

Park Street School Family Handbook

2017-2018

The Best Possible Place to Grow!



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FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

I am pleased to have been selected to join the Park Street Elementary School Community for the upcoming school year. Throughout my years in education, I have often heard of the positive atmosphere, high expectations, and innovative teaching that occurs at Park Street. It is my goal to continue to support these long standing traditions and to bring my experiences in the field of education to Park Street.

Ensuring that every student reaches their highest potential is of the utmost importance in education. To achieve this goal takes hard work, cooperation, and teaming. It also takes a community; one that includes students, staff, parents, guardians and community partnerships, to ensure that Park Street continues to be the best possible place to grow. I look forward to continuing to support community partnerships in order that our students can reach their highest potential.

The development of the whole child must be our focus in order to prepare our students for their journey through life. Therefore, high academic standards, high standards of conduct, and the development of student talents and interests are essential to our learning environment. I am impressed by the many projects that are offered at Park Street which focus on supporting the development of the whole child. I look forward to learning about the interests, talents, and the experiences of the staff, students and families of Park Street, and to sharing mine.

As the principal I am here to support the growth and development of every student; academically, physically, socially and emotionally, and to find ways to help maintain these high standards. Please feel free to contact me at the school (453-5423) or by email (rien.meesters@nbed.nb.ca).

PARK STREET SCHOOL'S MISSION

Park Street School is dedicated to igniting children's passions and helping them overcome their challenges. Therefore Park Street staff will demonstrate an extraordinary commitment to educating the whole child through the use of best educational practices, in a world class learning environment.

LEARNING GOALS

The goal of teaching is to provide learning experiences that will ensure the greatest intellectual, emotional, physical and social growth possible for each student in the school. The goals written below reflect the school's Mission Statement and are consistent with the goals for education set by the Department of Education for the students of New Brunswick schools.

Specifically we aim to:

1. Provide programming at a level appropriate to each child.
2. Frequently evaluate and adjust programs to ensure that they are developmentally appropriate.
3. Create an atmosphere of trust and confidence that is positive and mutually supportive.
4. Use time available efficiently and encourage responsible use of time on the part of students.
5. Provide ample opportunity for learning and significant development at each level and each area of the curriculum.
6. Promote enjoyment of reading by example and by opportunity.
7. Be tolerant of mistakes and encourage children to be tolerant of others.
8. Develop self-assessment skills and practice.
9. Develop positive disposition toward learning.
10. Promote excellence and provide genuine praise for positive effort.
11. Communicate regularly with parents and solicit their support for our efforts with their children.



PARK STREET SCHOOL INFORMATION, PROGRAMS AND PROCEDURES

The following information items and procedures have been developed for the purpose of making the organizational life and daily routines of the school comprehensible and convenient for all members of the school community. Parents will be made aware of any changes through the school website <http://parkstreet.nbed.nb.ca/>, or, in cases of time urgent matters, through email.

SCHOOL HOURS

All elementary schools in Anglophone School District West are expected to provide the maximum allowable instructional time to Grades K-5 students. To meet this expectation, school hours will be as follows:

7:50	Supervision starts on playground
8:10	ENTRY All students enter the school building
8:20	Instruction begins for all classes
10:05 – 10:25	RECESS
12:00	Lunch time for Grades K to 2 students /Outside time for 3-5
12:25	K to 2 students go outside
12:30	Lunch time for 3-5
1:00	Instruction begins for Grades K to 5 students
1:55	Dismissal for K to 2 students
3:10	Dismissal for 3 to 5 students

Wednesday dismissal 12:10 for ALL CLASSES

Wednesday afternoons:

Please note that children do NOT attend school on Wednesday afternoons. This time is reserved for teacher planning, professional development and conference time. Occasionally, and through consultation with parents, some students may receive extra help on Wednesday afternoons.

TRAFFIC FLOW PROCEDURES

Please drop your child off at the Traffic Circle on Park Street or along Longwood Drive. There will be teachers on duty on the playground for assistance as well as to gently remind you to continue on for the safety of the students and the flow of the traffic. For further details, please see the Traffic Flow Brochure.

IMPORTANT BUS POLICY

ASD-W has adopted transportation procedures as outlined below.

- We are committed to providing safe and reliable transportation services to students. However, the practice of providing transportation to multiple locations for any one student has created an additional burden on the bus system and has made it increasingly difficult to provide safe pupil transportation. Therefore, effective September 2005, District Transportation will provide up to a maximum of two bus drop-off/destinations for Kindergarten to Grade 8 students. One drop-off/destination will be the primary address of the student while the second (or alternate) drop-of/destination will be selected by the parent(s) or guardian(s) on the Student Data Collection Form. The alternate address would be applied on a regular basis to the same location (i.e. every afternoon to a baby sitter or daycare). We will not approve requests for multiple locations.
- A permanent primary and alternate address change must be communicated by the parent/guardian to the school in writing at least 24 hours prior to the requested change.



- In the event of continual or excessive changes to alternate address, parents/guardians will be required to provide transportation.
- It is recommended by the District the “best practice” is for parent/caregiver to be visible at drop off and to be present at non-residence/community stops for K-2 students. Parents/caregivers are to ensure that children are safely picked up by the bus.
- Complete details can be found on the ASD-W website at www.district18.nbed.nb.ca.

SAFETY PROCEDURES

Walking students are reminded to use the marked city crosswalks on the way to and from school. The crossing guard is there to ensure safety and should always be treated with respect. **Children are to go directly to the playground areas. Although we realize parents might be willing to stay in the hallways with their children, it would be best for congestion reasons that all students meet on the playground before coming in at 8:10 am.** After school, children are to go home immediately to take advantage of the presence of the crossing guards and because there is no supervision after school. **If parents wish for their children to play on the community playground, they are to first go home to touch base with their family and then return.**

Children may not leave the playground without checking with the “Duty Teacher” after arriving for the morning or afternoon sessions. **Students should not arrive at school until 7:50 in the morning as we will not be available to supervise.** In inclement weather, students will be allowed in at 7:50 but will remain with the duty teacher until 8:00 when they can go to their classrooms where they will be supervised by duty teachers.

BICYCLES are allowed at school PROVIDED the following conditions are met:

- Bikes must be walked, not ridden, on school property.
- **Students must wear helmets.**
- Each bike must be secured to the stand by its own lock.
- Bikes may not be loaned or borrowed and may not be touched by anyone but their owners.

Students who refuse to cooperate with these expectations will lose the privilege of bringing their bike to school for an appropriate length of time. Occasionally, we have been troubled by bicycle theft, which makes it necessary to remind families that bikes come to school at the owner’s risk.

Skateboards and Scooters are NOT to be brought to school.

Recess Snacks – due to safety concerns of choking on the playground, students will eat their snacks in the classroom before heading outside to play.

CARE OF CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF TWELVE

Section 31 (4) of the Family Service Act states: “Any person who, having the care of a child under the age of twelve years, or a child who is physically, emotionally or intellectually disabled, leaves the child for an unreasonable length of time without making reasonable provision for the care, supervision and control of the child, commits an offence.”

The Department of Family Community Service will conduct a child protection investigation when information is received that a child under the age of twelve years is left without supervision.



VISITORS/VOLUNTEERS

All visitors at the school must sign in at the office. This does not apply to parents picking up their children at dismissal time. All volunteers need to read policy 701 (*Pupil Protection Policy*) and sign a form saying they have done so. A criminal record check is also required.

PLAYGROUND DIVISION

K to 2 Playground Area

- The area from the court on Park Street to the line of boulders.

Grades 3 to 5 Playground Area

- The soccer field and
- The rest of the grassed area to the boulders that begins the K-2 playground area.

WEATHER POLICY

- If the temperature is between -15 and -20° C., the children will go outside for recess and for a shortened time at lunch hour;
- If it is colder than -20°C., the children will not go outside for either recess or lunch hour; and
- If it is colder than -15°C, the school doors will be unlocked and the children will be expected to immediately go inside when they arrive in the morning after 7:50 a.m.

The temperature used to make the decision is all inclusive, meaning it will take into account the wind chill factor. Please note that supervision of recess and lunch hour will be provided indoors only on days of inclement weather. We expect all students to be dressed appropriately for the weather.

LOST? AND FOUND!

Please be sure to **LABEL ALL OF YOUR CHILD'S BELONGINGS!** This includes book bags, pencil cases, rain wear, boots, indoor sneakers, school supplies, etc. We do have a 'lost and found' but strive to keep items out of this box. Labeling all belongings before they arrive at school would help reach that goal.

COSTLY AND UNNECESSARY ITEMS

The school discourages students from bringing unnecessary items, especially costly ones, to school. Items such as toys, ipods and jewelry may be lost, broken or stolen and create controversy. As well, expensive hats may be better left at home with a child bringing less expensive ones to school. While the discretion is left to the parent as to whether or not a child will bring such items to school, we suggest it is in everyone's best interest that they be left at home.

It is best if students do not bring collector cards to school. If they do, they are not to trade, exchange or play for them with other students. Since the school has discouraged students from bringing such unnecessary items as mentioned above to school, the school will not take responsibility for these should they be damaged, lost, stolen or traded. Nor will the school spend time trying to resolve any controversy between students concerning unnecessary items.

DRESS EXPECTATIONS

- Students are expected at all times to wear clothing that does not have offensive wording or pictures.
- In the interest of comfort and decency, please take care in ensuring that students' clothing does not restrict movement or fit in such a way that may inadvertently cause private areas or undergarments to be exposed.
- Head coverings such as hats and bandanas are not to be worn *in school* as they are considered to be outdoor wear. (remove or adjust to classroom expectations and/or special events – O'Canada, special assemblies, etc.)
- No Scents. Due to children and/or staff with allergies, the school has a **"No Scent" policy.**



TELEPHONE USE

Students in **grades 3-5** may use the school telephone located in the lobby outside the office **provided they have the permission of their teacher**. Teachers may accompany the student to the telephone or may give the student a class telephone pass. Students are encouraged to restrict telephone **use to emergencies only**. **Play arrangements or permission to go to someone else's house must be arranged prior to coming to school.**

LUNCH TIME PROCEDURES

Grades K to 2 students who stay for lunch will be supervised in their classrooms or cafeteria from 12:00 until 12:25 p.m. and outside from 12:25 to 12:55. Grades 3 to 5 students will be supervised outside from 12:00 to 12:25 and in the cafeteria or classroom from 12:25 to 12:55. Supervision will be a shared responsibility among staff who have been assigned duty for that period.

NUTS & PEANUT BUTTER

Our school has children who are deadly allergic to nuts and / or peanut butter. As well, other students have lesser allergic reactions to the product. Due to this serious situation and to protect all children, **we ask that parents/guardians NOT send any nuts or peanut butter to school** for lunches or snacks. Your support is deeply appreciated.

RECREATION AND HEALTH

As part of our school wellness philosophy, school must be seen as a healthy place for students to be and we must ensure that school is a place for healthy students to be. As the cold weather approaches, we often have notes or requests for students to stay in at recess or noon hours because of colds or recent flu bouts, etc. While it is important for students to attend school with as few attendance interruptions as possible, it is equally important that students be healthy enough to participate in instructional activities and with others in outdoor play while at school.

If your child is too sick to be outside at recess and lunch time, we ask that you please keep him/her home as he/she is probably too sick to be at school. We ask for your cooperation in preventing the spread of illness which happens so easily with so many children in such close contact with each other inside the school. Administrators, teachers, and outside supervisors during unstructured play periods are mindful of weather conditions and adjustments are made as required. If it is too cold or rainy, we stay indoors. As children heartily enjoy these physically active breaks when they are well dressed and in good health, we make every effort to have all children outside for play every day.

LICE

In order to contain the spread of lice at school, students whose hair has adult lice or eggs (nits) will have their parent, guardian or emergency contact called to take the students home as soon as possible. We recognize that having lice is not a sign of uncleanliness and act in a gentle manner, always keeping the child's feelings in mind. We regret having to take this action but lice is highly communicable, and can be costly and time consuming to eliminate. Therefore, the school must ask the parent or guardian to keep their child at home until all adult lice and nits have been removed. It is necessary to remove ALL nits or eggs as not all nits may be killed by the lice shampoo treatment. When children arrive back to school after being treated for lice and nits, a parent or guardian must bring the student to the office so the child can be checked before returning to class. Whenever nits or lice are found, a letter will be sent to parents of children in that classroom.

Again, we realize that removing nits and lice is time consuming. However, in order to protect the other children in the school from getting lice, it is necessary for parents/guardians to take the steps to make sure their children return to school lice and nit free. We expect and appreciate cooperation from all homes in this matter for the sake of everyone's children.

Suggestions to consider:

Treat Lice Twice



Because some nits are resistant to over-the-counter shampoos, parents should treat infested family members a second time, 10 days after the first treatment. That way, if any nits were able to survive the first treatment and hatch, the second treatment will kill them before they're old enough to lay eggs.

If you find lice after two treatments with over-the-counter shampoos, the next step should be a visit to your family doctor, who will likely prescribe a more potent medicine.

Preventing Reinfestation

Here are some simple ways to get rid of the lice and their eggs, and help prevent a lice reinfestation:

- Wash all bed linens and clothing that's been recently worn by anyone in your home who's infested in very hot water (130°F [54.4°C]), then put them in the hot cycle of the dryer for at least 20 minutes.
- Dry clean anything that can't be washed (like stuffed animals). Or put them in airtight bags for at least 3 days.
- Vacuum carpets and any upholstered furniture (in your home or car), then throw away the vacuum cleaner bag.
- Soak hair-care items like combs, barrettes, hair ties or bands, headbands, and brushes in rubbing alcohol or medicated shampoo for 1 hour. You also can wash them in hot water or just throw them away.

Because lice are easily passed from person to person in the same house, bedmates and infested family members also will need treatment to prevent the lice from coming back.

Two video links with further information: <https://youtu.be/Hybe7quFRVU> and <https://youtu.be/mAsfE8AWxzU>

This policy is sanctioned by the Parent School Support Committee and supported by the Park Street Home & School committee.

INFORMATION SHEETS

Each September, teachers are asked to send home Pupil Information Records. At the office, we enter the information given by parents into our school data base. Home and emergency telephone numbers are a part of this very important information system. **Please make sure to keep the school informed of changes of address, telephone, cell numbers or email address...**your child's safety could depend on it.

EMERGENCY PLAN FOR UNSCHEDULED SCHOOL CLOSURES

Grades K to 2 Students

It is school policy to notify all parents/guardians or emergency contacts of all grades K to 2 students in the event of unexpected school closures. This will be done by announcements on local radio stations, the school and district website as well as an e-mail message to those who provide an address or addresses to the school and finally, if this is a Park Street School closure only, a personal telephone call by the classroom teacher or designate. It is critical that parents provide emergency sites that the school will be able to EASILY contact in the event of an unexpected closure. It is imperative that the parent or designate inform the child's teacher that they are leaving with the child.

Grades 3-5 Students

Students in grades 3-5 will be dismissed from school or school emergency site (NMS) by teachers at the designated time announced by the school via the means noted above (radio announcements, voice and emails). For this reason, it is necessary that students know where they are to go should school be closed unexpectedly during the day. We also ask that students have an alternate place to go should no one be home at the usual place. **Again if this a Park Street School closure only, we will be contacting parents directly.**

BIRTHDAY INVITATIONS

We celebrate the special moments of our students within our classrooms. As you are preparing for any birthday parties, please keep in mind that we ask that you send out invitations from your home rather than through your child in school. It can be disconcerting to students in the class if they are the only few left out of an important and fun event.



FOOTWEAR

As in former years, we ask that each child reserve one pair of footwear (not necessarily brand new) for all purpose indoor use. In most cases, sneakers are the footwear of choice, so one all purpose indoor pair is sufficient and may be kept at school. The use of indoor footwear in the classrooms, halls and gymnasium greatly assists us in maintaining a clean and healthy environment and prevents children from having accidents. Proper outdoor footwear should be appropriate to the season and daily weather conditions.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Physical Education Program at Park Street promotes good health and safety habits and focuses on fitness. As well as our gym, we use our playground and soccer fields, the Nashwaaksis Middle School pool, and, at times, other community facilities. As a result, our children experience a variety of life-long learning opportunities that should serve them well. In order to successfully accomplish this, the students must be prepared with the proper clothing on Phys. Ed. days. Please ensure that your child remembers to bring the right gear on Phys. Ed. days.

MUSIC PROGRAM

All students from Grades K to 5 at Park Street School are involved in the Music program. The school Music program is supplemented with enrichment opportunities at noon hour and/or after regular school hours. The enrichment opportunities will include such activities as K-2 and 3-5 choirs, drama, and orchestra who often participate in the Fredericton & ASD-W Music and Drama Festivals. Students who wish to be selected for any of the enrichment musical activities must show an interest, be faithful to attend practices, and demonstrate proper behaviour.

CHARACTER EDUCATION

In keeping with our school's mission, Park Street School has undertaken a school-wide initiative to develop the leadership potential in every child. In working toward the life-long goal of good citizenship and a sense of self-awareness, our staff will be implementing Stephen R. Covey's *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*. Activities and discussions will help all students to become well-rounded individuals who know their strengths and their potential to influence others and society. Park Street School is also a Rights Respecting School and students will learn much about the Charter of Human Rights, what their rights are as a child and how we all have a responsibility to ensure everyone's rights are granted and respected. In addition to these areas of character education, we also intentionally teach mindfulness and other important character aspects through whole school and classroom activities.

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

In addition to the regular curriculum, Park Street School provides after school, recess and noon hour activities such as a chess club, music, soccer, the Sonshine Christian group, drama and black light theatre, a puppet club and student-led clubs of all sorts! **The school and parent groups are always looking for parental assistance in providing other enrichment activities for students.** If you are interested in helping out in this area or helping to supervise student-led clubs, please complete and return the Home and School volunteer form sent home during the first weeks of school. Parents will be advised of these programs as they occur throughout the year. Sports Program units are developed and offered on a voluntary basis. **Interested parents are welcome to offer their services to round out what the school can offer.**

HOMEWORK

Homework is an important complement to school learning. The purpose of homework is to practice skills learned in school and to develop in the child a sense of responsibility for his/her own learning. By establishing and supporting daily homework routines early, parents can help build the study skills necessary for success in Middle and High School and beyond. Try to establish a place and time free from noise and distractions where your child can work every day.



If your child struggles to finish assigned work within time guidelines, check on starting time, actual work time, or other difficulties. Sometimes a two minute question and answer session will help get things back on track. Also, let your child's teacher know of any difficulties you encounter. Teachers generally try not to assign homework over holidays and reduce the requirement considerably on weekends. In upper elementary, longer periods of time are frequently allotted for extended project type assignments such as Science and Social Studies projects, book reports, etc. Parents should watch for due dates and assignment guidelines for these projects and give encouragement along the way. **Portfolios or work packs are sent home for the review and signature of parents/guardians every Monday.**

FIELD TRIPS & EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Park Street's procedure concerning permission to participate in extra-curricular trips and activities requires parents to sign and return a permission slip for each outing. This permission slip will include a description and the date and times of the activity, as well as provide the itinerary.

Students are expected to participate in co-curricular activities (such as the school track meet and swimming instruction). Only a description including the date and times will be sent to parents.

FUNDRAISING

At Park Street School fund raising takes place to supplement the essential free school privileges provided to all school children in New Brunswick. As Policy 132, Contribution of Resources by Parents, says:

"The school system....relies on the contribution of parents and the community in order to be able to provide those extra activities that are not fundamental to the educational process, but which enrich and add enjoyment to the schooling experience of our young people."

Park Street School's fund-raised dollars assist in covering the expenses for such things as curriculum support items (books, technology), co-curricular activities (field trips, special presentations), extra-curricular activities (sports, clubs), items that a child can take home, social events, special enrichment activities and materials.

Students in Grades K to 5 are prohibited by Department of Education policy from selling items door-to-door or using public solicitation. This is for reasons of safety.

Participation in all fund raising activities continues to be VOLUNTARY on the part of students and parents.

We may ask parents to support two (2) cultural activities per term requiring students to bring in a toonie per event.

We appreciate the financial pressures that fees for activities may place on some families. We do waive any optional fees on the basis of undue financial hardship.

ACCEPTABLE USE OF TECHNOLOGY POLICY

This policy sets guidelines for the appropriate use of technology at Park Street School where computers are used to enhance the learning environment and educational experiences. These guidelines are in effect **unless the student has permission from a teacher or a staff member:**

1. Students are not to change any settings (i.e., screen saver, backgrounds) on the computer;
2. Computers in the school are not to be used for playing games;
3. Internet access is to be used for assigned research or project requiring an Internet connection;
4. Web sites that promote violent, explicit sexual, hateful or socially deviant behaviour are not to be accessed;
5. Students who inadvertently access an unacceptable site should report it immediately to a staff member;
6. E-mail is to be used only with the permission of the teacher;
7. No student is to send an e-mail message that is violent, threatening, sexually explicit or disrespectful;



8. Students are not to send e-mail messages with some else's address or enter into e-mail correspondence with unknown people;
9. "Chat Rooms" and web-based e-mail (i.e. Hotmail) are off limits;
10. Students are to follow guidelines posted at terminals or as explained by a staff member.
11. Students are to obtain permission from a staff member if they wish to download information from the Internet to save on a memory stick.
12. Students are to obtain permission from a staff member if they wish to print to the network printer.

Failure to comply with these guidelines will result in the loss of computer privileges. Please refer to the Dept. of Education Policy 311 for further information.

Under Policy 703 from EECED (Positive Learning and Working Environment), Anglophone West School District has created **Policy 703-3: Non-Instructional Use of Personal Electronic Devices at School and During Instructional Hours.**

This policy is intended to support the Positive Learning and Working Environment Policy (Policy 703) and the Information and Communication Technologies Use (Policy 733) by establishing expectations during the use of personal electronic devices that may:

- Detract from school safety and crisis response
- Infringe on the privacy rights of individuals
- Contribute to bullying or harassment via inappropriate text messaging, inappropriate digital photos, inappropriate video or audio recordings
- Contribute to cheating in the classroom
- Contribute to inappropriate social interaction during instructional time that results in decreased learning opportunities for students: and
- Facilitate legal activity.

The use of personal electronic devices during the school day for non-instructional purposes can lead to disruptions in the learning environment. Anglophone West School District believes that maintaining a safe and positive learning environment is a priority and the misuse of personal electronic equipment specifically during instructional hours can disrupt the learning environment of the classroom.

This policy applies to all students, staff, volunteers, and community workers in Anglophone West School District.

This means at **Park Street School** that students are not allowed to take pictures or video of other students, staff or activities at school with their own electronic devices. These pictures or video could be placed on social media sites without the permission of those recorded. This is invasive and could create embarrassment for those in the pictures and / or videos. Therefore, if the above recording takes place by students and the school is aware, the school will require the student to immediately remove the videos or pictures from their device.

PARENT SCHOOL SUPPORT COMMITTEE

The Parent School Support Committee (PSSC) is elected in the fall of each year to work with school Administration and staff in an advisory capacity. In our school, nominations are formally submitted for six elected parent members. Following the election, the committee may appoint up to two additional committee members from the community. This important work brings parents closer to the educational concerns of the entire community and provides additional opportunities for parent involvement. It also serves to improve communication between parent groups at the school level and within the community at the district level.

PARK STREET HOME & SCHOOL

The Home & School is made up of parents and teachers who work together to provide the best quality education and environment for all children. It offers parents an opportunity to participate as an active partner in the education of their child as well as provides parents with information on many educational issues.



By welcoming parents into the school and encouraging their involvement, Park Street School benefits from the skills and expertise of the community. This not only enriches the curriculum, but also creates a stronger school community. At Park Street we believe that we have a lot to be proud of!

How can you be involved?

The Home and School offers parents many opportunities to support our school. In the past, we organized a number of activities and expect to continue to plan or sponsor special events such as Park Street T-shirt sales, fall and spring fundraisers, the Christmas Gift Baskets, Teacher Appreciation Week, PANDAmonium Week, Family Fun Night and a Grade 5 Celebration. Many volunteers are needed to make these programs successful, and many tasks can be done at school or at home.

Classroom assistance is also appreciated and is limited only by the imagination of the teacher and the parent. It could involve mentoring, providing academic support to students, helping to supervise school trips, planning events, counting money, helping teachers prepare class materials, cafeteria assistance and supervision and zipping coats. Speak to your child's teacher to see how you can help!

Parental involvement is necessary if Park Street is to continue to provide an enriched learning environment for our children. Home & School works to strengthen the bond between the home and the school and can help you find the most suitable way to be an active educational partner.

These events will provide you with rewarding opportunities to improve our school environment. We need your help and we look forward to having you join our team!

WHAT PARENTS CAN DO

Learning to read and to write is one of the most joyful and successful experiences that a human being encounters. Highlighted below are a few of the ways in which parents can greatly assist:

1. Provide as Rich a Language Environment as Possible.

The language children hear is the language they learn. The more children talk with those around them and the richer the language is, the more fully developed their own language and thinking will be. Talk with them about their interests. Encourage them to ask questions and to develop their oral language, their listening skills, their vocabulary. By concentrating on oral language facility, you will help children broaden their range of experiences; an aid to unlocking print. From this platform, children search more effectively for meaning and ideas in written language. Talk, listen, discuss and explain.

2. Model Reading as it is Tremendously Important.

Let your child know you think reading is important and worthwhile. Let your child observe you reading books, magazines and newspapers. Talk to them about your reading. Encourage them by example. Set aside a time when you read and they read. They will associate this time with very pleasant and enjoyable feelings

3. Read Aloud to Your Children.

This cannot be over stressed!! Research tells us that the one most common factor in creating successful readers is a history of their having been read to daily. Reading to them has a tremendous impact on the development of reading behaviours. They learn how language works and they build a storehouse of language patterns, possibilities and meanings. They take this increased knowledge to print as they attempt to read. So much is learned about print and the way it works by watching, listening and thinking. **The most important thing parents can do to help children develop language skills and a love of reading is to share good books with them.**

4. Provide the Means for a Meaningful and Pleasurable Experience with Print.

Surround your child with all kinds of materials to read: magazines, books, paperbacks, hard-cover, favourites and



even comic books. Point out the print rich environment of labels, advertisements and any other form of print media you notice. The materials need to be drawn to children's attention in order for them to build up a print repertoire.

5. Listen to Your Child Read

Take the time and show the interest. Provide praise and encouragement. Don't expect perfection. It is not necessary that every word be perfect. If there are words they don't know, help them. It is very important to build confidence and self-esteem. By listening to your child read, asking questions and relating experiences, you are helping to build language. Sounding out words is fine, but don't let it slow down the process too much! Yes, this is phonics and it helps make the sound print connection. If your child is struggling with letter sounds and words, provide lots of help. Reading needs to be a pleasant experience.

6. Provide and Practice Language Experiences

Take dictation for early writers and readers. Label their drawings with words, phrases, and sentences of their choice. Write down stories or the thoughts and ideas of children. Then help them to read it back. When they see their own words in print, the print becomes intensely personal, meaningful and effective. Then talk about it and make the experience special.

7. Expose Children to Many Pleasurable Reading and Language Activities

Our goal is not only to teach all children to read, but to produce readers of all children. Be careful in your very important attempts to help. Be patient and encouraging so that children associate reading books and language with positive feelings and excitement. **Have fun with reading.....one of life's greatest adventures!**

Grade 5 Celebration

Park Street School has established a policy with the support of our Home and School and Parent School Support Committee (PSSC) that determines the parameters for the Grade 5 End of Year Celebration. The policy is deliberately general in nature. It is the intent that each year the students, parents and teachers will have flexibility to design a ceremony within broad parameters.

Mission/Guiding Principles:

The students have a fun ceremony within the confines of Park Street School and one outing, in a cost effective manner.

There is effective communication between parents, students and school staff.

The organization of the celebration should include the input from as many students, parents, and school staff as are interested in giving their ideas.

Celebration Committee

Each year a Celebration Committee will be established to organize the event, with a chairperson selected. The Committee should include grade 5 teachers who provide input from students.

Sub-committee structure will be determined annually by the Celebration Committee.

Sub-committees will report back to the main committee (Delegation must be respected)

Sub-committees should have at least two children on each sub-committee.

The Celebration Committee should regularly report to the Home and School and PSSC a brief final report will be prepared for the future years' reference.

Guidelines:

There will be two distinct functions: (no other events will be sanctioned or financed by Park Street School.

a. End of year outing

There will be one combined outing for all the grade 5 classes, which will be the grade 5 teachers' responsibility. This will be the annual outing for the grade with a "Fun" focus, rather than necessarily a scholastic focus as is the expectation of the other grades. The outing will be funded (to a maximum of \$2.00/student) by the Finance Committee as part of the normal year end outings for all students.



b. Ceremony

The End of Year Ceremony will be at Park Street School.

The time of the Ceremony will be decided by the Celebration Committee (day, night, and date with a maximum time limit of four hours and to end no later than 11:00 p.m.)

A maximum of \$8.00/student budget will be funded by the Home and School for the ceremony. Parents are free to donate such things as time, food, or other items for the ceremony. There will be no additional fundraising through the school.

Since food costs usually are the largest components of celebrations in the past, the decisions around the food must be determined first, to understand the impact on the finances.

PARK STREET SCHOOL STAFF

Principal: Mr. R. Meesters

Vice Principal: Mrs. T. Stewart

Kindergarten : Ms. K. Davidson
Ms. M.J. Moir
Mr. Peter Gorham

Grade 1: Ms. E. Gallagher

Grade 1 FI: Mme. C. Beaumaster
Mme. B. Aube
Mme. M. Doyle

Grade 1/2: Ms. S. Kelly

Grade 2: Mrs. J. Kelly-Milner
Ms. K. Ross
Ms. T. Walsh

Grade 3: Ms. K. Roy

Grade 3 FI: Mme. M. Patriquin
Mme. C. Sheehan
Mme. B. Perreux

Grade 4: Ms. N. Ward

Grade 4 FI: Mlle. E. Howlett
M. R. LaFrance

Grade 5: Mme. A. Conn

Grade 5 FI: M. M Landry
Mme. J. Turbide



Physical Education Ms. E. McAuley
Methods & Resource Mrs. M. McCarthy, Mrs. K. Culberson,
Music Mrs. S. Benson
Literacy Support Teacher Mrs. Lisa Brewer
Guidance Mrs. A. D'Entremont

Support Staff:

Secretary Mrs. K. Hayes, Mrs. I. Warris Librarian Mrs. J. McGee

Custodians Mr. K. Allen, Mr. G. Gee

Educational Assistants: Mrs. C. MacFarlane, Mrs. N. Burtt, Mrs. D. Pembleton, Mrs. D. Dickson, Ms. B. Baines, Ms. E. Hallam, Ms. M.J. Purdue, Mrs. C. Reynolds, Ms. S. Gallop, Mr. A. Clowater, Ms. M. LaDouceur, Mrs. A. Hosain, Ms. C. Fulton, Ms. D. MacBeth