



## DWIGHT ROSS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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L. J. Hewson, Principal

B. Green, Secretary

## November/December 2017 Newsletter

### Dates to Remember

Nov 20	December Milk Order forms will come home
Nov 23	PTA Lunch Grilled Cheese
Nov 27	December Milk Order forms due back to school
<b>Nov 24</b>	<b>Early Dismissal—students dismissed at 11:30 am</b>
<b>Nov 29</b>	November Good News Assembly 1:15 pm Term 1 Report Cards go home
<b>Nov 30</b>	<b>Regional Shut Down Day—No school for students</b>
Dec 1	PTA Spirit Day—Crazy Holiday Sweater
Dec 5-7	Scholastic Book Fair—Hours listed below
<b>Dec 7</b>	<b>Early Dismissal—Students Dismissed at 11:30 am</b> Parent/Teacher Conferences 1:00-3:30 and 6:00-8:00
Dec 11	January Milk Order forms will come home
Dec 13	Holiday Concert 1:15 pm Dress Rehearsal 6:30 pm Concert
Dec 14-15	Holiday Shopping Spree
Dec 18	January Milk Order forms due back to school
Dec 21	Last Teaching Day before Holiday Break

Hello DRES Families,

The school year is off to a great start so far. There has been a lot that has taken place over the last couple months.

We had a great October and November here at DRES:

- Students learned about Mi'kmaq culture during Mi'kmaq History month. Students learned O'Kanata and the Honor Song.
- We also had our annual cross country meet with a good showing of student runners.
- All students attended a fire safety presentation by the 14 Wing Greenwood Fire department.
- We all tried to wear orange and black for Spirit Day on October 5<sup>th</sup>.
- As usual the family Halloween Dance was a great success!
- On November 9<sup>th</sup>, we had our Remembrance Day Assembly. We were joined by members of the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch #98, Kingston

The next few weeks leading up to the holiday break are sure to fly by.

- Term 1 report cards will be sent home with students on Wednesday, November 29<sup>th</sup>.
- Students are busy preparing for the Holiday concert to be held on Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm.

This year our newsletters will be sent out via email (Alert Solutions) and will be posted on the school's website at [www.dres.ednet.ns.ca](http://www.dres.ednet.ns.ca)

As always, if you have questions, comments or concerns, feel free to contact the school.

Lisa J Hewson,  
Principal

### Dropping off and picking up of students

We at Dwight Ross Elementary very much appreciate the involvement that we have from our community. However, as in previous years, we ask for your cooperation in the following matter. Due to security, traffic and educational time reasons we must insist that **ALL** parents/guardians/visitors report to the office when they come to the school.

Regardless of the time of day (morning drop off, recess, lunch, bus pick up) it is imperative that non-staff adults **DO NOT** go to classrooms OR out onto the playground. **Please always report to the office upon arrival at the school.**

It is important that students be present at school and on time for school. Being a few minutes late is disruptive to your student and the other students in the classroom. Please be on time. If your child is late in the morning, it is required that parents come into the office to sign the student in.

### **Scholastic Book Fair**

December 5-7, 2017

The Scholastic Book Fair is coming to Dwight Ross! We invite you to share in this celebration of books and reading with us.

Students will visit the Book Fair during class time and can purchase books during that visit. If you are unable to visit the Fair, look over the Highlights flyer with your child and use the Student Wish List form to select books. Then, simply send it and the correct amount of money to school with your child.

Don't forget to enter our Family Draw. You could win \$50 in books -- \$25 for your family and \$25 for your child's classroom!

We hope you will join us at the Book Fair.

Our schedule:

**Tuesday, December 5: 9:00-2:35**

**Wednesday, December 6: 9:00-2:35**

**Thursday, December 7: 9:00-11:30; 1:00-3:30 p.m.; 6:00-8:00 p.m.**

We accept cash and cheques made **payable to our school**. Visa, MasterCard and American Express are welcome, too. Thank you for supporting our school library.

Sincerely

Stacy Bugden

Book Fair chairperson

### **PTA News**

Free Student Turkey Dinner

On Friday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, we will be offering a FREE Turkey dinner to all students. The meal will include turkey, mashed potatoes, corn, a roll and dessert. Gluten free gravy will be available upon request. All students will be provided this meal, unless otherwise indicated. Please watch your child's bag for more information about the turkey dinner.

Holiday Shopping Spree

Preparations for the annual HOLIDAY SHOPPING SPREE are already underway! PTA is currently looking for donations of new or gently used items for the shopping spree in December. This is one of our largest fundraisers of the year.

However, in order to ensure that the Spree is a success, we will need about 1,000 donated items. What to donate? Things that you and/or members of your family might like to receive as a gift is a good rule of thumb! I would like to mention that we always run short on Dad and Teenage items! It would be appreciated if each family donated at least the number of gifts that your child/children will be purchasing.

A more detailed explanation of this event will be coming home with your child(ren) as we get closer to the event date-please keep an eye out for it!

We are also in need of gift bags & tape this year. Donations may be dropped off at any time at the school office.

### **Holiday Concert**

This year's Holiday Concert will take place on Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm

There will be a free will donation basket set up at the concert. The money raised will be put towards the purchase of new risers for the students to use during concerts and some assemblies.

More information will be distributed (via email and the school's website) as the date gets closer.

***Just a reminder that food and drink are not permitted in the gym.***

### **Farm to School**

Dwight Ross Elementary is excited to announce that we are starting a Farm to School Fruit and Vegetable Snack Program! The Farm to School program will provide all students and staff with a free, local fruit or vegetable snack weekly!!

Farm to School volunteers will prepare and deliver trays of fresh, seasonal produce to all classrooms, with the goal to increase students' exposure to local fruits and vegetables. The program aims to have more kids trying new fruits/vegetables and enhancing their preference for healthy snacks. Research shows that eating five to eight servings of fruits and vegetables a day can help protect our children from many chronic diseases and help improve their overall health.

We all win with Farm to School! Students will have access to healthy, local fruits and vegetables, helping them learn, grow and develop lifelong healthy eating habits. The program will support our local farmers and our local food economy, and we will increase community connections through the work of our volunteers!

The Farm to School snack will be provided on Mondays, so please ask your children how they enjoyed the fresh produce! If your child has a food allergy to a fruit or vegetable, please be sure to inform the school.

If you are able to volunteer your time or wish to make a donation to the program, please contact Marie MacDonald at (613)-847-5357 or [morgan.macdonald1@bellaliant.net](mailto:morgan.macdonald1@bellaliant.net)

### **Important Information about Cancellation/Urgent Notices from AVRSB**

When it comes to weather and road conditions--especially in winter--student safety is our first priority. With approximately 90% of AVRSB students travelling by school bus, the decision to cancel or change bus transportation and/or school schedules is taken very seriously. We appreciate that changes to transportation and school schedules have an impact on your family.

Decisions around school cancellations are based on information received from professional weather forecasting services, contact with Department of Transportation depots, and from AVRSB staff checking on-the-ground conditions. Decisions to cancel or change bus transportation and/or school schedules before the start of the school day are announced as close as possible to 6 a.m.

Any changes due to road or weather conditions, or other unforeseen circumstances, are announced in several ways:

- Twitter: Follow [@avrspb](https://twitter.com/avrspb)
- Radio (AVR Network, Magic 94.9 FM, K-Rock 89.3 FM, and CBC Radio 1 in Halifax)
- Television (ATV Breakfast Television)
- Websites ([www.avrsb.ca](http://www.avrsb.ca), <http://avrnetwork.com>, [www.magic949.ca](http://www.magic949.ca), [www.k-rock893.com](http://www.k-rock893.com), [www.cbc.ca/stormcentre/ns](http://www.cbc.ca/stormcentre/ns))
- Text/email notices through AlertSolutions and Notify Me (see information below)
- Recorded message on the AVRSB Regional Office phone line, 902-538-4600 or 1-800-850-3887 (for early morning cancellations)

### **Text/Email Notices of Cancellations**

AVRSB is now using *AlertSolutions* to send messages to parents/guardians about school cancellations or other urgent situations. This is the same system that many schools use to send information such as attendance and newsletter notices to parents/guardians by text, email and sometimes by phone.

AVRSB will send early morning school cancellations due to weather/road conditions or power/water outage by text and email using *AlertSolutions*.

Unplanned early dismissal messages during the day will be sent by text, email and phone using this system.

Contact information you provided to the school on your child's registration form will be used to send these messages. Parents/guardians have the ability to maintain their contact information and contact preferences using the PowerSchool Parent Portal or by contacting the school office directly. You may have subscribed to our *Notify Me* system in the past, in order to receive these kinds of messages by text or email. Where possible, AVRSB is taking steps to ensure parents/guardians do not receive duplicate cancellation/urgent messages from *AlertSolutions* and *Notify Me*.

We will continue to operate *Notify Me* so those who do not have parent/guardian information on file with a school—such as grandparents and childcare providers—can receive these messages. You can unsubscribe or subscribe to *Notify Me* any time at <https://www.avrsb.ca/content/notify-me>.

### **Modelling Appropriate Social Media Behaviors for our Children**

Social media has become an important means of communication and of seeking information for most people. It is proving to be of particular importance for our youth as technology has become a significant part of the identity of this generation. Unfortunately, increase technology has also resulted in new social issues. It is sometimes used as a means of cyber-bullying or an exchange of inappropriate information. **It is up to us, as adults, to serve as proper role models with regard to technology use.** We need to teach our children to respect the use of technology and to be good digital citizens. In order to do this properly, we as adults must also learn to be good social citizens and to model appropriate use of social media. We must use social media tools like Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, Instagram, etc. appropriately, because our children are watching and emulating our behaviors.

Please be advised that inappropriate use of technology falls under the Provincial School Code of Conduct. Inappropriate use of technology and social media can result in serious consequences for students. Inappropriate use of technology and social media may also fall under the Criminal Code. We have recently seen criminal charges resulting from the sharing of inappropriate photos. Please be informed and help to inform your children.

For more information around proper use of social media and good digital citizenship, please visit our website at [avrsb.ca/digital](http://avrsb.ca/digital)

### **From the Community**

#### Valley Vibrations Dance Troupe Fundraiser

**Elf Party Charlie Brown Christmas:** Join us from 2:00-4:00 pm on Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup> for 2 crafts, cookie decorating, photo booth, Snoopy Reindeer Fod and a coloring contest. Cost is \$5.00 at Valley Vibrations Dance Studio inside Roo's Playhouse in the Greenwood Mall.

#### Free Polar Express Matinee Movie

Being held at the Al Whittle Theatre in Wolfville brought to you by CBI Health Centres. Save the date.... Dec 9<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm. Non-perishable food items will be collected for the food bank. Merry Christmas!

### **Your Voice for a Healthy Community!!**

Health is largely determined by factors outside the Health Care System. The Kingston Greenwood Community Health Board (KGCHB), in conjunction with other Community Health Boards (CHBs), want to know what factors affect YOUR health and the health of YOUR community. We also want to know what prevents you, your family and your community from living healthy lives. This information is vital and provides the CHBs with feedback from the communities we serve so that a 3-year Community Health Plan can be developed and implemented. Your input is needed!! Please consider completing the "Your Voice for a Healthy Community" Survey at:

<https://www.engage4health.ca/YOURhealthOURcommunity> .

With your voice, we can work towards improving our health now and create healthy, thriving, welcoming communities in the future and together we can make recommendations to change the conditions that influence your health and the health in the broader Kingston/Greenwood community.