**Pine Ridge Middle School**

**Newsletter**

**OCTOBER 2017**

**Panther Pride Winners**

- Grade 6
  - Isaac Veinot
  - Khloie Wentzell
  - Brady Sanford
  - Lauren Laxamana
  - Kenzie MacNeil

- Grade 7
  - Sam Brown
  - Savannah Martin
  - Brandon Bushell
  - Oscar Thompson
  - Devon Chalifoux

- Grade 8
  - Juliana Fanning
  - Emma Joyce
  - Genna Sweeney
  - Tacoma Grant
  - Chloe White
  - Tyler Carroll
  - Kaleb Henshaw

**Important Dates**

- Oct 5 — Grade 6 Camp
- Oct 6 — Spirit Day — Wear green: Panther’s Pride
- Oct 9 — Thanksgiving — No school
- October 10
  - Photo Retakes
  - Grade 6 ELA Assessments
- October 11 — Grade 6 ELA Assessments
- October 16
  - Fundraiser begins
  - Grade 6 Math Assessment
- October 17
  - Grade 6 Math Assessment
  - Early Dismissal — 12:20 pm
- October 23 — Home & School — 6:30 pm
- Oct 26 — Fundraiser ends
- Oct 27 — Provincial Inservice (no school)
- Oct 31 — Fundraiser orders due

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**School Fundraiser**

**Order Your Fresh Farm Box**
- Partner is Sawler Gardens, Berwick

**Order and Pre-pay October 16-27th**

Pick-up at Pine Ridge on Wed, November 8th

Nourish Nova Scotia’s Nourish Your Roots healthy fundraiser supports healthy food programs and initiatives at Pine Ridge Middle School.

**Nourish Nova Scotia**

Selling for $30, each farm box will include a variety of fresh Nova Scotia produce, focusing on root vegetables and may include fruit.

All orders/money must be returned to by Oct 31st. Cheques should be made out to PRMS.

Envelopes will be sent home next week, and students use the envelope provided to track orders and collect money.

For more information, please visit nourishns.ca/nourish-your-roots
Exciting News...

PRMS Home and School will be hosting the first ever PRMS Christmas Shopping Expo. Mark November 25th on your calendars and come out to get some of your Christmas shopping done.

If you know any Crafters or Vendors who might want to set up a table at our event, share our registration form. As well, if you can help us with publicity we would love it if you spread the word and shared our event on Social Media.

Proceeds will go towards new climbing equipment for our playground.

Volunteers Needed

There are many upcoming events where assistance by our Volunteers would be very much appreciated! If you have your Criminal Record Check and Child Abuse Registry Form completed, please contact the office to see how you can help. Please take a look at these following dates:

October 6—Panther’s Pride Day—Accompany classes with volunteer work in the community.

October 10-11—Provincial ELA and Math Assessments—Assist with supervision of assessments.

October 19-20 / October 26-27—Assist with the counting of money from our fundraisers.

Parent Contact

For the safety and academic success of your child we need to have a reliable way to contact parents and guardians. At PRMS there are times that we use contact information to reach you by phone and we regularly send out information via text or email through our Alert Solutions broadcast system. Please make sure we have your correct email address on file. If your contact information changes during the year, please remember to update us. It is a matter of safety and academic success.
Pink Shirt Day at PRMS

**Music Notes**

This month in the music room we have been busy! Students in the Concert Band have all been assigned instruments and we are thrilled to see a number of new students wanting to join band this year! All forms should be returned to Mrs. Merrett ASAP so that instruments can go home and parents/guardians are accessing the weekly emails. Our Choir is about to start next week and will be busy preparing for the Remembrance Day assembly. This year choir is apart of the music enrichment program and will be for 4 weeks on Friday afternoons. Students were fill out an application form to join. Grade 6 students have been reviewing and seeing instrument demonstrations so they can choose an instrument by the end of the year in their class bands. What an exciting time! If you have questions or concerns please contact Mrs. Merrett at hmerrett@gnspes.ca.

**Student Fees**

Each year students at PRMS are asked to pay a student fee (25 per student or 45 per family). Monies collected are used to purchase student agendas and locks for lockers, as well as to off set the costs of mini courses and fine arts presentations throughout the year. Please send student fees in to your child’s homeroom teacher.

**Supply Fees**

Students in grade 6 are asked to also pay a supply fee of $10. This covers the cost of the some specific school supplies needed for the year.

Thank you to Ali and Pete MacDonald for coming to talk to our students about Argo and his role in our school.

How you can help Argo follow his Dog Guide rules:

- Do not pet Argo. He is working.
- Do not call out or talk to Argo (talk to Noah).
- Do not feed Argo or offer him food.
- Do not tease Argo.
Nut Aware

PRMS has a number of students with life threatening allergies to peanuts and other nuts. Even the tiniest amount of nut can result in a very serious reaction. We ask that you do not send your child to school with products that contain nuts. Creating a safe environment for all of our students is very important for us and we need your help in doing this.

Arrival Time

Parents/Guardians are reminded that the arrival time for students in the morning should be between 8:15 and 8:50. Students are discouraged from arriving before 8:15 (unless they are participating in band, an athletic practice, or some other supervised school activity).

Coaches Corner

CROSS COUNTRY: We have had a great start to our season! Runners took part in two events; one event was held at the Kings Edgehill School in Windsor and a second at NKEC in Canning. We have two more meets before Regionals. There is still time to join this team. If you are interested, please contact Ms. Rice or Mrs. Chalifoux at the school.

SOCCER: A great start to this season, with a large group of players showing interest! We are looking forward to some fun-filled games!

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL: We had an amazing turnout of girls for volleyball! We are looking for parents who would be willing to help coach. If you have all of your police records checks done and are interested in helping out this season, please contact Ms. Verran at the school.

BOYS VOLLEYBALL: Thanks to parents Alain Chalifoux and Chris Palmer for coaching the boys this year! Practices have started with the first league game being held on October 12th—good luck to the team!!

PRMS School Fundraiser

Meadowbrook Meat Market

Meadowbrook is a local family owned farm that makes products that are all-natural, antibiotic free, made without gluten, fillers, colour or MSG.

Box 1—Lean Ground Box
Box 2—Het and Eat
Box 3—Winter Roast
Box 4—Breakfast
Box 5—Bork Burgers

Orders due by Oct 31st.
Pick-up will be at PRMS on Wed, Nov 8th 3-5pm
Welcome to October and the beautiful colors it brings to us. Class presentations started and ended for two grade six classes: 6Abbott and 6Juteau with a focus on learning about our brains. Students learned three parts of the brain as well as their function. Some students are being seen one-on-one to help deal with difficulties they are experiencing.

**Upcoming events:** Small group sessions will soon begin for students across all grades. The focus of the groups is self-discovery. Self-discovery really means learning more about oneself personally, socially, mentally, and physically. Class presentations will also be organized within the next week.

If you need to reach me about your child, please use the following methods: my direct office phone: 902-765-7576 or email kanelson@gnspes.ca.

**Clubs**

- The coding/robotics/technology group meets every Thursday afterschool until 5:00pm.
- The Gaelic Club meets every Thursday at lunch in room 217. Cum Gaidhlig Beo!

Thank you ... 

Junior A Wildcats for volunteering your time to be part of our Terry Fox Walk on September 28th!
Terry Fox Walk

Students of PRMS enjoyed a fun-filled walk in honour of Terry Fox on September 28th. Students raised $180 for this donation.

Panther’s Provide

- On Friday October 6, PRMS staff and students will head out into the community to do volunteer work and give back to the community. This is a great opportunity for students to apply some real life skills of team work, problem solving, following directions, and helping others.

- Information has been sent home with students. Consent forms must be returned in order for students to participate.

- Any parents who have completed their Criminal Records Check and Child Abuse Form are welcome to come and help out!

Pine Ridge is EXCITED to announce a new opportunity for families to purchase some AMAZING Pine Ridge clothing.

http://pineridgemiddleschool.entripyshops.com/

You will find GREAT prices, with no minimum purchase. Take a look today!
**Orange T-shirt Day**

PRMS students took part in Orange Shirt Day in support of survivors of Canada's Residential School System. Every Child Matters... every day.

**Visiting the School**

We welcome parents, guardians, and community members to our school, however, we do ask that you check in at the office upon arrival to obtain a visitor’s pass. Items that your child may have forgotten at home can be dropped off at the office for your child to collect at recess or lunch. At dismissal time, parents/guardians may wait in the lobby to meet your children.
The Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Education has just released a new student attendance and engagement policy for schools across our province. The policy has taken effect as of October 1, 2017 and recognizes that attendance in school is often directly linked to academic success. Those students who attend on a regular basis, generally do better than students who are frequently absent. The policy is also designed to identify and address absenteeism before it becomes a problem for students through early and targeted interventions.

Important points to note:

- Students will be considered absent unless they are in school or are attending a school activity.

- Absences will no longer be classified as excused or unexcused. Any time a student is not in school or participating in a school activity, he/she will be marked absent.

- Parents/guardians are still expected to notify the school about the reason for a student’s absence.

Addressing absenteeism or chronic lateness will vary based on the age, grade and the individual circumstances of the student. Parents/Guardians of students whose attendance pattern is of concern will be contacted by the school at various intervals to discuss attendance issues and to strategize on steps to improve attendance for the student.

Teachers will not be required to prepare additional materials or release test and exam information ahead of their release to the class. They will however share materials with a student when they return following an absence.

Grade 10 to 12 students who miss more than 20 per cent of class time for a given course may lose a credit for that course based upon individual circumstance and the professional judgment of the teacher and principal.

Parents, students, and teachers are invited to provide feedback on the policy and its implementation throughout the year. The department will review the policy and adjust based on lessons learned and feedback received after the 2017-18 school year. A copy of the policy, operational plan and more information is available at www.ednet.ns.ca/student-attendance-and-engagement-policy. Should you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact the school.
ROYAL CANADIAN SEA CADET CORPS

26 Cornwallis Sea Cadets are looking for youth between the ages of 12 to 18, to join them for a fun-packed year of learning and new experiences.

Sea Cadets participate in a wide variety of fun & educational activities on and off the water, including: drill, sailing, sports, leadership, and other nautical activities, all the while making new friends.

For further information, please contact Lt.(N) Darren Ashe at:

(902) 247-2033 or by email: dashe@abcc.ca

Hachikin Judo Club - Registration 2017-2018

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