



## DWIGHT ROSS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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K. Lander-Pinard, Principal

B. Green, Secretary

### September 2018 Newsletter

Welcome to a new school year 2018-2019. 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 **Thursday, September 27<sup>th</sup>**

#### **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.

#### **Curriculum Evening/Meet the Teacher**

Please join us on Tuesday, September 25<sup>th</sup> for our Curriculum Evening/Meet the Teacher. Mrs. Lander-Pinard will speak briefly in the gym at 6:00 pm, then you will have the opportunity to visit with your child(ren)'s teacher(s) in their classroom(s) for a brief overview of the curriculum to be taught during the year. We will do two 20 minute classroom sessions: 6:15-6:35 and 6:40-7:00.

Students are welcome to accompany their parents to Curriculum Evening.

#### **Milk and Breakfast Programs**

Our grab and go *breakfast program* will be up and running on Monday, September 17<sup>th</sup>. 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](http://www.dres.ednet.ns.ca)

#### **Alternate Ways to Communicate**

As we continue to explore alternate ways to communicate with families, this year the non-urgent notices (including but not limited to items such as monthly newsletters, early dismissal reminders, other reminders) being emailed out via the Alert system in our student database. To ensure that we don't miss anyone, 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)

*Non urgent notices sent from the school will be sent electronically at 4:00 pm.* Should you receive a notification from the school and/or Regional Office, outside this time frame, please be sure to check it.

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

We thank you in advance for your cooperation as we make this transition. 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.*

### **AVRCE Volunteers in School Policy**

The AVRCE has had a *Volunteers in Schools* Policy since 1999. As stated in this policy, the Regional Centre for Education 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 of 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 be completed every (3) three years; 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 (3) three years since it was last completed.
- Only Criminal Record Checks and Child Abuse Request for a Search Approval Letters dated within six (6) months received by the Human Resources Department will be accepted.

The changes to the *Volunteers in Schools* policy are not to discourage volunteering in the AVRCE. 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.

### **Resolving Concerns**

If you have concern about your child at school, we want to work with you to resolve it. We encourage you to start by communicating with your child's teacher—open communication can often help resolve concerns at this level. If you feel more action is needed, please contact the principal, Mrs. Lander-Pinard. If the concern still requires attention, staff at our Regional Office can help. For details, please visit <https://www.avrce.ca/parentguardian-concerns>

- ✓ Start with your child's teacher
- ✓ Follow up with the school principal, if required
- ✓ Call your local Regional Centre for Education



### **From the Community**

Autism Nova Scotia | Annapolis Valley

UNDERSTANDING · ACCEPTANCE · INCLUSION

The Annapolis Valley Chapter of Autism Nova Scotia provides programs and supports for children, teens, and adults with autism. Come check out our sensory gym and calming room. The Autism Centre is located at 565 Main Street in Kingston. Volunteers are always needed -- Consider joining our team!

Connect with us:

902-242-2019 / [AnnapolisValley@autismns.ca](mailto:AnnapolisValley@autismns.ca) / [www.autismannapolisvalley.ca](http://www.autismannapolisvalley.ca)

Find us on Facebook (Annapolis Valley Chapter of Autism Nova Scotia)

### **5<sup>th</sup> Annual Battle of Britain Concert**

In Support of the Greenwood Military Aviation Museum

Sunday, September 16 at 3:30 P.M.

Kingston Centennial Park Beaman Bandstand

Bring your lawn chairs, and enjoy the sounds of the 14 Wing Band as we commemorate Canada's contribution to the Battle of Britain

Featuring 14 Wing Band and guest vocalist David Holborn

Free Public Concert

Goodwill donations will be graciously accepted for the Greenwood Military Aviation Museum

In case of rain, the concert will be moved indoors to the Annapolis Mess, 14 Wing Greenwood. Updates will be provided on the Greenwood Military Aviation Museum website at: [www.gmam.ca](http://www.gmam.ca)

### **Greenwood Minor Basketball Registration**

Greenwood Minor Basketball registration has begun. We offer programs for youth ages 4-13 at affordable prices. All members of the community are welcome. Check out our Facebook page for more information - Greenwood Minor Basketball Club or contact Rose Veinot - [roseveinot@gmail.com](mailto:roseveinot@gmail.com)

### **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 2018.

I look forward to meeting you in the fall!

Chelce Cyr

KEYSS Coordinator