



Spring Park Newsletter Jan. 2025

Lynette MacKinnon- Principal

www.springpark.edu.pe.ca

Kate MacSwain - Acting 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:

Thursday Jan. 2 – PD Day (no classes)

Friday Jan. 3 - PD Day (no classes)

Monday Jan. 6 – First Instructional Day for students in 2025

Thursday, January 16 – Lockdown drill @ 9:00

Thursday, January 23 – Lockdown drill @ 10:40

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 for further details:

spsbreakfastprogram@gmail.com

Please note the breakfast program does not operate when there is a one-hour delay in the morning.

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. Check out Ocean 100.3 radio station.

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. This would mean that school will open at 9:20 for students.

Attendance

Parent and guardian power! 📌 Families play a huge role in ensuring students are in school and on time. Set a consistent morning routine to help your child be successful!

Lockdown drill

We will be practicing our lockdown drills this month. Classes will first practice on their own in their classrooms during the week of January 6th. Our first whole school practice will be on January 16th at 9:00 and our second practice will be on January 23 at 10:40. During lockdown, our school phones will not be answered and our doors will be locked. The lockdown drill will take approximately 15 minutes.

Staffing News

Congratulations to Mrs. Anne Ives on her retirement!
Ms. Kate MacSwain will be Acting Vice-Principal.
Welcome to Ms. Grace Druken who will be our new Behavior Resource Teacher.

Early School Closure Plan

All families have completed an early school closure plan in September or when they registered. There will be an email/text sent out to families letting them know about the early closure. It is important that your child knows what your plan is and that you follow the plan. We have limited personnel in the office who are able to respond to phone calls and parents coming into the office on early school closure days. Thank-you.

Kindness Month

This month, our school will be focusing on kindness. This is a great way to kick start the New Year. Students will participate in read aloud, writing activities and some special activities while promoting kindness.

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 Jan. 6-17 Orders will open Jan. 2 will close Jan. 6. 2 at 9am. Orders for Jan. 20 - 31 will open Jan. 16 and close Mon. Jan. 20 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
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

Kindergarten Registration

While registration for Kindergarten for the 2024-2025 school year wrapped up on November 24, families can still register their child by visiting the school office in person. Please be reminded that children must be 5 years old by December 31,2025, in order to be eligible for Kindergarten. Please bring a piece of Government issued ID verifying proof of child's age, such as a birth certificate, PEI health card or passport. Verification of home address must also be provided, such as a current utility bill.

Scent Policy

All schools in the Public Schools Branch follow a scent free policy.

[policy.https://psb.edu.pe.ca/sites/test-psb.edu.pe.ca/files/2022-05/604_Scented_Products_and_Fragrances.pdf](https://psb.edu.pe.ca/sites/test-psb.edu.pe.ca/files/2022-05/604_Scented_Products_and_Fragrances.pdf)

Please be cognizant of any scented deodorant, laundry, shampoo, and any other products that your child may be wearing to school. We want all our students and staff to stay healthy and well.

COACHS' CORNER

Gymnastics Club

The Gymnastics Club is for students in grades 5 & 6 and will begin following our Christmas break (the week of January 6th). Choosing to join the Gymnastics Club comes with a commitment as there will be practices on certain days at lunchtime recess. It is very important to attend practices as students must learn many different skills and a routine in order to be ready for our school meet. High Risk forms must be signed and returned in order to participate.

Important Competition dates

Spring Park School Meet (All students) - To be confirmed (Week of Jan 20th-24th)

Zone 3 Meet @ West Royalty (Qualifiers Only) –Wednesday, January 29th/

Storm Date: Thurs, Jan 30th

Provincials at Birchwood Intermediate School (Qualifiers Only) - Saturday, February 8th

*Please visit our Phys-Ed blog for any times, changes and information pertaining to our gymnastics program: <https://sites.google.com/cloud.edu.pe.ca/sps-physical-education/home>

If you have any questions email: Ms. Canning (kqcanning@edu.pe.ca) or Mr. Maddix (kjmaddix@edu.pe.ca)

Thank You!!

We would like to send out a 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. Your kindness does not go unnoticed and we do feel appreciated.

Thanks also to everyone who contributed gifts and time to the **Christmas Shoppe**. It was very rewarding to see so many happy students getting gifts for those they love. The volunteers were very generous with their time and it's so good to see a community at work.



Music News

Happy new year! We ended 2024 on a high note with wonderful performances from our grade 6 and 5/6 students, 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!

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!

Honour Choir

A select group of grade six students will soon be 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! These students will rehearse one recess per cycle and attend a special rehearsal day in March to prepare for a concert at the beginning of May.

Rock Band

Our rock bands have been chosen and will be getting into regular rehearsals in the new year. Information about the school rock showcase will be sent home with participants as soon as we get the date!

Rock Band Singer Auditions will take place at the end of January, all those who wish to audition should listen to the announcements for specific dates, times, and songs to sing for your audition!

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.

Community News

2025 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. 17, 2025**. Find criteria and application at: <https://peihsf.ca/extra-mile-award/>

Resolutions impact change

The Federation supports equal opportunity for all students and promotes this by approving pertinent resolutions at annual meetings. Resolutions are the single most important tool that Home and School can use to influence decision-makers in government and school boards. Approved resolutions are forwarded to decision-makers who can make changes for the benefit of all island students. Guidelines on how to write and present a resolution and examples of previously passed resolutions are available at www.peihsf.ca/resolutions. Discuss topics with local association parents and teachers and consider submitting a resolution. Deadline to submit resolutions is **Jan. 31, 2025**,

School Staff Appreciation Week, February 10-14, 2025

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!

Annual General Meeting Notice

The Prince Edward Island Home and School Federation will hold its 72nd Annual General Meeting (AGM) on **Saturday, April 12, 2025**. All Member Home and School Associations are invited to attend the AGM. Each Association is asked to designate five of your school's attendees as voting delegates. Registration details will be available in February and posted at: <http://peihsf.ca/agm>

PSB Consultation on Memorials and Grief Support in Schools

The Public Schools Branch is conducting a consultation to review a policy and procedure entitled "Memorials and Grief Support in Schools." Draft versions of the proposed documents have been made available for your review and participation in the Consultation Survey.

[Participate in the Consultation Survey](#) and [Memorials and Grief Support In Schools - Policy and Procedure Consultation.pdf](#)