October Newsletter 2026

Spring Park School

www.springpark.edu.pe.ca

Lynette MacKinnon- Principal **Michaela Stephan Vice-Principal**

Safe Arrival Line 902-569-7785
We have a Safe Arrival Line which parents/guardians can call before 9:00 AM.

Dates to remember

Oct. 8 – School Pictures K to Gr. 5
Oct. 9 – School Pictures Gr. 5/6Y and 6
Oct.12 – Thanksgiving (no classes)
Oct. 22 – Grade 2 & 3 concert
Nov. 5, 6 PEITF \ Annual Convention (no classes)
Nov. 11 Remembrance Day (no classes)
Nov.16 Teacher Administrative Day (no classes)
Mid Nov. – Picture Retakes (date not confirmed)
Nov. 27 Parent Teacher Interviews, PSB and CSLF K-12 (no classes)

Our Breakfast Program

Every school day, our Breakfast Program provides a healthy start to the day for 150+ students. From yogurt parfaits, muffins and fruit to smoothies, bagels and toast, we offer a variety of options to help ensure every student has access to breakfast when they need it. This important program is made possible by our amazing volunteers and the community members who help keep us stocked and running each morning.

- 150+ students served every school day.
- A variety of healthy breakfast options are available, along with snacks as needed.
- Volunteers make it possible, from preparing and serving food to keeping our supplies stocked.
- Provincial funding doesn't cover the full school year, so we rely on grants, donations and community partnerships to fill the gap.
- We need some extra support this year to keep this important program running.

Want to help? Donations can be made through the donation button on the school Hot Lunches page or by e-transfer. Have an idea for a fundraiser or partnership? We'd love to hear from you at springparkhsa@gmail.com.



Student Use of Personally Owned Mobily Devices in Schools

What is a personally owned mobile device? It is a personal mobile device that will store, retrieve, manipulate, transmit, or receive digital information, and for greater clarity could include a smartphone, tablet, laptop or smartwatch.

What is expected of students in K-grade 6? Students in grades K to 6 must store all such devices out of view, where they are not a distraction, either powered off or set to silent mode for the duration of the school day.

Please review these expectations with your child if they have a phone or a smartwatch. We would expect students to leave these devices in their backpacks for the school day.

Attendance

Regular attendance helps students build friendships, stay connected to learning, and develop the skills and confidence needed to succeed. We understand that families may face challenges that affect attendance, and schools are committed to partnering with families to support student success.

The Department of Education and Early Years has some helpful tips for regular attendance
https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/education-and-early-years/school-attendance

School Information Pages

We have moved the following information to our school website to allow for easier access to families. This link will take you to our school website, and you will be able to find the school calendar for the year, school hours, school lunch programs and how to access them as well as information about after school programs our students use.
https://springpark.edu.pe.ca/about/spring-park-school-information-pages

SPS Hot Lunch Program

Hot lunches are on a two-week cycle for dates Oct. 12 -23. Orders will open Thursday Oct. 8 and will close Mon. Oct. 12 @ 9:00 AM. Orders for Oct. 26 will open Thursday Oct. 22.

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

School Photos

We will be having our school photos on October 8 (K to Gr. 5 and all the cross country zone runners) and October 9 (Gr. 5/6Y – 6). Beginning this season, proofs will now be professionally printed directly at the studio and then shipped to the school, rather than being produced on-site during photo day. We will have a retake mid-November.

MUSIC NEWS

Our extracurricular choir and rock band programs will begin soon!

In the fall, our Grade 2-3 and Grade 4-6 choirs will be rehearsing Christmas and holiday music for our December performances (more details to follow). In January, we begin rehearsing our festival choir music for springtime! All are welcome to join the choir - rehearsals take place at lunchtime recess and once they sign up, students are expected to attend every rehearsal. We'll be happy to have you come and sing with us!

Any grade 6 students who would like to take part in the PEI Junior Honour Choir this year are asked to let Ms. Shea know of your interest! Up to 15 Spring Park grade 6 students are able to join this group of singers from schools across the Island to sing and learn together. We rehearse our parts here at Spring Park and then students will attend one group rehearsal day in the spring, followed by a concert day in April (dates to be confirmed). This is a wonderful opportunity to learn from some of the best choral teachers in PEI and to sing challenging music in a supportive setting!

Rock band instrument auditions will be taking place soon - students in grade 4-5-6 will be invited to audition on guitar, bass, keyboard, or drums. Vocal auditions for rock band singers will take place later in the year! Stay tuned for more info to follow.

Take note of our concert dates for this school year - Grade 2 and 3 are up first with their musical production of Grossbusters on October 22nd! Donations are gratefully accepted at the door in support of our music program.

Concert Dates 2026-2027

October 22 – Grade 2 and 3 Concert
November 10 – Grade 4 Remembrance Day
December 9 (storm date Dec 10) – Grade 1 Concert
January 27 (storm date Jan 28) – Grade 5 Concert
March 10 (storm date March 11) – Grade 6 Concert
May 3 – Music Monday Showcase
May 28 – Kindergarten Concert
June 24 – Grade 6 Closing

COACHES' CORNER

Cross-Country (Grades 3 to 6)
The Cross-Country Zone Meet will take place on Thursday, October 8th (Rain date: Friday Oct 9th) at Eliot River School. Students who qualify will be notified and receive more detailed information regarding the meet.
Students who qualify for the Zone Meet at Eliot River MUST also be available for the Cross-Country Provincials on Saturday, October 17th. If NOT available, please let us know ASAP. Students who also qualify for the Provincials will be notified and receive additional information!
If you have any question, please email Mr. Maddix (kjmaddix@edu.pe.ca) OR Ms. Canning (kgcanning@edu.pe.ca)

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Spring Park Home & School Association

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our first meeting of the year! It was wonderful to connect, share ideas, and start planning for another great year at Spring Park.
We know that **life is busy**, and not everyone can make every meeting. If you'd still like to help out, there are lots of ways to get involved! Keep an eye on our **Facebook page** for volunteer opportunities and calls for help or email us directly at **springparkhsa@gmail.com**. Every bit of support makes a difference!

Supporting Our School Community
This year, one of our main focuses will be **fundraising to support our school and the initiatives that benefit our students and staff**.
The Home & School Association supports the Spring Park community in many different ways throughout the year, including:

- 🌼 Coordinating the **Breakfast Program**
- 🧻 Supplying **hygiene kits** to students in need
- 🎵 Donating funds to support the **music department**
- 🤸 Supporting the **gym department**
- 👻 Organizing our **Spooktacular Bake Sale**
- ❤️ And many other initiatives that help make our school community stronger

This year, our available funds are lower than in previous years. We'd love to build our fundraising efforts so we can continue providing these important programs, resources, and experiences for our students and staff.
Have a Fundraising Idea? We'd love to hear from you!
Know a local business we could partner with? Send them our way!

Let's make connections, get creative, and keep our support of the school going strong!

🛒 **Coming Soon: Amazon Wishlist!**

We'll also be starting an **Amazon Wishlist** with items needed for our **Breakfast Program and additional support for students in need**.

This will be another easy way for families and community members to help out by purchasing items that are directly needed at the school.

Keep an eye on our Facebook page for the Wishlist link!

👻 **Spooktacular Is Coming!**

Spooktacular is happening **this month**, and once again we'll be putting out the call for baked goods for our **Bake Sale table**!

If you're able to contribute, please remember:

- 🧁 All items must be **nut-free**
- 📦 Items must be **individually packaged**
- 🛒 Don't have time to bake? **No worries! Store-bought treats are absolutely welcome.**

Every contribution helps make our Bake Sale a success!

💙 **Want to Help?**

Every donation, big or small, helps us continue these amazing initiatives for our students and staff.

If you're interested in supporting the Spring Park Home & School Association, donations can be sent by **e-transfer to springparkhsa@gmail.com**.

And remember, supporting us doesn't always mean attending a meeting or making a donation. Sharing an idea, connecting us with a local business, volunteering for an event, or sending along a much-needed item can all make a difference!

🗓️ **Save the Dates!**

Our meetings are set for the year — **add them to your calendar!**

All meetings will take place at **6:00 pm in the school library**.

- **November 18** — 6:00 pm
- **January 20** — 6:00 pm
- **April 7** — 6:00 pm
- **May 19** — 6:00 pm

Can't make a meeting? That's okay! If you have a **question, concern, idea, or suggestion**, please don't hesitate to reach out to us at **springparkhsa@gmail.com**.

Thank you to our families, staff, and community for your continued support. We're looking forward to a fantastic year together! 💙

Responsible Use Agreement Form

As Artificial Intelligence (AI) continues to evolve, we recognize the importance of addressing parent/guardian questions regarding its use in education and the safeguards that are in place for students. The Department of Education and Early Years recognizes both the opportunities and the responsibilities associated with the use of AI in schools.

The use of AI platforms in classrooms in PEI schools is not mandatory. Teachers continue to be responsible for planning instruction, assessing student learning, and determining when and how technology (including AI) can be appropriately incorporated into classroom activities.

The Department of Education and Early Years' approach is based on the principle that AI can be a tool to support learning. The goal is to help students develop the knowledge, skills, and critical thinking abilities needed to use these technologies appropriately, ethically, and effectively in an increasingly digital world. Google Gemini and Gemini Notebook have been approved for student use when logged into their @cloud.edu.pe.ca account. Using this account provides students with an extra layer of security and privacy because of provincial agreements with Google and Google's commitment to not use prompts or information from education accounts to train their models. Google does not have access or visibility of Gemini or Gemini Notebook use within our accounts. Student Google accounts are set to only provide content that is approved and safe for users under 18.

As with any educational resource, the use of AI by students is guided by teacher direction and age-appropriate expectations. Students who are permitted to use AI are expected to use AI responsibly, ethically, and in accordance with school and classroom guidelines. This includes understanding that AI-generated information may not always be accurate, and that students must continue to apply critical thinking, verify information, and demonstrate their own learning and understanding. Teachers are also expected to use AI responsibly and professionally. Teachers and school administrators will continue to

receive guidance regarding privacy, confidentiality, data protection, academic integrity, and appropriate instructional practices.

Any use of AI must comply with existing policies related to the sharing of student information, professional conduct, and educational standards. One of the reasons AI has been incorporated into the ICT form is to ensure that parents and students are informed that these technologies may be used in classrooms and that their use is subject to the same expectations for responsible digital citizenship that apply to other technologies used in schools. Through guidance, students are given the opportunity to use AI in different ways to support their learning. Teachers may or may not choose to use AI in their classrooms. Teachers will determine if and how students can use AI for their learning. Students in grades K - 3 do not use AI in their learning.

Home & School News, October 2026

🍎 Semi-Annual Meeting Registration is Open
Parents, school staff, and community members are invited to the Semi-Annual Meeting
Date: Tuesday, October 20, 2026
Time: 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Place: Gulf Shore Consolidated School, Rustico, PEI
TOPICS:
1. Compass Youth Health Survey Results 2025-26 by Cody Davenport
2. Home & School Networking = We want to hear from you! Local Home & Schools will lead discussions on topics:
A. Active Involvement & Relationship Building - Engagement, positive school culture, and strengthening the 'home' and the 'school' relationships
B. Breakfast & Snack Programs - Supporting students' well-being; engaging newcomers/volunteers
C. Fundraising & COSPEI - Effective strategies/alignment with COSPEI
REGISTER by Oct. 15, 2026. Use this Google Form link: https://forms.gle/DWTJ58p82CRNMZQ78

🍎 Training Workshops for Volunteers
Vicki Bryanton and Stephen Gould will lead Home and School Training Workshops as follows:

Tues., Oct. 6	Alberton Elementary School	6:00 – 7:30 pm
Mon., Nov. 2	Spring Park Elementary School	6:00 – 7:30 pm
Tues., Nov. 3	Souris Regional School	6:00 – 7:30 pm

All volunteer parents and teachers in your school are welcome to attend and learn helpful tips for executive roles (i.e., President, Co/Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer) and general information for all volunteers. No cost. Refreshments provided. Register by contacting Shirley at: ssmedleyjay @gov.pe.ca or 902-620-3186. Register for Alberton by Oct. 2nd. / Register for Spring Park & Souris by Oct. 28th.

🍎 Crossing Guard Recognition Award
Awards recognize deserving individuals in school communities. The P.E.I. Home and School Federation Crossing Guard Award celebrates individuals who help keep students safe every school day. Nominations are due Nov. 1. Find the application at: https://peihsf.ca/crossing-guard-award/

🍎 Parent Leadership Grants
Funds available for up to $500 for Home and Schools to organize parent educational information sessions. Invite speakers to address topics of interest to your school community (i.e., Mental Wellness, Cyberbullying Awareness, School Food Programs, Proper Use of Cell Phones). Submission deadline: Nov. 30. Grant Application and Speakers Resource: https://peihsf.ca/grants/

🍎 Update Local Home and School Contacts
Presidents: Use the Google Form to update this year's current Home & School executive contact details by Oct. 1st. (https://forms.gle/TB4W9WJuUndDeLPd6)
Treasurers: Submit 2026-2027 Membership fees to the Federation office by Oct. 15th.
E-transfers to: peihsf@gov.pe.ca Or mail a cheque to: PEIHSF PO Box 1012 Charlottetown PE C1A 7M4

🍎 Cyberbullying Workshops
Community Legal Information offers cyberbullying workshops for youth and for parents and caregivers. The workshops are to help prevent cyberbullying and support youth who may be experiencing it. Now that school is back, local Home and Schools may be interested in hosting a youth (12-17) or a parent/caregiver workshop.
The workshops include info about:
- Building language and understanding,
- Spotting the signs of cyberbullying,
- Learning about Canadian youth's online experiences and online spaces they access, Understanding luring and sexual extortion
- Understanding what the law says
- Supporting youth facing cyberbullying
- Using tools and resources for prevention and response
Book with Malak at: malak@legalinfopei.ca | 902-892-0853

Community News...

~ Building Bridges Workshop brings together individuals, organizations, community leaders, and service providers from across PEI to explore practical approaches to addressing hate, bias, and identity-based harm and to strengthen connections across our communities.
Workshop Details =
Date: Thursday, October 29, 2026
Time: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Location: Charlottetown Central Library
Reply to antiracisminfo@gov.pe.ca with your name and names of other attendees from your organization. Hosted by: Anti-Racism Office Executive Council Office Government of P.E.I.
~ Life after High School! Sessions to be held in the Charlottetown area on Oct 18th & 26th. Everyone who attends will leave with a university application checklist and a networking guide for beginners. Parents, teens, and educators are welcome to register. Tickets: $15 pp or $25 for a family. All the information is available at https://careerified.ca/life-after-high-school/.

Community News

Fall Indoor Soccer Programs

Delta Soccer's Fall Indoor Soccer programs start November 10th at the APM Centre Gym in Cornwall. Programs are available for kids ages 4 to 11. Each session blends fun play with age-appropriate learning, helping children build movement skills, confidence, and a love for the game. Registration opens October 13th. For more information please visit deltasoccer.ca or email joel@deltasoccer.ca.

1st Step Basketball

We're a player-run program. Our coaches are UPEI men's and women's varsity players, and everything we make goes back into the UPEI basketball program. We had over 100 players with us last spring across grades 3 through 9. Elementary and middle school run as separate groups with their own coaches, so the drills fit the age.

WINTER DEVELOPMENT CAMP (Grades 3–9)
Six Sundays: Nov 1 – Dec 6 — **$200**
12:30–4:00. Elementary and middle school in separate groups.

PANTHERS SEASON PROGRAM (Grades 3–9)
Twelve Sundays: Jan 10 – Apr 11 — **$300**
Our first full season. New format, three months of it.
Contact Grant: 905-808-1757 or 1ststepbball@gmail.com



SPACES AVAILABLE

Email: michelledalton@chancesfamily.ca