

# Spring Park December Newsletter 2024



Lynette MacKinnon- Principal

[www.springpark.edu.pe.ca](http://www.springpark.edu.pe.ca)

Anne Ives Vice Principal

### Safe Arrival Line 902-569-7785

At Spring Park School, we have a Safe Arrival Line which parents/guardians can call before 9:00 AM. Calling this line will enable us to ensure the safety of your child.

We appreciate you ensuring your child attends school regularly and is on time.

## Dates to Remember:

**Dec. 2-6** We are collecting donations for the food bank

**Dec. 9** – Grade 2-3 choir to the Garden Home

**Dec. 10** – Grade 4, 5, 6 choir to the Jack Blanchard Centre

**Dec 11** – 6:30pm – Grade 6 Winter Concert (Storm Date Dec 12)

**Dec 17** – 1:30 pm – Grade 1 Winter Concert

**Dec. 18** – Christmas Shoppe

**Dec. 20** - Last Instructional Day for Students for 2024

**Jan. 2 and 3** – PD Days (no classes)

**Jan. 6** First Instructional Day for Students in 2025

## Holiday Cheer Week:

**Monday Dec 16th** – Wear a festive sweater

**Tuesday Dec 17<sup>th</sup>** - Wear your holiday best

**Wednesday Dec 18<sup>th</sup>**-Wear red and green

**Thursday Dec 19<sup>th</sup>**- Festive hair or hat day

**Friday Dec 20<sup>th</sup>**- Comfy cozy day

## Storm Closures

All Public Schools Branch (PSB) weather-related cancellations will be announced on local radio stations and posted on the PSB website by 6:30 am.

An announcement that “all classes in the public schools branch are cancelled” means that there is no school for students. An announcement of a “system-wide shutdown” indicates that all schools and offices are closed. In some instances, it may only be necessary to close an individual school or a Family of Schools. Partial system closures or delays will be announced by Family of Schools. Visit PSB: <https://psb.edu.pe.ca/parent-and-student-resources/storm-closures>

## One Hour Delay

If a decision on cancellation cannot be made by 6:30 am, a one-hour delay will be announced whereby all schools and buses will operate one hour later than usual. A further announcement will be broadcast by 8:00 am.

## Cold Weather

As the colder weather settles in, please remember to send your child with warm clothing each day. **This includes hats, mittens, warm coats, and boots** to keep them comfortable during outdoor play and activities. Having an extra pair of dry socks and mittens in their bag can also be helpful in case something gets wet. Thank you for helping your child stay warm and ready for a great day at school!

## SPS Hot Lunch Program:

Hot Lunches for Dec 2- 13 Orders will open Nov. 28 will close Dec. 2 at 9am. Orders for Dec. 16-20 will open Dec. 12 and close Mon. Dec. 16 at 9am. Orders for Jan. 6 - 17 will open Jan. 2 and close Jan. 6 at 9am.

<https://springparkschool.hotlunches.net/admin/>  
(School access code: SPHL to register)

\*\*Reminder that all lunch orders must be paid by 9AM Monday morning, or the order will be deleted.

Bon Appétit! Sign up your child for healthy school food meals that will be served daily in schools. \$5.75 per lunch or pay what you can. Please pay if you can to keep this program going.

E-mail: [info@peischoolfood.ca](mailto:info@peischoolfood.ca)  
Phone: 902-380-3663

Register here and order: <https://peischoolfood.ca/>  
Dec.16-27– Orders close at noon Thursday Dec. 12  
Dec.30 – Jan. 10. Orders close at noon Thursday Dec. 26.  
Orders from Jan. 13 -24 close at noon Jan. 9.



Please remember to pack utensils

## Christmas Shoppe

We are hosting our Annual **Christmas Shoppe** for our Spring Park students on **Wednesday, December 18th** with Thursday, December 19th for a storm date. If anyone has any **gently used items to donate** to our Christmas Shoppe, please send these in the week of December 9<sup>th</sup> to Mme. Susan Kennedy in room 166. We love to have a variety of items for children to choose from and appreciate any donation that you can spare. We are hopeful to have some helping hands who can sign up to help us on the day of the event. We need help organizing the donations, wrapping the gifts on the day of the event and helping children pick out the perfect gift as well as a cashier to handle the money. This event brings so much joy to our students! The Christmas Shoppe will take place on **Wednesday, December 18th** with a storm date of Thursday, December 19th. We are asking for help to collect wrapping paper to enable us to wrap up our precious gifts. Any child in **grade 6 who has an extra roll of wrapping paper** is asked to bring this to school the week of December 9<sup>th</sup>. This will give us lots of time to ensure we have plenty of supplies for our wrapping station. Each class will be provided a time during the day to browse and buy two special gifts. ***On December 18th, each student brings in \$2 in order to buy two gifts for loved ones of their choice.***

*Merry Christmas!*

Get your Spring Park Hoodie, T-shirts and long sleeve shirts at:

<https://allstarcresting.ca/springparkschool/shop/home>

## Breakfast Program

The Breakfast Program operates 5 days a week beginning at 8:00 am until 8:20 am. We are always looking for parent volunteers to help with the program. If you are able to assist, please email: [spsbreakfastprogram@gmail.com](mailto:spsbreakfastprogram@gmail.com) for further details. Please note the breakfast program does not operate when there is a one hour delay in the morning.

## Attendance

The long-term impact of absenteeism - Missing school can affect reading skills by third grade. Let's work together to keep our kids in school and learning!



## Book Fair News

*Thanks to all those who supported our Book Fair! And our book collection!!!  
Spring Park School Library is truly grateful!!!*

*Mrs. Jay  
Librarian*

## SPS Home and School News



Our next Home and School Association (HSA) meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday Dec. 4 at 6PM in the Spring Park School Library**. We had great attendance at our last one and hope to see even more people in the new year.



As the Holiday Season approaches it is important to remember that children need your presence more than actual presents. Also, a reminder that not all our families celebrate the holidays and to be respectful of differences.

May your holidays sparkle with moments of love and laughter and may the year ahead be full of happiness and health!

If you are a family that would like support over the holidays feel free to reach out to

<https://santasangels.ca> as they are currently accepting referrals for home visits on Christmas day.

Gifts from the Heart is another organization that is available all year. You can register in person for holiday support on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursdays at 1230pm at 10 Maples Hill Avenue, in Sherwood or dial 211 to be connected to information regarding food hampers and gifts.

If you are interested in spreading holiday cheer to a family in our community, please contact Marti Pendleton or Darlene Heilman, School Counsellors at [mxpathendleton@edu.pe.ca](mailto:mxpathendleton@edu.pe.ca) or [dcheilman@edu.pe.ca](mailto:dcheilman@edu.pe.ca) or call (902) 368 6400, we are accepting gift cards this year.



## Home and School News, December 2024

### **Extra Mile Award**

The PEI Home and School Federation presents awards of recognition to deserving individuals who work and volunteer for the benefit of children and youth in PEI's school communities. Nominate a deserving school staff individual for recognition by **Jan. 17, 2025**. Find details at: <https://peihsf.ca/awards/>

### **How to affect change in P.E.I.'s School System**

Resolutions are developed around issues that can affect positive change in our school system for all students' benefit. Your Home and School's resolutions will be considered at the 2025 AGM & Convention on Saturday, April 12. Deadline to submit resolutions: **Jan. 31**. Call the Federation office for assistance with writing resolutions. How to Write & Present a Resolution / [Fillable pdf Resolution Form](#)

### **School Staff Appreciation Week 2025**

School staff celebration, the week of **February 10-14**. Set up a committee to brainstorm plans for thanking school staff for the contributions they make to our children and their education. Keep plans simple!

### **President/Co-Chair Annual Reports 2024-2025**

Presidents/Co-Chairs are reminded that their annual reports are due by February 21. Document monthly activities (1-2 pages) from September through June of this school year. You can write free style or use this Google Form at: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1gBJzforEMMC5BJp9jrr56NPc9FECgJDtKMVe0Vzh42k/edit?pli=1>

### **Federation Board Nominations**

Leading up to the AGM, the PEI Home and School Federation will be seeking nominations for Secretary, Treasurer and Directors for Bluefield, Kensington, Souris, Three Oaks and Westisle families of schools; all are two-year term positions. <https://peihsf.ca/agm/> Contact: [peihsf@gov.pe.ca](mailto:peihsf@gov.pe.ca) or 902-620-3186.

### **Other Community News....**

**\*\*\* SPELLING BEE COMPETITION = REGISTER your child for PEI Competition**

**Register your child** for the P.E.I. Spelling Bee of Canada Competition on **April 5, 2025**.

**Parents/guardians** can register students at [www.spellingbeeofcanada.ca/registration](http://www.spellingbeeofcanada.ca/registration).

**First Place Winner** from each category will be eligible to participate in the Championship Competition in person in Toronto on May 25-26, 2025. **High school students 15+** can train as a Coach. For more info, e-mail Alanna at:

[coordinator.pei@spellingbeeofcanada.ca](mailto:coordinator.pei@spellingbeeofcanada.ca)

## **Girls GET Math After-School Program**

What's your relationship with Math?



Whatever it is, let's talk about it!

STEAM PEI would love for you to join us after school from

Jan 15 - Mar 5, from 2:40-4:10 for some math fun!

What will we be doing?

Yeah we'll talk about math, but this is NOT math class. We'll be making smoothies, creating art, and dancing! If you stick it out for eight weeks, you'll get a super cool surprise custom item to take home.

Who's it for?

Female-identifying students in Grades 5 and 6. We only have room for 20 of you!

Ask your parents to register you by clicking on the following link

<https://steampei.jumbula.com/Winter2025/GirlsGETMathElleBosseSesMaths> or they can go to

and click on Girls GET Math - Spring Park.

Why only for girls?

We hope to be able to offer this program to students identifying as male in the future, but our current funding is for female participants. Research indicates that although boys and girls perform equally well in math; girls are less confident in their math abilities.



Boring note for parents:

This program aims to increase the participants' confidence in math. The program is free, thanks to support from the PEI Interministerial Women's Secretariat

## COACHS' CORNER

### Gymnastics Club

During the month of December, we will be asking students in Grades 5 and 6 if they are interested in signing up for our gymnastics club that will begin the week following our Christmas break . Students who wish to sign-up will be given a high-risk form and letter with all the information (dates and times of practices and competitions) that pertains to our gymnastics club.

\*\*Stay tuned for more information regarding our Gymnastics Club that will be shared in our January Newsletter. In addition, please visit our Phys-Ed Blog that will also keep you up to date with all the information you need to know!

<https://sites.google.com/cloud.edu.pe.ca/sps-physical-education/home>

If you have any questions, please email:  
Mr. Maddix ([kjmaddix@edu.pe.ca](mailto:kjmaddix@edu.pe.ca)) or Ms. Canning ([kgcanning@edu.pe.ca](mailto:kgcanning@edu.pe.ca))

## Music Notes

Congratulations to our Grade 4 classes on their wonderful performance for our Remembrance Day Ceremony! December will be a month full of music-making for us - here's what's coming up!

### Grade 2-3 Choir

We're happy to share that our Grade 2-3 Spring Park Choir has been invited to sing Christmas carols for the residents at the Garden Home Seniors Home on **Monday, December 9th**. Choir students will be taking the bus in the afternoon to visit with the residents, share some holiday cards and treats, and sing Christmas carols, to spread a little holiday cheer!

Students are asked to wear our choir uniform of white shirts and dark pants or skirts on the day of our outing. There is a cost of \$1 per student to offset the cost of bussing for the event. Please return your child's permission form with the \$1 fee by Wednesday, December 4th if your child will be able to sing with us!

### Grade 4-5-6 Choir

We're also happy to share that our Grade 4-5-6 Spring Park Choir has been invited to perform at the PEI Human Rights Commission's Human Right's Day event on **Tuesday, December 10th, at the Jack Blanchard Centre**. Choir students will be walking together from Spring Park to the Jack Blanchard Centre for our performance, and **parents and family members are welcome to attend the event, which begins at 10am (doors open at 9:30am)**. Students are asked to wear our choir uniform of white shirts and dark pants or skirts on the day of the event. This is a wonderful opportunity for our choir to sing, and quite an honour for us to be asked to perform at such an important event!

### Grade 6 and 5/6 Classes: Holiday Musical

All are invited to attend our one-night-only performance of **Shine a Light**, a brand-new musical created by Ms. Shea and Grade 6 and 5/6 classes, on **Wednesday, December 11th at 6:30pm** (storm date December 12th). Our students in these classes have helped create the story and characters, sets and costumes, written the script, and are now working hard to learn their songs on their chosen instruments... we can't wait to share it with you! Donations will be gratefully accepted at the door in support of our music program.

### Grade 1 Holiday Concert

Our Grade 1 students will be performing the musical **The Very Very Gingerbread Man** on **Tuesday, December 17th at 1:30pm** (storm date December 18th). Donations will be gratefully accepted at the door in support of our music program.

# Community News

## Introductory Mini-Basketball Program

Bob Knudson will be running an introductory grass roots mini-basketball program at Spring Park School. The program will be co-ed for boys and girls grades 1-4. It will be an after school program on Tuesdays and Thursdays starting on Tuesday, January 7th and will run until early March. Starting time will be 2:40 pm and run until 4:00 pm.

Bob has been involved with basketball for over 5 decades. His coaching career has spanned over the last 25 years at the elementary, Jr. High, Sr. High and PEI provincial team levels. The program will emphasize a basic learning of the fundamental skills and development that will hopefully enable the kids to love the game of basketball. We will endeavour to that through fun drills that will encourage the team aspect of the game.

Registration fee is \$60.00 (\$40.00 of that goes directly to PEI Basketball for insurance other fees). The correct size of the basketball is very important. Your child should have a size 4 basketball. If your child has the correct size and the ball is suitable to you then the registration fee will be \$40.00. We can discuss this after our program is filled. We will be accommodating the first 20 kids to sign up for the program. For any questions please contact Bob at 902-628-7128.