



Vernon River Consolidated School
Parent Newsletter #1 – Wednesday, September 11th, 2024

www.gov.pe.ca/edu/vrcs

Phone: 902-651-8520

David Wood, Principal

Lori Targett, Vice-Principal

Message from Mr. Wood: We would like to take the opportunity to welcome everyone back to a brand new school year. You may have heard from your children that we have undergone quite a few renovations at the school over the summer. Some of them are still just being finished up. We have a brand new ventilation system that has been installed in the school. We were one of the few schools who did not have a proper mechanical ventilation system in the school building and the provincial government made it a priority to ensure that we could provide a healthy environment for our children. The improved air flow will allow us to be able to have the air circulated much more effectively which will allow us to keep the air more fresh. Also, we had a new gym floor installed. The old gym floor had a number of issues that needed to be addressed so we had a new floor installed and lines painted. Due to the timelines for this project we haven't been able to use the gym yet, we should be back in the gym later this week. And finally, we are having our water system upgraded as well. The new upgrades will provide an extra level of filtration which ensures that we will maintain our access to the safest drinking water for years to come. This water system should be online by next week, up until that time we will continue to provide water coolers for our students to fill their water bottles.

Staffing Update: Welcome to the following new staff members:

Robyn MacDougald (Grade 8 Science)
Monique Visser (Educational Assistant)
Jackie Walker (Educational Assistant)



Thank You: A huge thank you to our custodial staff for all of their work over the summer getting the school ready for students and staff. The school looks amazing! We appreciate your effort and hard work – thank you!

Student Allergies: This year we have students who have some severe and some life-threatening allergies to peanuts, cashews, pistachios and dogs. **We just got word today that a child in our kindergarten class has been tested and the results have come back as a severe allergy to peanuts with an epi-pen required. Our school will have to be a PEANUT FREE ZONE.** Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Attendance: We have been asked by the Public Schools Branch to include the following in our first newsletter...

For the 2024/2025 school year, there is a renewed emphasis on the critical importance of regular attendance and punctuality in your child's time in school. Our school, along with all schools across PEI, is placing a strong focus on accurately tracking attendance data and actively engaging with students who experience frequent absences or tardiness. Consistent attendance and attention are key to academic success, and it starts as early as students in kindergarten. We will be working hard to provide an engaging and welcoming space for students to come each day and need support from you in reinforcing the value of being present and on time each day. In the 2023/2024 school year, **5,980 of 20,747 students in Public Schools Branch schools have missed 10% or more of total school days**, that's

approximately 18 school days, and it can have a lasting impact on their academic success. To help understand how our school is doing, each month we'll include PSB data in our newsletter with hopes to see improvement throughout this school year.

Attendance: To allow teachers to keep up-to-date attendance in PowerSchool, we require parents to please notify the school when their child will not be in school. Parents may send an email to your child's teacher or call the school @ 651-8520.

Meet TheTeacher: Meet the teacher evening will be held on **Tuesday, September 17th from 6-7pm.** Teachers will send home more information regarding this; please check your emails.

Home and School Meeting: The first Home and School meeting of the school year will be held on Tuesday, September 17th from 7-8pm. Childcare will be available.

Student Drop Off/Pick Up: Reminder that students should not be dropped off prior to 8:20am since no supervision is provided before that time. When students are dropped off, they are to wait in the front lobby until they are permitted into the classroom area.

If your child(ren) is being picked up before the end of the day, please send a note to the homeroom teacher. Please come into the school to notify us that you are here and ready to pick up your child. Helen will then page your child to come to the front lobby. A note is also required if you are picking your child(ren) up at the end of the day.

Again this year, bus passes will be granted to students to travel on alternate buses for child care purposes only. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this, please email Mr. Wood dawood@edu.pe.ca or Ms. Targett at latargett@edu.pe.ca

School Schedule: Buses and students arrive at 8:35am. A morning bell will ring at 8:40am followed by O'Canada and morning announcements. At 8:45am all regular classes will begin. We will be operating on a six day cycle for both elementary and junior high.

Elementary Schedule

8:35 -8:45	Homeroom
8:45-9:15	Period 1
9:15-9:45	Period 2
9:45-10:15	Period 3
10:15-10:30	Snack
10:30-11:00	Period 4
11:00-11:30	Period 5
11:35-12:00	Outside/Break
12:00-12:25	Lunch
12:25-12:55	Period 6
12:55-1:25	Period 7
1:25-1:45	Outside/Break
1:45-2:15	Period 8
2:15-2:45	Period 9
2:45-2:55	Pack Up
2:55	Dismissal Bell

Intermediate Schedule

8:35-8:45	Homeroom
8:45-9:45	Period 1
9:45-10:45	Period 2
10:45-11:45	Period 3
11:45-12:00	Lunch
12:00-12:25	Outside/Break
12:25-1:25	Period 4
1:25-1:45	Homeroom
1:45-2:45	Period 5
2:45-2:55	Pack Up
2:55	Dismissal Bell

End of the Day (Bicycles): At the end of the day, students with bicycles cannot leave until the buses are dismissed and out of the parking lot. They must also supply a note (one note will do at the beginning of the school year) advising their teacher that they will be taking their bicycles to and from school.

Bus Information: The following is a list of buses at Vernon River Consolidated School:

Bus #486 (temporary)	Mary O'Donnell
Bus #425	Judy Mclsaac
Bus #431	Daniel Roper
Bus #402	Johanne Ings



School Newsletters: School newsletters, calendars and any other notices will be emailed to the address provided by parents. These will also be posted to the school's website (www.gov.pe.ca/edu/vrcs).

Milk: White and chocolate milk will be available each day, in both the small and large sizes.
Parents are asked to please send in the exact change for milk – thank you!



White: (Small) 237 ml - 55 cents* **Chocolate:** (Small) 237 ml - \$1.00
(Large) 473 ml - 80 cents (Large) 473 ml - \$1.50

*Please note price increase for small white milk this year.

Free Small White Milk for Kindergarten Students (September 9th to 27th): The Dairy Farmers of PEI and ADL will be offering complimentary milk to our kindergarten students during the weeks of September 9 through September 27 (3 full weeks)! This program is designed to encourage healthy eating habits and to support our young learners in their growth and learning journey. Each child will receive a serving of small white milk during lunch time! (Sorry, chocolate milk is not available for this program.)

Ice Cream: For the month of September ice cream products will be sold every Thursday – \$1.50 per item. This is a fundraiser for the grade 9 end of year activities. Please note: We are trying to secure a provider for ice cream products, effective October 1st (ADL will no longer be offering these products/service after that date).



Terry Fox Run: On Friday, September 20th from 2:00–2:30pm students in K to 6 and staff at VRCS will be walking/running the perimeter of the school field to recognize and celebrate Terry Fox's efforts in raising money for cancer research. Parents, guardians and members of the community are invited to join us for this important event. Please meet in the lobby prior to the start of the run.

Grade 7/8/9 students will be walking/running the Confederation Trail, from Robbins Rd to Glencoe Rd in the morning, before going to Montague Intermediate School.

We are asking each student to please bring in a toonie to donate to cancer research, if possible. Thank you for your support!

PEI School Food Program Inc.: 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 find attached a brochure outlining details about the program.

No Classes – September 23rd and 30th: There will be no classes on Monday, September 23rd (Professional Learning/School Goals Day) and Monday, September 30th (National Day for Truth and Reconciliation).

From the PEI Home and School Federation:
Home & School News, September 2024

🚗 Drive slowly! Watch for students on the road

Another school year begins Sept. 5th. Students will walk, cycle, or ride to school on a bus or in their family cars. This is a strategic time to remind all motorists that children can get to school and back home safely with awareness and education. Which school does your child attend? Can they ride a bus? Find out more on the Public Schools Branch's [School Bus Planner](#).

🗳 Update your Local Home and School Contacts

Are you still the President? Treasurer? If not, send current contact info to the Federation office.

Presidents - Submit the local Home & School Association contact details using the new Google Form. Click here: [Home and School Association Contacts](#). **Treasurers** - Submit 2024-2025 Membership fees to the PEIHSF office by November 1st. Send e-transfers to peihsf@gov.pe.ca OR mail a cheque to PEIHSF PO Box 1012 Charlottetown PE C1A 7M4

🗳 "Meet the Teacher"

"Meet the Teacher" evening sessions are planned for parents to meet their child's teacher and teachers to meet parents at the beginning of the school year. It's an informal opportunity to chat, say hi, and become acquainted with your child's teacher. Find the date/time on your child's school website.

👂 What is Home and School's role in education? Is there volunteer training available?

Experienced facilitators **Vicki Bryanton and Stephen Gould** will lead Volunteer Training Workshops as follows:

Monday, Nov. 4, Ellerslie Elementary School, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 5, Eliot River Elementary School, 6:30 p.m.

Register by email: ssmedleyjay@gov.pe.ca By: November 1st/2024

These sessions will equip you with practical knowledge of how volunteers can effectively collaborate with school staff and support their school, benefiting all students!

👂 What's on your Home and School agenda?

- Meet with the principal in September and discuss setting goals for the 2024-2025 school year.
- **PEI Dept. of Education's updated Cell Phone Use Policy** - https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/publications/md_2024-06_responsible_use_agreement_cit.pdf
- **Inclusive Education Model Background Report** completed November 2023: https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/publications/better_together_report.pdf
- **Inclusive Education Action Plan:** https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/publications/inclusive_education_action_plan_en.pdf
- Brainstorm collaborative ways to support the school
- Circulate PEI Home and School Federation monthly news articles
- Inform parents about provincial announcements applicable to student learning and supports
- Establish a purpose for fundraising initiatives. Finalize with a Motion and Vote to approve. Is there a need to fundraise this year?

REMEMBER: Everything parents and teachers do benefits PEI students' education and well-being!

Vernon River Community School: Registration and information night will be held on Monday, September 16th from 7-8 pm at Vernon River School
First Class: Monday, September 23rd from 7-9 pm.
Registration Fee: \$20 – additional fees for some classes.

For more information, email bwichers@hotmail.ca or call Geraldine at 902-651-2562.

