



# January Newsletter 2026 Spring Park School

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

**Lynette MacKinnon- Principal**

**Michaela Richards 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. This 24-hour answering machine is available so parents can call this school and let us know if your child(ren) will be late or absent.

## Dates to remember

- Jan. 1 – New Years Day (no classes)
- Jan. 5 – First Instructional Day for students in 2026
- Jan. 21 – Home & School meeting @ 6:00
- Jan. 28 – Grade 6 concert @ 6:30 (Jan. 29 storm date)
- Feb. 13 – PD Day (no classes)
- Feb. 16 – Islander Day (no classes)

## Storm Closure

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> or listen to Ocean 100 Radio.

## 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. A one-hour delay means school will start at 9:30. Students cannot arrive before 9:05 am. There is no chess or breakfast program if there is a one-hour delay.

## Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten Registration for 2026–2027 is now open!

Parents and guardians are asked to register their child for Kindergarten now!

### **Who can register?**

Children who will be 5 years old by December 31, 2026.

### **How to register:**

Visit Spring Park School during school hours (8:00 – 4:00) to complete a registration form. Students who were born outside of Canada or speak a language other than English or French at home must register at the EAL/FAL Reception Centre (902-620-3738 or [ealfalwelcome@edu.pe.ca](mailto:ealfalwelcome@edu.pe.ca))

### **What to bring:**

Government-issued ID showing your child’s age (Birth Certificate, PEI Health Card, or Passport) and proof of home address (e.g., current utility bill)

Welcome to Kindergarten sessions for students and parents will take place in Spring 2026.

To make sure you are zoned for Spring Park, please check out the zoning portal

<https://psbbusing.princeedwardisland.ca/Default.aspx>

## **Warm Clothes**

Students are reminded to wear warmer outdoor clothing, jackets, hats, mittens or gloves, and boots now that the days are becoming colder. All students are outside twice a day for outdoor recreation at recess time. This time is much more enjoyable when students are dressed for colder temperatures. **Please remember to label all your child's outdoor clothing with their first and last name so items can be easily returned if they are misplaced.**

## **Spring Park PBIS: Be Safe, Be Prepared, Be Respectful, and Be Kind**

- **Be Safe** 🛡️
- **Be Prepared** 🧰
- **Be Respectful** 🙏
- **Be Kind** ❤️



We would like to send out special thanks to all students and their parents, guardians and grandparents who sent along goodies and gifts to our staff during the month of December.

Thank you to everyone who contributed gifts to the **Christmas Shoppe**. It was very rewarding to see so many happy students getting gifts for those they love.

Also, a huge thank you to parents / community volunteers for helping making this event a success.

**We raised \$691 for Home & School with this event.**

## **SPS Hot Lunch Program**

Hot lunches for Jan. 5 -16 will open Thursday Jan. 1 and close at 9am Mon. Jan. 8.

Hot lunches for dates Jan. 19 - 30 will open Thursday Jan. 15 and close at 9am Mon. Jan. 19.

Mon. - Fri. – Chocolate and White ADL Milk

Tuesday – Domino's Pizza and the breakfast program donations

Wednesday – Subway

<https://springparkschool.hotlunches.net>

(School access code: SPHL for new registration)

\*\*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. Donate to pay for another child who cannot afford to pay for a healthy lunch.

E-mail: [info@peischoolfood.ca](mailto:info@peischoolfood.ca)

Phone: 902-380-3663 Register here and order: <https://peischoolfood.ca/>

## **Knitting Club will be starting back up in January!**

Open to all Grades 5 & 6 students. The club meets at 12:30 Recess on Day 4 in Ms. Johnston's class, Room 204. No experience or supplies are required; we have needles and yarn. For those who already can knit, you can bring your own projects to work on. Please note that if it is an indoor recess, we will not be meeting.

Thanks

Ms. Johnston

## Library News

Thanks to all those who supported the Scholastic Book Fair in November. It was very successful, and we'll be purchasing new books for the library in the new year.

## Music Notes

Happy new year! We ended 2025 on a high note with wonderful performances from our grade 1 students and both of our Spring Park choirs. Congratulations to all of our students for your hard work and fantastic musicianship over these past months, you have made your music teachers very proud!

## Grade 6 Musical

Save the date: our grade 6 students invite you to the world premiere of our original musical, "The Day the Music Teacher Quit," on **Wednesday, January 28th at 6:30pm** (storm date: Thursday, January 29th). These young actors and musicians have been working hard to learn their instruments and create this special production - and we can't wait to share it with you!

## Festival Choirs and Singing Club

Choir continues in the new year with preparations for the Queens County Music Festival at the end of April. Students who participate will get to travel to the music festival for our public performance, as well as perform for the school during our music showcase in May. Even if you were not a part of our choirs in the fall, all are welcome to sign up for our festival choirs and join us to sing!

Singing Club will also be offered during morning recess for our kindergarten and grade 1 students who want to sing and play with our voices, and see what being in choir is all about!

## Grade 6 Honour Choir

Some of our grade six students have been invited to participate in the PEI Junior Honour Choir, which is a wonderful opportunity to sing under the direction of a professional choral conductor as well as represent Spring Park alongside schools from all across the province! Registration forms will be sent home this week and should be returned to Ms. Shea along with the \$15 registration fee. Please see the information sheet for more details. The dates for our special rehearsal day and concert day are as follows:

- **Rehearsal Day** - Friday, March 27th (10am - 3pm)
- **Concert Day** - Saturday, April 18th (10am drop off, concert at 1:30pm)

## Rock Band

Congratulations to all of the students who auditioned for rock band. We will be starting our regular rehearsals when we are back in classes here is the schedule:

**The Sparks** - Day 2 @ 12:30

**The Boltz** - Day 4 @ 12:30

Day 6 @ 12:30 will be a sectional day and will chance each cycle - students will be told on the announcements which groups will rehearse on day 6

## PEI Schools of Rock Showcase

Both rock bands will be participating in the PEI Schools of Rock showcase this year. Here is the information - please save the date and let Mr.O know if your rocker will not be able to attend this event as soon as possible!

### **What is it?**

The PEI Schools of Rock Showcase. It's open to any popular music ensemble including but not limited to rock bands, hip-hop collectives, ska, and funk bands. K-Audio is often hired to do sound for this event.

### **When is it?**

Saturday, April 11, 2026

### **Where is it?**

Birchwood Intermediate School

### **What time?**

Professional sound techs are on site for professional quality sound checks all day. Groups would have a designated sound check time in the morning/afternoon and the concert usually happens at 5:00. Specific times will be determined closer to the date.

## Island Summer Rock Camps - Registration now open!

Island Rock Camps are back up and running this summer at Sherwood Elementary School for the following weeks:

Week One: July 6 – 10 (WAITLIST ONLY)

Week Two: July 13 – 17

Week Three: July 20 – 24

Registration can be completed at their website - <https://islandrockcamps.com/registration/>

If you have any questions, please reach out to Ms. Shea or Mr. O.  
Karri Shea ([kjshea@edu.pe.ca](mailto:kjshea@edu.pe.ca)) (4-6) and Mr. O (K-3) ([rdodonnell@edu.pe.ca](mailto:rdodonnell@edu.pe.ca))

## **COACHES' CORNER**

Ms. C and Mr. Maddix hope everyone had a wonderful and restful break by spending some time with friends and family! We can't wait to get off to an active start with you all in 2026!

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))

## **SPRING PARK HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION**

### **Soup Sale - Mitchell's Soups**

We still have soup available for purchase! Each bag is available for **\$12**, or you can save with a bundle of **3 for \$30**. Proceeds from this campaign will go directly toward supporting the Home and School Association initiatives.

- Classic Chicken and Herb
- Fully Loaded Potato
- Mexican Tortilla
- Old Fashioned Beef Barley
- Turkey Cranberry

Etransfers can be made to [springparkhsa@gmail.com](mailto:springparkhsa@gmail.com) with a note of:

- Soup order
- Child's name
- Child's class number

Reach out to us or send an etransfer with the above information and we'll be sure to send your soup order home with your child!

*\*While supplies last!*

### **Staff Appreciation - February**

February brings Staff Appreciation Week! If you're interested in helping celebrate and support our amazing staff, join us at the next Home and School meeting. If you can't make the meeting but still want to help, send us an email and we'll make sure to keep you informed of the plans and how you can help!

### **Breakfast Program – Volunteers & Donations Welcome!**

Our Breakfast Program continues to be a great success thanks to the wonderful support of our school community! If you're able to volunteer your time in person, we'd love to have you join us.

Can't make it in but still want to help out? You can **donate to the Breakfast Program** by simply clicking the **donation button when ordering Hot Lunches**. Every little bit helps keep our students fuelled for learning!

### **Don't Forget Your COSPEI Numbers!**

Our weekly **COSPEI draw** is a fun way to support the school — and the **jackpot can grow quickly!** Remember: if your numbers aren't played, you can't win. So be sure to play your numbers each week!

### **Next Meeting – January**

Join us for our next **Home and School meeting** that will be happening on **January 21 at 6:00 pm**.

- Our new Zone 5 School Board Trustees will be in attendance to do a short presentation.
- Children are welcome if you don't have childcare.
- Refreshments will be served!

We'd love to see new and familiar faces — come share your ideas, learn about upcoming events, and be part of what makes Spring Park so special.

Connect with us on Facebook, Instagram or send us an email at [springparkhsa@gmail.com](mailto:springparkhsa@gmail.com) anytime. We're here for parents, staff, and students.

Thank you for supporting Spring Park – your time, energy, and enthusiasm help make our school community strong and welcoming

## Community News

**Karate - 4 Week Program** - Beginner-friendly | All levels welcome | Build confidence, skill, and fun  
Whether you're a beginner or looking to try something new, our January classes are perfect for all ages.

Class Schedule:

Wednesdays – West Kent Elementary School

6:00–6:45 PM – Little Dragons (Kindergarten – Grade 3)

7:00–8:00 PM – Little Ninjas (Grade 4 – Grade 6)

Thursdays – Buenos Island Studio - 135 Great George Street

4:30–5:30 PM – Little Ninjas

Fee: \$75 [karatewithaoife@gmail.com](mailto:karatewithaoife@gmail.com) [www.karatewithaoife.com](http://www.karatewithaoife.com)

## Home and School Newsletter, January 2026

### **2026 Extra Mile Awards for Teachers/Staff**

Local Home and School Associations can consider nominating a school teacher/staff person for going the "extra mile" for students. The Federation is accepting nominations until **Jan. 16**. Find criteria and application at: <https://peihsf.ca/extra-mile-award/>

### **Resolutions drive real change**

Together, parents and educators in Home and School help shape P.E.I.'s public education system through advocacy resolutions presented at the provincial Annual General Meeting. Resolutions serve as the single most important tool Home and School uses to influence change, with approved ones forwarded to the government requesting consideration of improvements that benefit all island students.

**Key Impacts:** Resolutions request collective action on pressing issues like inclusive education, anti-bullying, equity, and resource needs, uniting parent and teacher voices to foster policy shifts.

**Guidelines:** Identify issues through discussions with local parents and teachers, then follow guidelines and examples at [www.peihsf.ca/resolutions](http://www.peihsf.ca/resolutions) for writing and presenting clear, actionable resolutions.

**Deadline:** The submission deadline is Jan. 31. If you need help, contact the Federation office at [peihsf@gov.pe.ca](mailto:peihsf@gov.pe.ca) / 902-620-3186.

### **President's Annual Reports 2025-26**

Home and School Presidents are asked to submit their 2024-2025 annual reports to the Federation office by **Feb. 28**. Jeana MacIsaac, Office Assistant, will send last year's reports to each president in early January. All reports will be compiled in the Federation's Annual Book of Reports with copies distributed at the AGM and posted at <https://peihsf.ca/agm/>.

### **School Staff Appreciation Week, February 8-14**

School Staff Appreciation Week is an opportunity for parents and students to recognize the dedication and hard work of school staff: teachers, administrative support, educational assistants, and custodians. Set up a small committee to brainstorm ways the school community can thank school staff. Keep plans simple!

### **AGM & Convention, Rodd Charlottetown Hotel**

Our 73rd AGM will be held on **Saturday, April 18, 2026**. Ask parents and teachers to volunteer to attend and represent your local Home and School Association. Home & School Associations are urged to pay for delegates' expenses (i.e., registration fee, gas, and hotel room). Book your hotel room Call the Rodd Charlottetown hotel to book rooms at:

Each local may send up to five voting members, but can sponsor as many as would like to attend. Registration details will be available in February, posted at: <http://peihsf.ca/agm>

### **Federation Board Nominations**

Leading up to the AGM, the PEI Home and School Federation will be seeking nominations for the positions: President, Vice President, and Directors for Charlottetown Rural, Colonel Gray, Kinkora, Montague, and Morell 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.

## [Help make resolutions reality: P.E.I. Home and School Federation helps create safe spaces for learning](#)

Every New Year, we make resolutions we hope will change our lives. On Prince Edward Island, there is a quieter kind of resolution that changes children's lives – resolutions debated and passed each spring at the Home and School Federation's annual general meeting. These ten resolutions, drafted around kitchen tables and school gyms, have shaped everything from what children eat at lunch to how their personal data is protected online.

Over the past decade, [Home and School resolutions](#) proved that well-researched, community-driven ideas can become provincial policy. The clearest example is the [Healthy School Food Program](#), first advanced in a 2015 resolution calling for a universal free school lunch program. That single idea sparked a sustained advocacy effort that helped lead to the creation of the non-profit PEI School Food Program Inc., which served 886,625 meals in [Public Schools Branch](#) schools in 2024–25 and was highlighted in both the Premier's throne speech and ministerial mandate letters.

Other resolutions moved just as quickly.

### **PROTECTING SCHOOL CHILDREN**

In 2024, Home and School members raised alarm about [children's screen time](#), pointing out that PEI youth were averaging eight hours of screen use per day, four times the national recommendations. A resolution calling for a policy on screen use in primary schools prompted the Chief Public Health Office to endorse the initiative and the Department of Education and Early Years to begin developing guidelines for student screen time in classrooms, turning a parental concern into concrete policy within a year.

In 2025, a very different kind of crisis galvanized families: the major [PowerSchool cybersecurity incident](#) exposed sensitive records for more than 70,000 islanders. A resolution on protecting student, parent, and teacher personal data demanded mandatory technical safeguards like encryption and multi-factor authentication, penalties for non-compliance, data minimization, and stricter vetting of third-party providers against federal privacy standards. By insisting that lessons be learned from a painful breach, parents signaled that digital safety and trust in public systems are now central to children's well-being.

### **EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**

Some victories are about life-and-death preparedness. A [2016 resolution asked the government to fund automated external defibrillators \(AEDs\)](#) in all Island schools, recognizing that early access to an AED can be the difference between life and death in a cardiac emergency. When the province later announced funding to place these devices in schools, the Federation rightly pointed to that resolution as a catalyst for a safety investment that benefits students, staff, and the wider community that uses school facilities.

Other resolutions have tackled the very structure of the education system. In 2018, members called for a revision of the [Education Act and a return to an elected school board](#), arguing that a system run by appointed members lacked democratic accountability. While the government initially declined the idea, by December 2020 the province committed to reinstating school boards with elected representatives, demonstrating how persistent, principled advocacy works. Health and safety inside school walls have also been front and center. After the troubled renovation of Three Oaks Senior High School, including the removal of asbestos without proper protocols and disruptions that shortened the school year, a [2019 resolution pressed for strict guidelines on school renovation and construction](#). It called for public consultation, safe hazardous material removal, air quality testing, and controls on noise, helping ensure that future projects protect both student health and learning time.

### **ONGOING RESOLUTIONS**

More recently, families have used resolutions to respond to daily realities in classrooms and online. A [2025 resolution on behaviour resource support](#) urged the Department to add at least 0.5 full-time equivalent student behaviour intervention positions to school staffing, drawing on the Positive Behaviour Intervention Supports model to create safer, calmer learning environments. Another 2025 resolution endorsed [Canada's proposed Online Harms Act \(Bill C-63\)](#), aligning PEI parents with a national push to hold social media companies accountable for reducing children's exposure to sexual exploitation and content that promotes self-harm.

Climate change and road safety have not been ignored. A [2024 resolution asked that extreme heat](#), defined using a Humidex over 35 degrees, be added to school cancellation criteria so that policies reflect new environmental risks to student health.

Ongoing resolutions on school bus safety, including a 2018 call for two license plates on all PEI vehicles to improve enforcement, reflect a long-standing commitment to making sure that the ride to and from school is as safe as the classroom itself. And in 2021, the Home and School Federation worked to improve [school bus safety](#) and heard concerns about vehicles continuing to pass parked buses as students enter and exit. The decision was made to bring key stakeholders together to discuss the issues and actions to prevent potential accidents.

### **CREATING CHANGE**

Taken together, these ten issues – food security, screen use, data protection, AEDs, democratic governance, safe renovations, behaviour supports, online harms, heat safety, and bus safety – show the quiet power of resolutions written by ordinary Islanders. They started as ideas in local Home and School meetings and grew into provincial programs, legal reforms, and system-wide practices that touch every child.

As January invites people to set personal goals for the year ahead, Home and School members across PEI are drafting a different kind of resolution: one they will bring to the [Federation's AGM in April](#). There, local resolutions will be debated, refined, and voted on, with the potential to become the next wave of change that improves education and well-being for all Island children.

If you have children in an island public school, you are a member of a local Home and School organization. Visit the [Home and School Federation website](#) and learn how to write an amazing resolution, present it to your local Home and School and submit it to the Federation to discuss at our [April AGM](#).

Will your resolution focus on solving bullying, child predators, funding for school playgrounds, best uses for AI? You can make the change you want to see for our children's future. Together we build better schools.