

# **Gulf Shore School Newsletter**

## **January 2025**

**Principal : Anita Conohan**  
**Vice Principal: Klasina Driscoll**

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**[www.edu.pe.ca/gulfshore](http://www.edu.pe.ca/gulfshore)**

**Happy New Year** -On behalf of all staff, we would like to wish everyone a healthy and prosperous 2025.

### **Dates to Remember:**

Monday, January 6	1 <sup>st</sup> instructional day 2025
Tuesday, January 14	Home & School Meeting@ 7:00
Monday, February 3	Professional Learning Day – no classes
Tuesday, February 4	Grade 9 Photos
Monday, February 17	Islander Day - Statutory Holiday (no classes)

### **Drop Off/Pick Up**

If you are dropping off or picking up a child/student at the school, please remember that the bus lane is closed to traffic from 8:15-8:45 am and from 2:00-3:00 pm. Also, if there is a bus in the lane with lights flashing at any other time of the day, please do not enter the bus lane. Thank you for helping us to keep the children safe.

### **School Cancellations**

All Public Schools Branch (PSB) weather-related cancellations will be announced on local radio stations and posted on the PSB website by 7:00 am. An announcement that “all classes in the public schools branch are cancelled” means that there is no school for students. An announcement of a “system-wide shutdown” indicates that all schools and offices are closed. In some instances, it may only be necessary to close an individual school or a Family of Schools. Partial system closures or delays will be announced by Family of Schools. Remember Gulf Shore is in the Bluefield Family of Schools.

### **One-hour delay**

If a decision on cancellation cannot be made by 7:00 am, a one-hour delay will be announced whereby all schools and buses will operate one hour later than usual. A further announcement will be broadcast by 8:00 am.

### **Late buses**

In some instances, even in fine weather, buses may be delayed. Parents will be notified via radio broadcast that a bus will be delayed (i.e. Bus #297 is running 30 minutes late).

### **School closures during the day**

It may be necessary to close school partway through a school day. Detailed announcements will be made on local radio stations and posted to the PSB website as early as possible.

At the beginning of the school year you sent in instructions on where your child(ren) would go in case of early closure. If there is an early closure, we ask that you **do not** call the school unless you need to change those arrangements.

### **Extreme weather during the school day**

Should the department of transportation and/or the RCMP recommend that school buses remain off island roads, students may be required to remain at school beyond their normal dismissal time (unless picked up by a parent or designate). Announcements will be made on local radio stations and posted to our website.

On days when classes are in session, and the low temperature combined with wind provides a wind chill of -20 or below, students will not be required to go outside at recess or lunch, or remain outside upon morning arrival.

## **Suggestions for parents**

1. The final decision to attend school or to travel to school via school bus always rests with the parent.
2. Please do not drop children off at school unless you are certain that school is operating that day and that staff are present to supervise the children.
3. Please listen to the radio and check the PSB website frequently between 6:30 and 8:00 am daily to determine if schools are operating. Every effort will be made to have announcements broadcast by 7:00 am.
4. Please do not call the school, PSB office, or radio stations for information on cancellations or delays. Such calls tie up telephone lines which may be needed for emergency use.

*Thank you for your support. Together we will work to ensure a safe winter for all of our children.*

## **Students Please Sign In/Sign Out**

Students are reminded that if you are late arriving at school or you are leaving school before the end of the day, you **must** sign in/out at the office.

## **Visitors Please Check In**

We ask that all parents/visitors and guests coming to the school or the Early Years Centre, please check in at the office for a badge. At no time, are you permitted to walk through the school without signing in. At end of day, if students are being picked up, we ask that you please remain in your vehicle and your child(ren) will meet you at their designated area outside. Parents are not permitted to go down to your child's classroom to retrieve them after school. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

## **Kindergarten Registration 2025-2026 -**

If you've missed the deadline to register your child for kindergarten for the 2025 – 2026 school year, you can still do so by stopping in at the school to fill out a registration form.

Children must be 5 years old by December 31, 2025, to be eligible for kindergarten.

- Parents are reminded to bring a piece of Government issued ID verifying proof of child's age.
- Verification of home address must also be provided, such as a current utility bill.

## **Music News:**

Welcome back music students and Gulf Shore families! Our early morning band rehearsals for grade 7 to 9 students will be starting on Tuesday, Jan. 7/2025 beginning at 7:45 AM. This term, our grade 6 students will have a weekly band rehearsal as well. More information will be shared with grade 6 families the week of Jan. 6/2025.

Grade 7 to 9 students will be bringing home a music expectation contract the week of Jan. 6/2025. It will be signed by the music teacher, the student, and the parent or guardian. These contracts must be returned by Jan. 13/2025 to participate in any extra-curricular music activities outside of the school.

Please send in your payment for band shirts if you haven't already paid.

## **Phys Ed News:**

Basketball is still going with our boys and girls A teams who did a great job of representing Gulf Shore prior to Christmas break. Hard work and dedication to practice will be needed this month to keep our teams' momentum, but our Sharks intermediate basketball players should be up to the challenge.

Stay tuned for a Gymnastics update next week.

Intramurals will be held daily in January -  
Mon, Wed, Fri - Grade 7-9 (12-12:30PM)  
Tue, Thu - Grade 5-6 (12-12:30)

## **Gulf Shore Home & School**

Gulf Shore Home and School Board is a member of the PEI Home and School Federation, and they believe participation of parents and guardians in the education of children is vital. So our goal as a Home and School Association is to offer support to the school and help by being liaisons between the school and parents.

Home and school do this is multiple ways.

**The Gulf Shore Hot lunch program:**

*NOTE: this is not affiliated with the provinces Healthy Food Program.*

Pizza and Milk is available for purchase via our <https://gulfshore.hotlunches.net>

Milk is available 5 days a week and Pizza from By the Bay is available for purchase on Fridays only. If you are new to the program, you can register your child (info on school website). Ordering is now open. Kristin LeClair is the contact.

**The Breakfast Program:** Thanks to Bracken Smith for taking the lead and some parent volunteers, it will be starting in November! It will run on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

The students will be receiving a breakfast snack prepared and served by our Volunteers.

If this is something you would like to help with either by volunteering to prepare or serve, or would like to make a monetary donation to help maintain the program please reach out to anyone on the Home & School Board or Bracken Smith. (Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays the breakfast bins provided by the school will still be in the available to kids that want it)

**HELLO 2025!!**

We hope everyone had a happy and healthy break and that all are excited to be back to school and that 2025 is a great year for all and we head into the second half of the school year continuing to be able to bring and offer programs and events for the students and families. December was a busy and fantastic month for Home and School and parent involvement at the school.

**BIG SHOUT out and THANK -YOU** to all that contributed to our fundraising efforts over December with the clothing orders, concert bake sale, and Christmas Store. We hope that everyone loved the special gifts picked out by their kids. Our "elves" helped wrap many gifts that day and loved helping all kids with their purchases. The school is very fortunate to have great parent volunteers and much of these types of things couldn't happen without them ... and the money we raise. In December we were able to help out with the Jr. High Dance and supplied snacks and water. Provided and cooked Pancake Breakfast for all students and staff as well we provided hot chocolate during the school skate.

**WE NEED YOUR HELP...**

The Gulf Shore Home and School Breakfast Program is LOOKING for some help!!

The Program is up and running and has established a good routine and group of volunteers - But we always are looking for more since sometimes our regular volunteers' schedules may change and we may need some additional coverage and help taking a shift or overseeing the menu/ or organizing the week when someone else can't.

Life of a Parent is 24/7 and we know life is busy however if you are able to spare some time, please reach out to myself Dorothy Wakelin, Ashley Ryder, or Bracken Smith

**UPCOMING DATES**

The next meeting will be January 14th at 7pm and will be held in the Staff room at GSCS.

ALL caregivers of students are welcome to attend. We welcome and encourage you to get involved. There are many ways to help out, from sitting on the board, to volunteer opportunities, contributing to bake sales or staff appreciation meals all help and supports our School Family. Without the help of many, we wouldn't be able to contribute as we do. We continually thank everyone for your ongoing support.

Gulf Shore Home and School Association

**Executives and Volunteers for the 2024/25 school year.**

President - Dorothy Wakelin

Past President - Marsha LeBlanc

Vice President - Ashley Ryder

Treasurer - Lindsay Gallant

Secretary - Martina Cole-Gallant

Milk/School Food Program - Kristin LeClair

Breakfast Program - Bracken Smith

Food for Thought Cupboard - Heather Doucette

## **2025 Extra Mile Awards for Teachers/Staff**

Local Home and School Associations can consider nominating a school teacher/staff person for going the "extra mile" for students. The Federation is accepting nominations until **Jan. 17, 2025**. Find criteria and application at: <https://peihsf.ca/extra-mile-award/>

## **Resolutions impact change**

The Federation supports equal opportunity for all students and promotes this by approving pertinent resolutions at annual meetings. Resolutions are the single most important tool that Home and School can use to influence decision-makers in government and school boards. Approved resolutions are forwarded to decision-makers who can make changes for the benefit of all island students. Guidelines on how to write and present a resolution and examples of previously passed resolutions are available at [www.peihsf.ca/resolutions](http://www.peihsf.ca/resolutions). Discuss topics with local association parents and teachers and consider submitting a resolution. Deadline to submit resolutions is **Jan. 31, 2025**,

## **President's Annual Reports**

Home and School Presidents/Co-Chairs are asked to submit their 2024-2025 annual reports to the Federation office by **Feb. 28**. All reports are compiled in the Federation's Annual Book of Reports and posted at <https://peihsf.ca/agm/>.

## **School Staff Appreciation Week, February 10-14, 2025**

School Staff Appreciation Week is an opportunity for parents and students to recognize the dedication and hard work of school staff: teachers, administrative support, educational assistants, and custodians. Set up a small committee to brainstorm ways the school community can thank school staff. Keep plans simple!

## **Annual General Meeting Notice**

The Prince Edward Island Home and School Federation will hold its 72nd Annual General Meeting (AGM) on **Saturday, April 12, 2025**. All Member Home and School Associations are invited to attend the AGM. Each Association is asked to designate five of your school's attendees as voting delegates. Registration details will be available in February and posted at: <http://peihsf.ca/agm>

## **PSB Consultation on Memorials and Grief Support in Schools**

The Public Schools Branch is conducting a consultation to review a policy and procedure entitled "Memorials and Grief Support in Schools." Draft versions of the proposed documents have been made available for your review and participation in the Consultation Survey.

[Participate in the Consultation Survey](#) and [Memorials and Grief Support In Schools - Policy and Procedure Consultation.pdf](#)

## **Home and School monthly newspaper column**

Read David Schult, PEI Home and School Federation president's monthly columns at: <https://peihsf.ca/news/>

*Best wishes of the Holiday Season to you and your families!*

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