

# West Kent School – January/February 2020 Newsletter

## West Kent Elementary School

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Tracy Ellsworth, Principal

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We have had a great first month of 2020 and are looking forward to spending the rest of this winter season with you and your children! Our teachers and staff are hard at work creating meaningful learning experiences for the month of February.

**Absentee Line** - A reminder if your child is going to be late or absent, please call the Absentee Line number at 368-6065 and follow steps before 9:00

a.m.

West Kent will be offering a Science Fair this year. Students in grades 4, 5 and 6 are invited to participate. This is a great opportunity to learn more about the scientific process, practice public speaking, create a dynamic demonstration, and have some fun in the process! The school fair will be held March 10 (Storm date March 11). Several students will have the opportunity to present their projects at the Province Wide fair on April 1 at UPEI. For more information, please email Shannon Davison ([scdavison@edu.pe.ca](mailto:scdavison@edu.pe.ca)) or Tracey Evison ([tlevison@edu.pe.ca](mailto:tlevison@edu.pe.ca)).

## "DROP-OFF AND GO ZONE"

Thank you to everyone who is helping to keep the students of West Kent School Safe. The "DROP-OFF AND GO ZONE" 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 "DROP-OFF AND GO ZONE" run smoothly by following the procedures below.

Drop-off:

1. Drive slowly into "DROP-OFF AND GO ZONE"
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.

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.** Thanks!

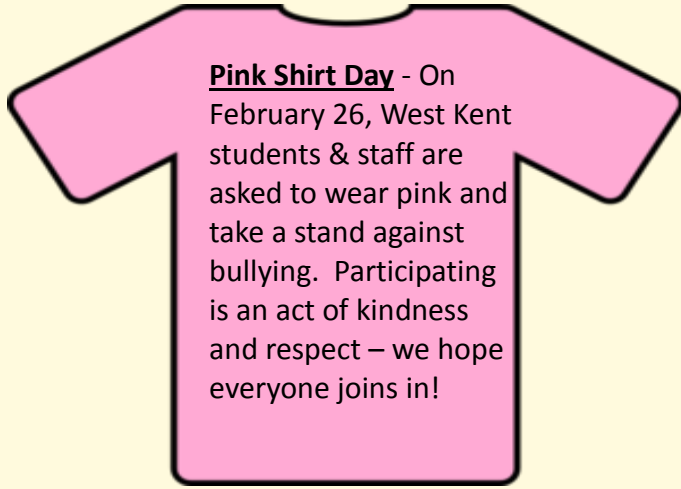
**SAFE SCHOOL  
NOTICE**  
**VISITORS  
MUST CHECK IN  
AT THE OFFICE**

On February 26th (storm date February 27th) all students and staff are encouraged to wear something pink to acknowledge Pink Shirt Day. Pink Shirt Day is a time to promote and celebrate kindness in the spirit of anti-bullying. Students will also be participating in grade-level presentations, led by our Grade 6 Pink Shirt Leadership Sub-Committee, in order to promote understanding and excitement for this special day.

If you would like to learn more about the origins of Pink Shirt Day please visit their web page:

<https://www.pinkshirtday.ca/about>.

As always, thank you for your support with this activity!



### Music Update

Seven students from West Kent will be taking part in PEI Honour's Choir 2020. There are many elementary 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 starting Jan. 20th. The PEI Honour's Choir Mass rehearsal day is Wednesday, March 11th. (Storm Date March 12th) Concert day is Sat. April 4th. (Storm Date Saturday, April 11th) at Park Royal United Church. More information will be sent home with the PEI Honour's choir students. Honours Choir students are required to work on songs at home, attend these two dedicated rehearsals at Park Royal Church, and the lunchtime rehearsals at the school. 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 a unit on the Ukulele shortly .



### Library News:

Our next Scholastic book fair is during parent/teacher interviews March 5th and 6th. This is a fund-raising event which adds books and resources to our school.

Thanks to all the families who have donated gently used board games, LEGO and books. Your donated books help build classroom libraries and allow students to own new titles. Please keep sending in gently used items.

**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.**

### Early Closure Plans

It is important that you review with your child their Early Closure plans. **Please do not call the school during an early closure.** All plans need to be finalized and communicated to your child in advance.

#### 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/stormcentre/index.html?region=PE>  
<https://www.ocean100.com/storm-centre/cfcy.fm/cancellations>
3. Public Schools Branch webpage. <https://edu.princeedwardisland.ca/psb/storm-closure-information>
4. Listen to the Radio and check West Kent Morning Announcements

### Late French Immersion

**Stonepark** - Parent Information Session for Late French Immersion at Stonepark is Monday, February 3, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the library of the school. (Storm date is Tuesday, February 4th).

We are planning on having our annual one-hour band orientation concert and FI session for all grade 6 students who will be attending Stonepark next year, to explore any interest they may have in the Stonepark music program or the Late

French Immersion program later in February (date to follow). The Grade 9 band will perform and our band teacher will be able to share information, answer any questions students may have, and distribute band application forms. We will also do a short presentation on the Late French Immersion program.

Our annual half-day orientation for in-coming Grade 6 students will be held on Friday, May 8, 2020. We will let you know if your school will attend the morning or afternoon session as the date gets nearer.

**Queen Charlotte** – Parent information Session is February 12 with storm date the 13th. More information to follow on the school blog.

**Birchwood** - The Parent information Session is on February 10<sup>th</sup>. More information will be posted on the school blog

**Art Smarts** - Grade 4A and 4B are very excited that we have been approved for a grant from the Department of Education to complete an **Art Smarts** project this year!!

Students in both grade four class will be working with Terry Stevenson, a well know Island artist, to create a wall mural using acrylic paint. Terry will teach us many of the elements of art including, line, shape, form, color and texture. The theme of the project is "What is Canadian Identity?" and "What does it mean to be Canadian?" This project connects with our grade four social studies, math, science and language arts curriculums.

Grade four students will work with our artist in several in class sessions and parents will be invited to view the final projects later in the Spring at the Confederation Center (more information to follow at a later date.)

A big thank you to Patti Graham, our school Librarian who helped us apply for the Art Smarts grant!

We are very excited about this project and awesome opportunity and we can't wait to show you our final projects!

### Little Recess Friendship Groups

Our school counsellor, Mrs. Ramsay, will continue to offer friendship groups in 2020. Friendship groups happen one day per cycle, at little recess, in the school library. Mrs. Ramsay, and several Grade 6 Leadership students, invite 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 by their teacher, if they would like the chance 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** – Confederation Children's Library -Please check out the website at <http://www.library.pe.ca> for January Programming information for the Confederation Centre Public Library. The programs highlighted are for ages 5-12, school age children (unless otherwise stated) and are happening throughout January. All programs offered at the library are free, and if registration is required, it is indicated.

CPF-PEI Inspiring Educator of the year award. Nominate an Educator that shows exceptional support and dedication to the quality and availability of French Language programs in PEI schools. Deadline – February 28th, 2020. For more information check out the website at <https://pei.cpf.ca>: under Activities tab – Educator of the year.



## Home and School News

**Mark your calendars** for the upcoming Home and School Meetings. Come hear about the happenings in the school and listen to some interesting speakers!

Meetings take place in the school library

Monday, March 2, 2020 @ 6:30pm

Monday, April 20, 2020 @ 6:30pm

Monday, June 1, 2020 @ 6:30pm

Teacher Appreciation Week (from West Kent Home and School)

<https://westkenthstech.wixsite.com/westkenthseacherappreciation>

**Feb 10-14** - This is the school appreciation and thank you event for all West Kent staff for their hard work and dedication to our students throughout the school year. To make this event successful we need your help!

**What we ask** - The parents are asked to provide meal contributions, breakfast items and sweets for teachers and staff during this week. We are asking for outdoor duty/lunch monitors from 11:30-12:15 on Thursday, February 13th.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0a4eaca823a2f49-teacher1>

Parents are also asked to prepare their children for compliments day where they are extra kind to teachers, staff and classmates and help their children prepare appreciation cards. On behalf of the children, we will be presenting the teachers with a little gift at the end of staff appreciation week. This year we are asking for one word that describes your teachers and staff (Gym Music, Librarian, Admin Assistant, Principal, Vice Principal, Resources etc.).

Background Checks are required to volunteer for the school for lunch monitoring.

<https://charlottetownpolice.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Criminal-Background-Checks-Jan-2020.pdf>

**PEI Home and School** - Parent Leadership Grant  
The West Kent Home and School has won the \$1000 grant toward our school empowerment project. Look for information on how you can take part coming soon!

**THANK  
YOU  
TEACHERS  
AND STAFF**

## West Kent Dates for Gymnastics



Jan. 29th - Zones at LM (storm date Jan. 30th) (Pre-Novice boys and girls in the morning; Novice boys and girls in the afternoon)

Feb. 8th - Provincials at Kensington

Feb. 12th - St. Jean Meet (storm date Feb. 13th)

Friday, February 14th is St. Valentine's Day. Students are encouraged to wear red, pink or white on this day to participate in our school fundraising. Donation will go towards the Easter Seals Campaign.



**Congratulations to Vaeda Matheson** Grade 3 student of West Kent as this year's Easter Seals Ambassador for P.E.I.

"My motto is be different and follow your heart," -Princess

Vaeda. **Grade 6 Leadership students will be selling**

**Valentine Candy Grams for \$1.00 from February 3-14<sup>th</sup>.**

**All money raised goes toward Easter Seals.**

Islander Day – February 17<sup>th</sup> – No Classes

We hope all families will enjoy spending quality time with family and friends.



### **Babysitting course announcement**

Baker's Safety Instruction, (Mr. Baker) will be running a Red Cross Baby Sitting course on February 22, 2020, from 8:30am to 5pm. The cost is \$40.00 and the course will be held at the 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)

### **Tennis PEI:**

Please check out the following website for information on Youth Tennis Programs. <http://pei.tenniscanada.com/spa-fall-programs-youth-indoor/>

### **Home and School News, February 2020**

#### **1. Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week**

Celebrate Teachers/Staff Appreciation Week, February 10 - 14, 2020. Home and Schools are reminded to say thank you to school staff during this week of recognition. Form a committee to discuss a plan to show appreciation.

#### **2. 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 2020 Annual Report to the Federation by **February 28<sup>th</sup>**.

#### **3. Youth Vaping Project**

Call Julia Hartley, PEI Lung Association 902- 892-5957 to find out more about materials on youth vaping - youth, parent and teacher information. Find information at: <http://pei.lung.ca/vaping-prevention>

#### **4. Volunteer and Life Membership Awards**

Home and School awards are about recognizing the significant contributions that volunteers makes to help people in their school communities. Associations are asked to consider nominating a Home and School member for this year's award(s). The submission deadline is: **March 13, 2020**.

Find criteria /nomination form online at: <http://peihsf.ca/content/awards>

#### **5. 67<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting & Convention**

The P.E.I. Home and School Federation's **67th Annual Meeting & Convention** will be held on **Saturday, April 18, 2020**. All Home and Schools are invited to attend with each association asked to designate five attendees as your school's voting delegates. You are encouraged to include teachers, administrators and staff as delegates. Registration information will be circulated in February.

#### **6. Speaker Resources**

A speaker resource is posted online at: <http://peihsf.ca/content/speaker-resources-listing>

Send your speaker suggestions additions to: [peihsf@edu.pe.ca](mailto:peihsf@edu.pe.ca) / 902-620-3186 / 1-800-916-0664.

#### **Other Community news....**

~Pink Shirt day in PEI is the 26th of February = Bullying is a major problem in our schools, workplaces, homes, and over the Internet. Each year, on Pink T-Shirt Day, I encourage all of you to wear something pink to symbolize that we as a society will not tolerate bullying anywhere. Take the message and remember it all year long. More at:

<http://www.pinkshirtday.ca/>

~Learning Disabilities Association of PEI = Educator of the Year Award deadline for nominations is 4 pm, May 1, 2020.

Further information/nomination forms may be obtained from [LDAPEI info@ldapei.ca](mailto:LDAPEI info@ldapei.ca) / 902-894-5032

~Attention Dads, Moms and Guardians = Do you want to learn how to stay positive and confident as a parent and reduce stress in your family? Free Triple P-Positive Parenting Seminars will be held February 18th, 25th and March 3rd at Murphy's Community Centre (room 207) from 7:00-8:30pm. Triple P is an international project promoted and supported by the Government of Prince Edward Island. There are three sessions in the seminar series, and each session addresses a different theme. Fathers, mothers, grandparents and guardians are welcome! Contact Catherine

Noseworthy at [cnoseworthy@upei.ca](mailto:cnoseworthy@upei.ca)