



PARKDALE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL N E W S L E T T E R

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Kristen Moore, Principal
Faber MacDonald, Vice Principal
Date: January 8



Dates to Remember:

Jan 8 First Instructional Day for 2024
Jan 30 Home & School Meeting 6:30 pm
Feb 12-16 Staff Appreciation Week
Feb 16 Winter Wellness Day
Feb 19 Islander Day (no classes)

General Information

Absences If students are going to be absent, please notify the main office by phone at (902) 368-6945 or email Jackie at jmlund@edu.pe.ca as well as your child's teacher.

Helping Reading at Home

January is always a great month to reset some routines even though it is almost half way through the school year. Making reading at home a priority is a great goal. How can you encourage a reluctant reader?

Spend time reading together. Talk about what you are doing to solve a tricky word. Example: "I looked at the first three letters and said each sound then blended them together more quickly." or "I tried the short vowel sound but it didn't work, so I tried the long vowel sound."

Think about scheduling: Think about their day and motivation. Does reading need to be completed before screen time? Can it be done in the mornings? Is it left until right before bed when they are tired? Pick a time that works for you and your family.

Share the attention. It's always preferred to have an adult be keeping a close eye and ear as children read but this can be difficult at times. Can they read to a younger or older sibling? Could they call a grandparent or family member and read on the phone or zoom call? What about an audience of teddy bears?

Set a timer: Using a timer to monitor the time instead of an adult, can help your child feel more in control. Teach them to use a kitchen timer and check off each day they meet their goal. How many pages can they read during the time? Or, how long does it take to read the whole book?

Visit the Public Library or online reading

sites: As J.K. Rowling, author of *Harry Potter* said, "If you don't like to read, you just haven't found the right book!" Check out non-fiction, joke books or hook in to the power of series books, where reading through the lists can be extra motivating.

Communication

Please bookmark our website.

<https://parkdale.edu.pe.ca> and check your emails regularly. We will plan on sending weekly updates and a newsletter at the start of each month. You can also sign up for your child's **Class DOJO**. A private group for sharing exciting learning updates.

Food Program

Hotlunch orders and payments must be in by 9 am on Mondays (if Monday is a holiday they are due on Tuesday) Please Note: If there is NO school on Fridays we will have pizza day on Wednesdays. Families can register at www.peischoolfood.ca for the PEI School Food Program. If you have questions you can email info@peischoolfood.org.

Home & School

"Happy New Year, Parkdale Eagles! We hope everyone had a safe and happy holiday break. The planning for Staff Appreciation Week happening in February is in full swing. We are open to any suggestions/ideas on how to celebrate our amazing staff at Parkdale. A google sign up sheet will be shared by the end of this week to our families who would like to participate. Our next Home and School meeting will be held on **January 30th at 6:30PM** and we will be talking about Staff Appreciation Week, our next family event night, and it will also include a presentation about Social and Emotional Learning. We look forward to seeing you there!

Welcome Back! to Lisa Beals who will be providing academic support for the remainder of this school year.

Holland College Student

We would like to welcome Rebecca Munroe, a student from Holland College completing her training for Child and Youth Care Worker.

Winter Clothing Please ensure your child comes to school with a hat, mitts, winter coat, boots and snowpants. The students need to be dressed appropriately every day for outside recess.



Kindergarten Registration for 2024-25

If you know of someone who hasn't registered their child yet for Kindergarten please ask them to contact the school to register. Children must be 5 years old by December 31, 2023.

Volunteer Opportunities: Indigo Grant Updates

Our first order of Indigo books has been placed for the library based on student requests. The next step will be cataloging, stamping and taping all the new books that come in. If you or someone you know is interested in helping out with this process please reach out to the school or the principal at kcmoore@edu.pe.ca.

Papa John's Fundraiser/Discount Code

Papa John's have offered us a school fundraiser/discount. If any staff, friends or families order from them and use the code EAGLE, It will give a 25% discount on menu-priced items ordered online on their website or mobile app. They will keep track of the code's usage throughout the school year, and on May 31st, they will let us know the donation amount it collected and mail us a cheque worth 10% of the code's net sales! Please support this great school fundraiser!!

Social Emotional Learning

As is the case for physical health, everyone has mental health. It is normal to feel stronger at times and to experience occasional dips in both physical and mental health at other times. Children know when they feel physically unwell that they may need their adults to help them do what is necessary to feel better. Normalizing the experience of having a range of emotions and talking about mental health in a neutral way will increase the likelihood that your children will seek support when they need it. When children are encouraged to feel comfortable expressing their emotions in healthy and appropriate ways it helps them learn how they can manage their emotions day to day, which will lead to greater resiliency and better mental health throughout their lives.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Free Family Literacy Program

UPEI Literacy and Numeracy Outreach Project will be offering *Playing with Stories* again this year!

This free program is for children aged 2-8 years and their families, where they will have the opportunity to develop literacy and numeracy skills through engaging books, activities, music and movement. Food will be provided at the end of each session, and transportation can be arranged, if necessary.

Sessions for the winter will take place:

Sundays 2:00-3:30 pm January 14-March 17

Tuesdays 5:00-6:30 pm January 16-March 19

Please note that spaces are limited for registration. The registration form can be found on our website: <https://projects.upei.ca/lnop/early-years/>