



## DWIGHT ROSS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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L. J. Hewson, Principal

B. Green, Secretary

## October 2016 Newsletter

### Dates to Remember

- Oct 4 Provincial Assessments Grade 3 Reading & Writing/Grade 4 Math  
Open House/Curriculum Evening 6:00-7:00 pm
- Oct 5 Provincial Assessments Grade 3 Reading & Writing/Grade 4 Math
- Oct 10 Thanksgiving—No School**
- Oct 12 PTA Lunch-Spaghetti
- Oct 14 Fire Prevention Week—Safety presentation 1:15 pm
- Oct 19 PTA Spirit Day—Orange & Black Day**  
**Early Dismissal—students dismissed at 11:30 am**
- Oct 21 Picture Retakes—class group photos will be taken  
Halloween Family Dance 6:00-8:00 pm
- Oct 28 Provincial Conference Day—No School for students**
- Oct 31 September & October Good News Assembly 1:15 pm

### Early Dismissals and PTA Spirit Days

Throughout the school year, there are Early Dismissal days where students do not have classes in the afternoons. On these days, students are dismissed at 11:30. Buses will run their regular routes, just 3 hours earlier than the normal dismissal time. Our first early dismissal of the year is on **Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup>**

On these early dismissal days, the PTA encourages students to participate in the school spirit day theme. The theme of the early dismissal will be on the monthly calendar. The class with the highest % of student participation in the spirit day that month will get to have the Spirit Bear in their class for the month.

October 19<sup>th</sup>'s, spirit day: **ORANGE AND BLACK DAY**, in recognition of Halloween!!!!

### Open House-Meet the Teacher/Curriculum Evening

Please join us on Tuesday, October 4<sup>th</sup> for our Open House/Curriculum Evening. This year, curriculum evening will have an open house/meet the teacher format. From 6:00-7:00 pm, you and your child(ren) can drop by the school, meet the teacher and pick up a handout about the curriculum that will be covered throughout the year.

### Visiting DRES and 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** visitors report to the office when they visit our school.

Regardless of the time of day (morning drop off, recess, lunch, bus pick up) it is imperative that non-staff adults **do not** accompany their children to their 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.

### **Breakfast and Milk Programs**

Our grab and go *breakfast program* is up and running and is being well used by students. We are always looking for volunteers, if your volunteer checks have been completed and you are interested in volunteering, please contact Bev in the office.

The *milk* program will start October 17<sup>th</sup>. Information and order forms will come home with students early next week.

### **PTA**

Hello everyone and welcome to our 2016/17 school year! We held our first PTA meeting September 13<sup>th</sup>. It was great seeing familiar faces and some new ones too. Thank you to everyone who attended. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to our new PTA Executive for this year: Bev Green Secretary; Monique Roggenkamp Treasurer; Tanya McNeil Vice-President; and myself Lori Stockman President.

On Wednesday October 12, the PTA will be offering a hot lunch at the school. The meal will be spaghetti and garlic bread, for a cost of \$3.00 per meal. Gluten Free option will be available, so please watch for the order form that will be coming home soon.

Our first spirit day will be October 19 and it will be Orange & Black Day in recognition of Halloween.

We are holding our first fundraiser of the year on October 21. It is our annual Halloween Family Dance which is always a favourite of the students. The price is \$3 per school-aged child. All children must be accompanied by an adult (18 years or older) for the duration of the dance. There will be a canteen available with drinks and treats as well as hot dogs. If you are able to help out at the dance with either baking in the canteen or at our admissions table, please let me know. You can contact me at [stockmanlori@gmail.com](mailto:stockmanlori@gmail.com) or at 765-3832. Thank you and see you at the dance!

The next PTA meeting will be on Tuesday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 6:00pm.

### **Paperless DRES**

We are working towards becoming a paperless school. We would like to start this process this year with calendars, newsletters and other informational notices. We will be asking for you to give us an email address (that is checked regularly) to which we can send this information. Any information sent home, will also be accessible on the school's website at [www.dres.ednet.ns.ca](http://www.dres.ednet.ns.ca)

If you do not have or cannot get regular access to an electronic method of receiving this information, please contact the school.

We will also be taking advantage of the AlertSolutions program within our student database, that when permission is given, will allow us to use email and to send text message notifications that items are now posted online. Please watch your child's school bag for information about the AlertSolutions program. \*\*\*Please note that future newsletters will be emailed and published online\*\*\*

We thank you in advance for your cooperation as we work towards this paperless goal, as always, if you have any questions or comments, please contact the school

### **KEYSS: Kings Early Years Screening for School**

KEYSS Clinics are a community partnered program and offer parents valuable information on child development, preschool behaviors, school readiness, healthy living, physical activity, child safety and community resources. Our expertise provides an interactive experience for children and their parents. Screening includes preschool development, hearing, speech, gross and fine motor and vision. Our professionals are able to inform families about available programs and services in Kings County.

A total of nine KEYSS Clinics take place during October and November each year at various Kings County elementary schools. The clinics are not school specific so you may attend which ever location or date is most convenient for

you and your family. Any three year old living in the area is encouraged to register and make valuable community connections.

Please call 678-6111 or register online at [www.valleychilddevelopment.ca](http://www.valleychilddevelopment.ca) in September 2016.

I look forward to meeting you in the fall!

Chelce Cyr

KEYSS Coordinator

### **Update from the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development** **New year and new initiatives for students and teachers**

As we head into year two of Nova Scotia's Action Plan for Education, there are many more exciting initiatives for students at all grade levels this school year.

This fall, students in grades primary to 3 will benefit from hands-on learning, including using floor robots to learn sequencing and programming. Students in grades 4-6 will benefit from Innovation and Exploration Kits that include Spheros and Makey Makey invention kits. Students in grades 7 to 12 will learn coding through events, such as the Hour of Code and STEAM Olympics, and courses, such as Computer Programming 12. Coding promotes problem solving, teamwork, critical thinking, creativity and innovation. These skills are not only related to learning math, science and the arts, but they are also directly linked to many careers, including computer programming and the marine industries.

With the province's first literacy strategy for students in all grades, there will be a greater focus on the teaching of reading and writing and the development of oral communication skills. Reading Recovery support has been increased for grade 1 students. Students in Grades 4 to 6 will have a renewed curriculum, with more time for literacy and math. Class caps are expanded to grades 4 to 6.

To help more students succeed in math, additional supports will be made available for both teachers and students. Career education outcomes will assist students as they begin thinking about their futures and the many possibilities ahead. To learn more about what is new this year, go to <http://novascotia.ca/educationactionplan/> to sign up for ongoing updates from the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

### **From the Community**

#### **Kings County Family Resource Centre**

The Kings County Family Resource Centre is a place where you can come with your children and try many new things. We offer a variety of programs for adults and children. Check out what's new at the Kings County Family Resource Centre in your area:

Play With Me – Tuesdays 1:30-2:30 Autism Centre – Kingston

Rhyme Time – Wednesday – 9:30-10:30 – Kingston Lions Club – Kingston

Playful Pals Play Group – Fridays – 9:30-11:30 – New Beginnings Church – Greenwood

For more information contact us at: 902-678-5760

[family.centre@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:family.centre@ns.sympatico.ca)

[www.kcfrc.ca](http://www.kcfrc.ca)

#### **Annapolis Valley Speed Skating Club**

The Annapolis Valley Speed Skating club will begin their 4th season on October, 5, 2015, at the Credit Union Centre (CUC), Kingston. The Learn to Skate class is at 6 pm; the recreational/competitive class at 7 pm. AVSSC has speed skates to rent; the skate rental is free for a skater's first season. We will be registering skaters on Sept 14 & 21, 7-8:30 pm, at the CUC, Kingston. For further information, please contact us at [valleyspeedskating@gmail.com](mailto:valleyspeedskating@gmail.com) or though Facebook Valley Speed Skating. Please check our display at Wing Welcome.