



DWIGHT ROSS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

PO Box 1420, 949 Tremont Mountain Road

Greenwood, Nova Scotia BOP 1N0

Telephone: (902) 765-7510 Fax: (902) 765-7520

E-Mail: dres@avrsb.ca

Website: www.dres.ednet.ns.ca

L. J. Hewson, Principal

B. Green, Secretary

September 2016 Newsletter

Welcome to a new school year 2016-2017. Whether your child is returning or is a new student to Dwight Ross Elementary, we would like to extend a special warm welcome.

Please read through this newsletter as there is some important information that we are passing along.

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

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

Student Attendance

Consistent student attendance is important. When a child is frequently absent from school he/she misses important learning experiences including specific skills and knowledge that may be necessary for further learning. The real danger of frequent absences from school is that students will develop gaps in their learning that will hinder future learning.

It is understood that there are legitimate reasons why student must miss school. When this occurs, the school will work with you to ensure your child does not fall behind. Please communicate these situations with the child's teacher and the school principal.

There are also many examples of students missing significant time when it is not necessary. Please take school attendance seriously. Be consistent in ensuring that your child values the importance of a good education. Make sure he/she goes to bed at a reasonable time and gets a good night's sleep. Plan your vacation at times that will have no impact, or at the least a minimal impact, on school attendance.

Do not hesitate to phone the school if you are encountering difficulties getting your child to attend school. Allow us to work with you to find solutions. We are willing to sit with you to look at your child's programming and school experiences as well as any other factors that may impact on your child attending school.

Open House-Meet the Teacher/Curriculum Evening

Please join us on Tuesday, September 20th for our 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.

AVRSB Volunteers in School Policy

The AVRSB has had a *Volunteers in Schools* Policy since 1999. As stated in this policy, the Board takes its obligation seriously to ensure safe environments for learning by taking all reasonable steps to minimize risks and threats to students. Because student safety is a top priority, in January 2015, this policy underwent an extensive review to ensure that any potential gaps in practice are closed or minimized. All recommendations for change were presented to our school community members and was circulated to our school stakeholders for the opportunity to respond to the proposed changes and to provide further input. To highlight some the changes:

- Clearly defines volunteers versus visitors;
- Requires volunteers to complete a standard application form for any volunteering;
- Will continue to require the completion of Criminal Records Check (including the Vulnerable Sector) and Child Abuse Registry checks prior to working with students but will now require re-checks to be completed every three (3) year; and,
- As of January 8, 2015, will require all current volunteer to renew their Criminal Records Check (including the Vulnerable Sector) and Child Abuse Registry if it has been over three (3) years since it was last completed.

The recommended changes to the *Volunteers in Schools* policy are not to discourage volunteering in the AVRSB. It is to employ the best practices to ensure our policy is as effective as possible for decreasing the chances of student harm from volunteers. We will be reminding our volunteers throughout the remainder of the school year so that we are well prepared for such events as class trips.

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.

Lunch/Milk/Breakfast Programs

Our grab and go *breakfast program* will be up and running on Monday, September 19th. We still need several volunteers to help in the preparation of items for this program. Preparation involves bagging crackers and cereal, and cutting and bagging cheese. We would like to get several volunteers so that we can create a schedule, this way volunteers would only have to come in once or twice per month. If you are interested in volunteering for our breakfast program, please contact the school.

The *milk* program will start at the beginning of October. More information about ordering and payment will be sent home at a later date

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 avrsc.ca/digital

From the Community

Valley District Soccer Association Registration

The Valley District Soccer Association is now accepting registrations for its 2016 indoor fall programs—ages U-4 to U-18. These programs are run out of the indoor facility in Kentville. For more information and registration forms, please visit www.valleysoccer.org

Sledge Hockey

We're looking for new players to come out and give sledge hockey a try. If you or someone you know might be interested, here are the details:

Where: Kentville Arena

When: Sundays 9:00 – 9:50 am, October – March

Cost: \$100

Players of all ages and abilities are welcome. All equipment is provided if required, including sticks. For more information, please contact Todd Grant at todd.grant26@gmail.com.