

VERNON RIVER CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL

Parent Newsletter #14

Tuesday, April 7, 2026

www.gov.pe.ca/edu/vrcs



Dave Wood, Principal

Lori Targett, Vice-Principal

Staffing Update: Daniel Roper, bus #431 has accepted a bus driver position at Belfast Consolidated School. A special thank you to Daniel for his excellent care for the students, in getting them to and from school safely everyday! We wish Daniel all the best at his new school!

Eileen Quinn was the successful candidate for bus #431 (effective April 13th). We would like to welcome Eileen to the Vernon River staff!

Student of the Month Awards for

March: Congratulations to the following students who received student of the month awards for March:

Finn Dayan
Lucy McGuigan
Bella Hakkers
Molly Hakkers
Korbin Meston
Denver MacRae
Eliza Richards
Rit Edgar
Micah Shaw
Griffin Winegarden
Sadie MacDonald
Lucas McQuillan
Riley Watts



Phys Ed: Ellie McCabe, L.J. Wilken
Music: Eliza Richards
Band: Sahib Singh
French: Sahib Singh
Readers of the Month: Levi Dicks,
Charlotte McDougall
Environment/Cleanest Classroom Award:
Grade 1 Class

February Awards: Riley Kelly, Tayla Webber

Used Book Sale: The library used book sale was a big success – a total of \$242 was raised. Thank you to everyone who purchased books/items 😊

UPEI Student Teacher: We would like to welcome Alauryn Dunn, UPEI pre-service teacher to VRCS, from March 23rd to April 24th. Ms. Dunn

will be doing her practicum with Kaitlin MacKenzie in kindergarten.

Holland College Human Services

Students: We would also like to welcome Karmyn Campbell and Amy Blair, Holland College Human Services students, to VRCS, from March 23rd to May 1st.

Welcome To Kindergarten: Children starting kindergarten in September 2026 and their parents are invited to the Welcome to Kindergarten session on Thursday, April 9th, 2026 from 4:15-5:15pm at Vernon River School.



No Classes: There will be no classes on Friday, April 10th (Professional Learning Day).

Grade 6 HPV Vaccination: Grade 6 students will receive their 2nd dose of the HPV vaccine on Monday, April 13th at 9:00am.

Pancake Breakfast: Vernon River Home and School will be holding a pancake breakfast on Friday, April 17th. Students are asked to please bring in a \$1 donation for Easter Seals.

Home and School Meeting: The next Home and School meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 21st at 6:00pm.

Easter Seals Ambassador Visit: The 2026 Easter Seals Ambassador, Rowan MacDonald, a grade 10 student at Colonel Gray High School, will visit Vernon River School on Thursday, April 23rd at 8:50am.

Student of the Month for April: Student of the month for April will be held on Thursday, April 30th at 2:15pm.

From the PEI Home and School

Federation:

Home and School Newsletter, April 2026

🍷 It's time to register for 73rd AGM & Conference

Please register your school and ensure it is represented at this meeting.

Bullying is being addressed by guest speaker Alain Pelletier at the AGM.

Date: Saturday, April 18, 2026

Time: 8:40 a.m. – 2:50 p.m.

Fee: \$40 per person

Place: Rodd Charlottetown Hotel, 75 Kent Street, Charlottetown

Conference Highlights: Theme: “*Stop Bullying. Start Belonging.*”

A.M. Keynote Speaker: Alain Pelletier “5 Faces of Bullying”

Workshop Topics:

1. Child Exploitation Unit
2. “5 Faces of Bullying”
3. Food, Finances & Fundamentals, etc.

Participation: This meeting is open to all parents and educators! While each member school is limited to five (5) voting delegates, more than 5 people can register to attend from each school. *The greater the attendance, the richer the discussions.*

REGISTER by early deadline April 1st at:

<https://peihsf.ca/agm/>

PEI Home and School Federation contact information: 902-620-3186 | peihsf@gov.pe.ca

🍷 Review 2026 Proposed Resolutions before the AGM

Resolutions submitted by local Home and School Associations will be discussed and voted on at the Annual General Meeting on April 18. Please ensure your voting delegates (parents and educators) review these resolutions in advance so they come to the meeting ready to vote.

The proposed resolutions include:

2026-01 = Integrating Playground Equipment into the Provincial Capital Budget

2026-02 = Increase Psycho-Educational Assessment Capacity for School-Aged Children in Prince Edward Island

2026-03 = Repeal Section 43 and Prohibit Corporal Punishment of Children

2026-04 = Urging Compliance with PEI Teacher Librarian Directive (Md 2025-05) By Hiring A Provincial Teacher-Librarian Leader

Find proposed resolutions online:

<https://peihsf.ca/agm/>

🍷 School Bus Driver Award

The PEI Home and School Federation’s School Bus Driver of the Year Award celebrates the dedicated bus drivers who help keep PEI’s students safe every day as they travel to and from school. Nominations for the 2026 award are now open! Submit your nomination by May 8, 2026.

🍷 National Volunteer Week, April 19-25, 2026. Ignite Volunteerism: A year-long, nation-

building celebration. We will celebrate how people in Canada have ignited volunteerism in their communities to deepen our collective impact. Visit: <https://ivy26.ca/> for resources

🍷 PSB School Board Trustee Reports

Congratulations to the Public Schools Branch Board of Trustees' new Chair, Andrew MacFarlane, and Vice-Chair, Karen Clare, who assumed their one-year roles on March 13, 2026.

Westisle (Zone 1)

Andrew Avery, Zone 1 Trustee for the PSB, has been working to meet all 9 schools in the Westisle Family of Schools since his Feb. 9 by-election win by acclamation. The primary concern across all schools is the need for more support staff, particularly teachers and educational assistants. The shortage of trained EAs is expected to worsen for the 2026-2027 school year, and Avery will advocate for addressing this in upcoming PSB budgets. On Feb 10, Hon. David Jenkins released a report on Student Safety in Island Schools with recommendations to ensure safe learning environments. Avery expressed concerns about the by-election process, which relied solely on mail-in ballots with a tight timeline, and plans to request a full review to establish the proper Election Day, in-person voting stations for 2028. He encourages community members to volunteer for school breakfast programs, noting that students who eat breakfast are more focused learners. Tignish Elementary Principal, Mike Ellsworth, received the 2026 Doug MacDougall Inspire Award for his dedication and positive impact on students and staff. *Andrew Avery* (andrewavery@edu.pe.ca)

Bluefield (Zone 4)

I’ve been able to meet some Home and School Associations in my zone and will schedule more meetings soon! In the meantime, I encourage people to reach out to me with any concerns or questions. I’m also looking forward to attending the AGM on April 18 and having great conversations with Home and School Association members. I’ve attended this AGM several times and have always found these meetings to be both informative and an excellent opportunity to network. *Karen* (kclare@edu.pe.ca)

Charlottetown (Zone 5)

With the warmer days of April bringing energy and smiles to everyone, we’re excited by the prospect of joining one of your upcoming Home and School Association Zone 5 meetings. We’d also be thrilled to lend a hand with any student events you have in the works for May. Supporting the fun and learning that make our schools so special is important to us. In March, we had the pleasure of attending the awarding of the “Extra Mile” award to Mrs. Jill Burry of Stonepark Intermediate School. The affection and respect the students and educators displayed for Mrs. Burry were truly inspiring. It was a privilege to be asked to participate in this ceremony, and congratulations again, Mrs. Burry! Public School Board meeting minutes are available in the Board of Trustees section of the Public Schools Branch website. Kindest regards & Happy Easter to All! *Andrew* (amacfarlane@edu.pe.ca) & *Gaylene* (gcarragher@edu.pe.ca)