



DWIGHT ROSS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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L. J. Hewson, Principal

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September 2017 Newsletter

Welcome to a new school year 2017-2018. 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.

Early Dismissals

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 normal dismissal. Our first early dismissal of the year is on **Wednesday, September 20th**

PTA Spirit Days

On the first Friday of every month, the PTA will hold "Spirit Days", for a bit of fun. We encourage students and staff to participate in the school spirit day theme. The theme of the spirit day 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.

Nut Allergies

A reminder that we are a nut aware school. We have several students and staff with nut allergies.

Please avoid sending products that contain nuts or are made with nuts and/or nut oils.

Open House-Meet the Teacher Curriculum Evening

Please join us on Tuesday, September 26th for our Open House/Meet the Teacher. 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.

Milk and Breakfast Programs

Our grab and go *breakfast program* will be up and running on Monday, September 18th. We 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.

Head Lice Awareness

It is that time of year again when head lice may be prevalent in schools. Unfortunately head lice has been reported in our school. We are asking parents to check your child(ren)'s heads regularly for lice and/or nits. For information on how to prevent, find and treat head lice, please visit the school's website at www.dres.ednet.ns.ca

Paperless DRES

We are continuing to work 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 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. *In the meantime, items that are sent home in paper form will be sent home with the **YOUNGEST** child in families that have more than 1 child at 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.