

# West Kent Elementary December Newsletter

West Kent Elementary School  
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Tracy Ellsworth, Principal  
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## HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

It is hard to believe that 2019 is already nearing the end. We had a very exciting fall at West Kent and I know students, staff, and parents are looking forward to what the New Year will bring. I'd like to thank our H&S for their active involvement at the school. We are very fortunate to have so many talented and enthusiastic parents who are able to share their interests and time being involved in the life of the school. We truly appreciate all that you do to help make West Kent such a special community. Our staff has worked so hard this fall and have given of themselves in so many ways. We are thankful for the skills and talents they share with the children in their own classrooms and throughout the school.

From all of us at West Kent School, we wish you a very happy and safe holiday season and a Happy New Year!

### West Kent Christmas Concerts

**4-6 Glee Choir** will be performing Sunday, **December 8th at Park Royal United Church at 2:30.** We are the special guests of the Stratford Community Choir. There is an admission fee for this concert.

Preparations for this year's Christmas Assemblies are well under way! Two concerts will be offered again this year, K-1 and 5-6.

**Kindergarten and Grades 1** will have their concert on Tuesday, Dec. 10th at 12:45 pm., with the dress rehearsal at 10:50 a.m.

**Grades 5 and 6 with the 4-6 Glee Choir** will have their concert on Wednesday, Dec. 11th at 12:45pm., with the dress rehearsal at 10:50 a.m.

**Donations** will be accepted at the door to offset the cost of the sound system. If you are unable to attend the 12:45 p.m. performance, you are welcome to attend the dress rehearsal which takes place following first recess (approx. 10:50). The storm date for both concerts will be Dec. 12th. Please join us for our holiday celebration here at West Kent Elementary.



### 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.

Please make sure all items are  
labeled

### **Bake/Popcorn Sale Fundraiser –**

Bake/Popcorn Sale to raise money for our twin school in Kenya will take place on Tuesday, December 3. All items will cost \$1.00, and the grade 5 & 6 classes will be providing the baked goods. Every class will have the opportunity to buy. If there are any leftovers, they will be sold the next day at a reduced price of \$0.50.

### **HotLunch Items**

**Storm Policy - There are no carry overs on orders. Food items from storm days will show as a credit but must be reordered.** In attempts to make the West Kent HotLunch website more parent friendly, parents can order for months that are active. This means that parents can order once a month if they desire. On a weekly basis, menus will still close Sunday evening at 9p.m. If your plans change after you ordered for the month, you can return to the menu prior to Sunday evening of that current week to delete items. You will be given a credit on your HotLunch account.

### **Scholastic Book Fair News!**

Big thanks to families for supporting the Scholastic book fair. The library and literacy lab are gaining \$1400 in books and resources.



**Library News** - The library continues to ask for gently used books, games, puzzles and LEGO. These items will be redistributed throughout the school. Thank you to everyone who came out and supported West Kent School at the Indigo Fundraiser.

### **Monthly Literacy Tips for Parents: Building Reading Stamina**

Reading stamina is a child's ability to focus and read independently for long-ish periods of time without being distracted or without distracting others. Find out how you can help your child develop reading stamina by visiting this online site: <http://www.readingrockets.org/article/building-reading-stamina>.

### **West Kent Elementary Home & School**

**Home and School Meeting** –Thursday, Dec 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm

**Playground Committee Meeting** – Thursday, Dec 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm following the Home & School Meeting.

**The Holiday Shop** - a much-loved annual event put on the Home & School. Parents are asked to donate new or recycled gifts, and on Wednesday, December 18th the children “shop” for their moms, dads or loved ones, and have the gifts wrapped by Home & School Christmas Elves for a Christmas surprise! All donations of wrapping paper, tape, tissue paper and gift bags are also accepted. Gift collection will begin Monday, December 2nd through Tuesday, December 17th. All proceeds are donated to West Kent families in need.

### **Kindergarten Registration 2020/21**

Planning is underway for next year and Kindergarten registration week was Nov 18-22. Your child must be 5 years old by December 31, 2020, to be eligible to attend Kindergarten in September 2020. 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. French Immersion Charlottetown Family (Prince Street, St. Jean, West Kent, and the downtown portion of Parkdale) contact West Kent Elementary.

### **West Kent School Families Gift Cards**

Mandy Ramsay, the School counsellor has asked that we begin to think about supporting families now as Christmas will be here in a flash. We like to have gift cards available to families at the beginning of December. Gift Cards for stores where food, clothing and Toys are available are ideal. Gift cards can be left at the School office c/o Mandy Ramsay from December 1 – 13<sup>th</sup>. Thank you in advance for helping support our West Kent School families.

## Resource News

There will be a Christmas card exchange at West Kent Elementary between students and/or staff during the week of December 9th to December 18th 2019. Homemade stamps will be available to buy for 25 cents each. As well as Homemade Christmas Cards made by the drawing club for sale at \$2. each. All profit will go to support our families in need.

We will be asking students who wish to participate in this event to select a friend or two who they would like to send a warm wish to. They need to purchase a stamp to have their card delivered to their friend(s). The stamps can be purchased from Dec 9th. to Dec. 18th from 8:20 to 8:35 and from 12:15 to 12:30 everyday of that week. Two locations : area outside bathrooms downstairs and upstairs lobby. The cards need to be dropped in our mailbox that will be located close to the upstairs bathrooms. The mail will be distribute by our Mailmen and Mailwomen (Leadership students) at around 2 :10 everyday.

**Swimming Lessons** - We feel that every child should understand the basics of learning how to swim and feel safe in the water, especially since we live on an Island! We offer all levels. Our winter session begins January 3rd and runs until March 3rd on Tuesday or Thursday evenings depending on what class the child attends. Then we have 2 upcoming Spring sessions. Spring Session 1: March 31-June 2, and Spring Session 2: June 4-June 27. Registration opens November 26th for both Winter and Spring Sessions. Can register by phone, online or by email. (902) 569-4033 | [Info@bellaliantcentre.ca](mailto:Info@bellaliantcentre.ca) | [www.bellaliantcentre.ca](http://www.bellaliantcentre.ca)

Please let me know if you have any questions and if you are interested in helping us educate parents in our community about the option for swimming lessons for their children. Our aim, similar to the lifesaving society of Canada is to eliminate drowning and water related injuries and also to help our slanders and their children feel safe. I look forward to hearing from you. Thank you for your time and consideration. Warm Regards, **Maggie Wright**  
Scheduling and Marketing  
Coordinator [maggie@bellaliantcentre.ca](mailto:maggie@bellaliantcentre.ca) Tel (902) 569-4074

## HOME & SCHOOL NEWS, December 2019

### 2020 Extra Mile Award

Nominate a deserving school staff individual for recognition by the PEI Home and School Federation. Submissions deadline: January 15. Find more information at: Extra Mile Award of the Year | [peihsf@edu.pe.ca](mailto:peihsf@edu.pe.ca) | 902-620-3186

### Resolutions

Deadline to submit a resolution for consideration at the 2020 Annual Meeting & convention is January 31. Consider issues needing change in PEI's education system and write a resolution on that issue by referring to our guide to writing and presenting resolutions and to the slides from the Leadership Training Workshop session on resolutions Review previous resolutions and responses from government departments at: <http://peihsf.ca/agm> Contact the Federation office if you require assistance.

### School Staff Appreciation Week 2020

School staff will be celebrated across Canada February 10-14, 2020. Form a Home and School Staff Appreciation committee to make plans for showing appreciation to school staff for the contributions they make to our children and their education. Keep plans simple! A little appreciation goes a long way!

### President's Annual Reports due February 28

Presidents are asked to submit an Annual Report on your Home and School's activities for this school year. Start your report early and record Sept/Oct/Nov/Dec. activities and in January, add all upcoming events/discussions to the end of June. Send reports to the office for inclusion in the 2019 Annual Book of Reports. Need assistance? Contact Shirley at: 902-620-3186 | 1-800-916-0664 | [peihsf@edu.pe.ca](mailto:peihsf@edu.pe.ca)

### 67th Annual Meeting & Convention

Mark your 2020 calendars....PEI Home and School Federation's 67th Annual Meeting & Conference, Saturday, April 18 at the Rodd Charlottetown Hotel, Charlottetown, PEI.

Health and Wellness Catalyst Grants

Funds are available for a Wellness Grant Program Community Catalyst Grant. The submission deadline is December 13.

**Organizational Assistance**

Federation staff and board members can assistance and tips on chairing meetings, organizing committees, proper finances reporting, drafting resolutions, recording minutes and more. Contact the office to set up a meeting. 902-620-3186 | 1-800-916-0664 | peihsf@edu.pe.ca

**School Food discussed in the legislature**

Education Minister, Hon. Brad Trivers promises P.E.I. school food program for fall 2020

Best wishes of the holiday season to you and your family!



**Happy New Year!**  
**First day for classes is Jan 6,**  
**2020.**