies Program - will be offered at the Confederation Centre Children's library. This program will operate for six weeks commencing on Tuesday February 5 from 4:00pm - 5:00pm will run consecutively for the next five Tuesdays. Children ages 5-11 will be teamed up with teens. Individuals have to commit to attending the full 6 weeks. Registration is limited so please encourage early registration.

PEI Home and School Federation News, January 2019

Healthy School Food Project

Morgan Palmer is working with the Public Schools Branch to develop and pilot a provincial school food strategy. As part of this project three School Food Think Tanks were held across P.E.I. this fall.

The following three video links contain content on this School Food Environment Initiative. Nine schools are prepared to pilot a new school food program for PEI.

[East Wiltshire School Food Think Tank 1](#)

[Kinkora School Food Think Tank 2](#)

[Montague Regional High School Food Think Tank 3](#)

Affecting Change in PEI's Education System

Resolutions are developed around issues that will affect positive change in our school system for all students' benefit. Your Home and School's resolutions will be considered at the 66th Annual Meeting & Convention on April 13, 2019. Assistance with writing resolutions is available. Deadline to submit resolutions: Jan. 31, 2019.

Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week | Extra Mile Award

Start planning in the New Year to celebrate school staff during Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week, February 11 – 15, 2019. Home and schools are encouraged to find ways of saying thank you to staff members for their contributions to the lives of our children and youth. Nominate a school staff person (i.e. teacher, education / admin assistant, custodian) for the

PEI Home and School Federation's *Extra Mile Award*. Submission deadline is: Jan. 11, 2019. More details are online at: <http://peihsf.ca/extramile>

Annual Reports

Presidents of Home and School Associations are asked to submit an annual 1-2 page report outlining your Home and School Association's activities for the 2018-2019 school year. Reports will be inserted into the Federation's 2018-2019 Annual Book of Reports. If you need assistance, call 620-3186 | 1-800-916-0664 | peihsf@edu.pe.ca. Please submit your report to the Federation office by Feb. 28th.

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

2019 Great Big Crunch

The next "official" Great Big Crunch will take place on March 28th at 2:30 p.m. EST. [Click here to register](#) your School/Home and School! Find out more here: <https://foodshare.net/program/crunch/>

"What a fantastic way to celebrate nutrition, raise awareness of various food discussions, and encourage a sense of both school and national unity!" - Salem Elementary School in New Brunswick

Please check out more information on the school webpage as well as the links below.

Prince Edward Island Home and School Federation Inc.

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"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."

"A child can teach an adult three things... To be happy for no reason. To always be busy with something. And to know how to demand with all his might that which he desires." — Paulo Coelho