

# École West Kent School – April 2019 Newsletter

## West Kent Elementary School

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Tracy Ellsworth Principal

Emily Waye, Vice-Principal

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It is hard to believe that April is here already. We hope that everyone had a restful spring break. The last three months of school are traditionally the busiest and looking at our school calendar, we don't anticipate this year being any different. Please follow our Morning Announcements to keep informed of what is going on at school.

## Music News

All three West Kent school choirs will participate in the upcoming Queen's County Music Festival which takes place on May 7th. The Music Festival schedule has not been printed yet so I will be sending more detailed information home with choir students.

Honours Choir concert was held on Saturday, March 2nd. This concert was conducted by Paula Rockwell who led 140 students from 18 island schools in a wonderful afternoon of choral music. West Kent had eleven students who attended extra school rehearsals to prepare the music for this event. Thanks for all your hard work.

The grade 3--6 Ukelele unit is finishing up and our Recorder Karate will be starting in April for grades 4,5&6. Music Monday is being held this year on Monday, May 6th. The theme song this year is Oscar Peterson's "Hymn of Freedom".

## Dates to Remember

**April 9 – Ty Tuesday (Everyone Wears a Tie)**

**April 10 – School Heritage Fair**

**April 12 – Schools Goals Day for Staff (No Classes)**

**April 19 – Good Friday**

**April 22 – Easter Monday**

**April 24 – Easter Seals Ambassador's Visit**

**May 2– Provincial Heritage Fair**

**May 3 – PEITF/CUPE Day**

**May 6 – Dental Clinic Starts**

**May 6 – Music Monday**

**May 20 – Victoria Day (No Classes)**

**May 28 – Welcome To Kindergarten**

**May 31 – Kindergarten Orientation Day**

## New Phone System

You can now reach the school by calling 902-368-6065, 368-6072 or 368-6073 and an auto-attendant will direct you.

**Absentee Line** - You will be prompt to press 1 to report an absence. (902-368-6995 no longer available)

**Office** - Press 0 to reach the office.

**Guidance** - Press 204 to reach the Guidance Counselor.



## ATTENDANCE AND LATE POLICY

Regular attendance at school is important for success at school. We would appreciate your assistance in ensuring that your children attend school on a regular basis. West Kent School enforces the PSB's Attendance and Engagement Policy which you can review at this site [http://www.gov.pe.ca/edu/psb/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/406.1 Attendance and Engagement.pdf](http://www.gov.pe.ca/edu/psb/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/406.1%20Attendance%20and%20Engagement.pdf).

If your child is ill or will be absent from school for any reason, please inform us by telephoning the school office at 902-368-6065 or by sending an email to your child's teacher.





<https://eastersealspei.org/>

Ty MacLeod is a student at Athena Consolidated.

Motto - The sky is the limited  
(Easter Seals P.E.I.)

All proceeds raised from our Winter Carnival and Jelly Bean contest will go towards our Easter Seal Ambassador, Ty MacLeod, when he visits our school in April, 2019.

### Library News

#### **Indigo Fund-raiser Thursday, May 9th:**

The West Kent School library will be doing a fundraiser at Indigo May 9th. Indigo will donate a percentage of all purchases to our school (up to 20% in Indigo Gift Cards). We would appreciate parent support. When you make a purchase that evening, tell them that you would like Indigo to support West Kent School. There is no cost to you! Students from West Kent will be at Indigo from 5:30-8:30.

#### **Please Donate Gently Used Books:**

West Kent Library is always looking for gently used books. Popular titles may be used in classrooms or the school library. We also redistribute books to our students. This is a great way to give a second life to your used books.



### **Drama Festival 2019**

3B & 6B will be participating in the Drama Festival on April 30<sup>th</sup>



**Kindergarten – Early Years Evaluation Assessments are scheduled for Tuesday, April 16; Wednesday, April 17; Thursday, April 18 and Tuesday, April 23.**

#### **Welcome To Kindergarten/Kindergarten Orientation**

**Welcome To Kindergarten** will take place at **3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 28th.**

**Kindergarten Orientation** is scheduled for **Friday, May 31st, 9:00—11:30 a.m.**

**Those students presently in Kindergarten will not have classes that day.**

Kindergarten! ... here I come!



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 8:20 a.m. start.



## Dental Clinic

### Attention Parents/Guardians:

The Dental Public Health Preventative Clinic will be starting at West Kent on May 6th.

**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>

## Safe Arrival

A reminder if your child is going to be late or absent, please call 368-6065, and select 1, to leave a message on our safe arrival line, before 9:00 a.m.



## 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.

## PHYS ED News

Students that qualify for the West Kent Badminton team will compete at the Zone 3 Badminton Championship which will be held on April 15th (Doubles and Singles) and April 17th (Singles Finals). Hosting schools are Spring Park (Girls) and Francois Buote (Boys). Provincial Badminton Championships will be held April 30th at Athena and May 4nd at SIS.



## DID YOU KNOW?

- Starting in kindergarten, too many absences can cause children to fall behind in school.
- Missing 10 percent (or about 18 days) can make it harder to learn to read.
- Students can still fall behind if they miss just a day or two days every few weeks.
- Being late to school may lead to poor attendance.
- Absences can affect the whole classroom if the teacher has to slow down learning to help children catch up.
- Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school—and themselves. Start building this habit in Kindergarten so they learn right away that going to school on time, every day is important.

<http://absencesaddup.org/importance-of-school-attendance/>

## STUDENT SAFETY

As Spring arrives, we expect to see more and more students skateboarding and riding their bicycles to school. Students riding their bicycles, skateboards, etc. to school need to be wearing a helmet (no exceptions!) and take extra care around roads and other high traffic areas. Please push your bicycle, carry your skateboard, etc. while you are on school grounds - no riding. Make sure you keep your bicycle at the bike racks while it is at school (we strongly suggest locking it up).



## West Kent Home & School News

Upcoming West Kent Home and School Meeting - Tuesday April 2nd 6:30pm

**Art After Dark** - Thank you Danielle Plante for generously donating your time and skills for our Art After Dark event March 29th. We had wonderful participation for the event which was kindly sponsored by the PEI Home and School Federation via securing a parent leadership grant from them. We hope to incorporate more events like this into our School Calendar in the future.

**Hot Lunch Changes** -As of the 1st April the following menu items will be available

- Monday Chicken Caesar Wrap
- Wednesday Taco Bowl

Home & School is looking for new executive members for the 2019/2020 School year. Please let us know if you are interested at [westkents@gmail.com](mailto:westkents@gmail.com)

### PEI Home and School News Federation, April 2019

#### 1. It's Time to Register for the AGM

Reminder to register delegates for the PEI Home and School Federation's 65th Annual General Meeting & Convention, April 13, 2019.

**Parents/guardians, Teachers, Administrators, Other School Staff** are invited to register for the Annual Meeting & Convention. Local Home & Schools are encouraged to pay registration fees, travel and accommodation expenses for your delegates to reduce barriers to attending.

[Register](#) by: **Friday, 29, 2019.** Need more info? Call: 620-3186 / 1-800-916-0664

#### 2. Resolutions

Resolutions will be voted on at the Annual General Meeting, April 13th. **Review the proposed Policy Resolutions** Home and School Associations are asked to review and vote on these resolutions at your next home and school meeting. Each Home and School's voting delegates should reflect the opinions of the parents, guardians, teachers, and staff in your school.

#### 3. Crossing Guard / Bus Driver Awards

~ [School Crossing Guard of the Year Award](#) recognizes a school crossing guard on PEI for their service in keeping our walking students safe.

Submit nominations by: April 26, 2019. <http://peihsf.ca/awards>

~ [School Bus Driver of the Year Award](#) recognizes school bus drivers on PEI for their service in keeping our students safe as they travel to and from school each day.

Submit nominations by: May 10, 2019. <http://peihsf.ca/awards>

#### 4. Welcome to Kindergarten Program

The Welcome to Kindergarten Program is designed to help prepare preschoolers for a positive start to their school journey. Parents and their children attend spring Welcome to Kindergarten orientation sessions at their schools, where they receive early learning and literacy resources and learn how to use them at home. Since 2004, more than 450,000 children and families in Canada have taken part in Welcome to Kindergarten orientations.

[Ask about your school's Welcome To Kindergarten session date or check the Public Schools Branch website at:](#)  
<https://edu.princeedwardisland.ca/psb/>

**Other Community News....**

~ **Internet Safety:** Parents are encouraged to take the opportunity to talk with their children openly about internet safety. Find additional information about online safety on the Canadian Safety Council website:

<https://canadasafetycouncil.org/online-safety-rules-kids/>.

~ **National Volunteer Week:** Celebrate the value of volunteering April 7-13, 2019.

<https://volunteer.ca/index.php?MenuItemID=388>

~ **Governor General's History Award for Excellence in Teaching** deadline: April 1<sup>st</sup>. Cash prizes for individuals / schools. Contact Joanne at: [jdawson@canadashistory.ca](mailto:jdawson@canadashistory.ca) or 1-866-952-3444 or go to:

<http://www.canadashistory.ca/Explore/Awards/Know-a-Teacher-Who-Made-a-Difference>

~ **Universal Design Learning:** The goal of UDL is to use a variety of teaching methods to remove any barriers to learning and give all students equal opportunities to succeed. It's about building in flexibility that can be adjusted for every student's [strengths](#) and needs. That's why UDL benefits all kids.

<https://www.understood.org/en/learning-attention-issues/treatments-approaches/educational-strategies/universal-design-for-learning-what-it-is-and-how-it-works>

<http://www.threeblockmodel.com/udl-videos--podcasts.html>

## Community News

### Red Cross Baby Sitting course

Baker's Safety Instruction, (Mr. Baker) will be running a Red Cross Baby Sitting course on Tuesday, April 27 2019, from 8:30am to 5pm. The cost is \$35.00 and the session will be held at Grace Christian School 50 Kirkdale Dr. Charlottetown. If your child is interested in taking the course, please contact Mr. Baker via his email [bsi@bakersafety.ca](mailto:bsi@bakersafety.ca) or visit his website [baker.safety.ca](http://baker.safety.ca)