



Vernon River Consolidated School
Parent Newsletter #1 – Wednesday, September 9th, 2026
<https://vernonriver.edu.pe.ca/>
Phone: 902-651-8520

Chrissy Appleby, Principal

Lori Targett, Vice-Principal

Message from Ms. Appleby: Welcome to the new school year! I'm thrilled to join Vernon River Consolidated, as your new principal. I would also like to welcome Rachel Price (Grade 7), Kirsten Smith (Grade 8) and Nancy O'Brien (evening custodian) to our team. From welcoming our youngest Kindergarten students to guiding our older students up through 9th grade, I'm excited to work alongside our teachers, families, and students. Please wave or say hello when you see me around—I look forward to meeting you all. It's going to be a great year!



Thank You: A big thank you to our custodial staff, Shannon and Nancy, 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!

Calendars

Our [September Calendar](#) highlights some of the exciting things happening in the building this month.

We have many dates already selected for important events throughout the year. Check out [Vernon River's School Calendar](#) to help you stay organized!

Student Allergies: This year we have students who have life-threatening allergies to peanuts, cashews, pistachios - as well as allergies to pollen, cats, dogs, horses and dust mites. Therefore, the following is in place at Vernon River Consolidated:

- *No nut products in the school
- *Nut free bake sales
- *No pets/livestock in the school

Bus Safety Tips from the Public Schools Branch: Please note the following bus safety tips from the Public Schools Branch:

- Be at your stop **5 minutes before** it is scheduled to arrive
- Wait for bus to come to a **complete stop** and have its **RED** lights flashing
- If you have to cross the road, **establish eye contact** with driver
- **Wait for the driver to beckon you** to cross to road
- **Always look both ways** before entering any roadway
- When safe to do so, **walk at a brisk pace**
- Always cross the road in **FRONT** of the bus
- If you hear the **bus horn**, get off the road immediately
- Absolutely no headphones, cell phones, or other **distractions** during the process
- **Stay focused** until safely seated (or safely off the roadway when disembarking)

School Doors Locked: Effective immediately, all school doors will be locked from 9:00am until 2:30pm. Students, parents, and visitors arriving during this time will need to use the buzzer to the far right at the front entrance, in order to enter the school.

Join Us for a Special Afternoon of Community & Celebration!

Mark your calendars for **Friday, September 25th at 1:00 PM in our Gymnasium!** We are combining four exciting events into one incredible afternoon, and we can't wait to celebrate with our school family. Here is what we have planned:

- **Student of the Month:** Each month we gather in the gym to celebrate some of our VRCS students with a special presentation.
- **Terry Fox Walk:** Walk alongside our students and staff as we honor Terry Fox's incredible legacy, raise awareness, and support cancer research. Dress for the weather; we go out even if it rains!
- **Grand Opening of Our New Community Walking Track:** Help us officially thank our generous sponsors, cut the ribbon and take our first steps on our brand-new walking track!
- **Meet the Staff:** Get to know the teachers, educational assistants, and support team who are dedicated to guiding and supporting your children this year.

We encourage all students and attending family members to show off their school pride by wearing **School Spirit Wear or school colors.**

We look forward to seeing you there to walk, connect, and celebrate together!

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 their child's teacher or call the school @ 651-8520.

Home and School Meeting: The first Home and School meeting of the school year will be held on Tuesday, September 22nd at 6:00pm, 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 during the day, please send a note/email 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/email 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 Ms. Appleby at clappleby@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. End of the day bell is at 2:45pm, with the dismissal bell at 2:55pm.

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

Bus #425 - Judy McIsaac
Bus #431 - Eileen Quinn

Bus #462 - Mary O'Donnell
Bus #474 - 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
(Large) 473 ml - 90 cents

Chocolate: (Small) 237 ml - \$1.00
(Large) 473 ml - \$1.50



Free Small White Milk for Kindergarten Students (September 14th to October 2nd): The Dairy Farmers of PEI and ADL will be offering complimentary small white milk to the kindergarten students for the first three full weeks of school, from September 14 through until October 2, 2026, inclusive. This program is designed to encourage healthy eating habits and to support our young learners in their growth and learning journey. Each kindergarten student will receive a 237ml serving of white milk during lunch time!

Ice Cream: Ice cream products will be sold every Thursday – \$1.50 per item. This is a fundraiser for the grade 9 end of year activities.

Grade 6 and Grade 9 Immunizations: Grade 6 and grade 9 immunizations are scheduled for Monday, October 5th (morning). This year Health PEI is will be using a virtual consent for the vaccines. Vaccine information or consent forms will not be sent home. Parents can expect a text/email at **9:00am on Tuesday, September 15th**. If for some reason a parent is unable to access or complete the virtual consent, Public Health nurses are able to do telephone consents.

From the PEI Home & School Federation:

Home & School News, September 2026

📌 Watch for students on the road

A new school year means that children walk, cycle, or ride a bus to school or travel in their family cars. Passing school buses with red lights flashing is a persistent issue reported by bus drivers across the province. Drivers are reminded to focus on school bus safety as students return to class. A new government campaign encourages parents and educators to talk to children about bus stop safety -arriving early, staying back from the road, looking both ways, and waiting for a signal from the driver before crossing the road. To learn more about school bus safety and the rules of the road, [visit School Bus Safety](#).

📌 Update Home and School Contacts

Attention Presidents: Use the Google Form to update this year's current Home & School executive contact details by Oct. 1st. (<https://forms.gle/TB4W9WJuUndDeLPd6>)

Attention Treasurers: Submit 2026-2027 Membership fees to the Federation office by Oct. 15th. E-transfers to: peihsf@gov.pe.ca or mail cheques to: PEIHSF PO Box 1012 Charlottetown PE C1A 7M4

📌 Semi-Annual Meeting

Date/Time: Tuesday, October 20, 2026, 6:00 – 8:00 PM

Place: Gulf Shore Consolidated School, 185 Hilltop Avenue, North Rustico, PEI

Topics: 1. Youth Health Survey 2025-26 Results = reported by nearly 8,000 PEI students
2. Home & School Networking

***Registration details to follow.

📌 Executive/Volunteer Training

Experienced facilitators Vicki Bryanton and Stephen Gould will lead Volunteer Training Workshops. These will focus on equipping new and returning Home and School volunteers with the practical knowledge needed to collaborate effectively with school staff and support their school, benefiting all students. Details include:

Monday, Nov 2	Spring Park School, 6 – 8 p.m.
Tuesday, Nov. 3	Souris School, 6 – 8 p.m.
Nov. TBD	Alberton School, 6 – 8 p.m.

***Registration details to follow.

📌 What's on your first Local Home and School Meeting's Sept./Oct. agenda?

- **Add details from this September Newsletter.**
- **Meet your principal** = discuss setting goals for the 2026-2027 school year.
- **Welcome new parents to meetings.**
- **Code of Conduct** = Do you understand your responsibilities, your child's, and your school's responsibilities regarding a code of conduct? Ask your principal for details.
- **Cell Phone Use = Review Minister's Directive**
- **Brainstorm** = Find ways to support your child's school.
- **Fundraising = What is the purpose for raising funds this year?** Develop a proposed budget for this school year's initiatives - ask for a motion to approve the budget, ask for a mover/second, and write it into the minutes. Your fundraising committee can now proceed with support from the local Home and School. Motions are required for all financial decisions.

- Next Meeting of the Public Schools Branch Board of Trustees: Thursday, September 10, 2026, 7:30 PM, Montague Intermediate School. More details at: <https://psb.edu.pe.ca/about-us/board-of-trustees>

 Canada's national tipline for reporting the online sexual exploitation of children.

***Report *Child Sexual Abuse *Online Harms *Research *Campaigns & Media**

Cybertip.ca offers a unique lens into new online risks for children and youth. Follow the link to sign up for important info about current trends and emerging technology concerns to help keep your family safe.

Click here: [Cybertip!.ca](https://cybertip.ca)

 Back-to-school vaccination reminder

Parents or guardians can contact a local Public Health Nursing office to have their child's immunization record reviewed and to schedule any missed vaccinations. Families are also encouraged to receive recommended seasonal vaccines, including influenza and COVID-19 vaccines, when they become available this fall. More information is available at [Childhood Immunizations](#).

 When parents and teachers communicate with each other, they can collaborate and share ideas from different perspectives in the best interest of the student's development and success.

Other community news...

~~Dairy Farmers of Canada's Registered Dietitians = For access to ready-to-use food and nutrition resources developed by Dairy Farmers of Canada's Registered Dietitians, go to [TeachNutrition.ca](https://teachnutrition.ca). See a catalogue of free resources available in English and French for parents and educators.

Community Events...

Vernon River Community School: Registration and information night will be held on Monday, September 21st from 7-8 pm at Vernon River School. The first class will be on Monday, September 28th from 7-9 pm. Registration fee is \$20 – additional fees for some classes. Open to ages 16 years and over.

Courses being offered include:	Rug Hooking	Knitting/Crocheting
	Crafts (Limit 10)	Game-A-Night
	Pickleball (Limit 16)	Scenery Painting (Limit 10)
	Embroidery	Kitchen Jam Party
	Line Dancing	Island Nature Talks
	Hand Sewed Ornaments (Limit 8)	Mindfulness
	Advanced Texas Holdum-Poker (Limit 15)	

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

1st Step Basketball – Sunday Youth Camps at UPEI: UPEI is offering several camps that may be of interest to families: [1st Step Basketball](#), a Sunday skills camp for grades 3-9 runs the entire school year at the UPEI Sports Centre. [Fall Skills Camp](#) and [Winter Development Camp](#) are two other programs that students may enjoy.

Down East Dance Academy – Fall Registration: Registration is now open for our 2026–2027 dance season! We offer recreational classes for a variety of ages and experience levels, including Ballet, Jazz, Tap, AcroDance, Hip Hop, Contemporary and more. Classes begin September 10th, and spaces are already filling. Join us for a fun and encouraging season of dance!

To view our schedule and register, visit www.downeastdance.ca.

For more information, call **902-932-3427**.

Belfast Celtic Festival Highland Games:

Friday Sept. 11th: Ross Family Ceilidh at St. John's Presbyterian Church, Belfast (tickets available at the door or at Cooper's red & White)

Saturday Sept. 12th

9.00 – 10.00 Young Bairns Challenge in honor of Jacob Simmons

10.00- 10.30 College of Piping Highland Dancers

10.30 - 11.00 Bagpiper Callum MacLaine

10.45 – Ed MacDonald will be speaking in the Old Church of Scotland

11.00 - 11.30 Sam's School of Dance Step Dancers

11.30 – 12.00 Norman Stewart & Courtney Hogan Chandler

12.00 – 12.30 Opening Ceremonies

12.30 – 1.00 Belfast Pipe & Drum Band

1.00 - Scottish Heavy Events (international competitors including some of Canada's top throwers in are coming to this event. This will be a great show, not to be missed!)

2.00 – 3.00 HERE WE GO Barndance with Ward MacDonald & friends

Sunday Sept. 13th

8.30 am Registration for the 5K Annual Tartan Fun Run/ 1K walk

2.30 Highland Games Church Service in the Old Church of Scotland