

Gulf Shore School Newsletter

February 2025

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Vice Principal: Klasina Driscoll

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www.edu.pe.ca/gulfshore

Dates to Remember:

February 3	Professional Learning Day – no classes for students
February 3	Babysitting Course – MPR – Part 1 @ 3:30 PM
February 4	Grade 9 Photos
February 7	Babysitting Course – MPR – Park 2 @ 3:30 PM
February 10 – 14	Staff Appreciation Week
February 11	Home & School Meeting – 7:00
February 12	Gr 9 photo retakes
February 17	Islander Day – no classes for students
February 20	7-9 Band student to UPEI
February 26	Pink Shirt Day Assembly
February 26	Gr. 3 to Agricultural Day @ East Link Centre
February 26	Grade 3 parent meeting for grade 4 FI – 6:30 pm
March 5	Report cards go home
March 6	Parent Teacher Conferences – pm only
March 7	Parent Teacher Conferences during day – no classes for students
March 6 & 7	Scholastic Book Fair
March 12	Grade 4 Parent Meeting (for grade 3 parents)
March 17 – 21	March Break – no classes



Early Closure (During the Day)

Please make sure that you, your child/children and their homeroom teacher know what the arrangements are in the event that school is closed during the day. Using the telephone to make contact is **not** to be part of your child's plans as we cannot accommodate students using the phone in the event of a closure. If there is a delay or closure for Family of Schools, please remember that Gulf Shore is part of the Bluefield Family of Schools.

Students Please Check In

Students are reminded that if you are late arriving to school, or picked up early, you **must** sign in/out at the office before leaving or going down to class.

Phys Ed News:

Intramurals - This month, intramurals will be held daily at Noon for Grades 3-4 on Tue/Thu, and 7-9 on Mon/Wed/Fri.

Gymnastics- A big shoutout to all our Pre-Novice and Novice athletes who showed off their Floor and Vault skills at the Zone 3 PEISAA Gymnastics meet last week. Mrs. Covey and Coach Roche were both very proud of the hard work and dedication that our gymnasts showed in January. Also, a big Congratulations to Oliver MacDonald, Ozzy Porter, Jonah Hollinger, Avery Sherren, Maci McKinnon, and Jordyn McKinnon who have qualified for the provincial gymnastics meet that will take place on Saturday, February 8th at Stonepark. Well done to our sharks gymnasts!

Basketball - Our Girls A and Boys AB teams both have a busy month of basketball ahead of them with many regular scheduled games and make-up games still to play. Up-to-date schedules can be found on the PEISAA GoalLine App. A reminder to all players (and their parents/guardians) to always let our coaches know if there are any games or practices that you cannot attend. Good luck to the Basketball Sharks as you hit the homestretch of your regular seasons.

Music News:

Junior High Concert Band will be attending a band workshop at UPEI on February 20th! Guest conductors and professors, Dr. Nicole Strum and Dr. Dale Sorenson will be working with our grade 7-9 students on the following skills and fun activities:

- Instrument specific sectional workshops
- Short performance
- Loop station demonstration
- Full band workshop

After the workshop, band students will be going to Pony Boat in Charlottetown for lunch and games returning at 2:30pm.

Yearbook Sponsorship:

If you would like to sponsor our 2024/2025 yearbook and have not been contacted yet, please feel free to contact us. Sponsorship levels are as follows: Silver level - \$100.00 and Burgundy level is \$50.00. Please make cheques payable to Gulf Shore Consolidated School. Thank you for supporting our school.

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.

Gulf Shore Home & School News:

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 in 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 available to kids that want it)

PARENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!! Ways you can help...

#1 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 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 me Dorothy Wakelin, Ashley Ryder, or Bracken Smith

#2 **Staff Appreciation Week Is February 10-14th.** During the week Home and School is encouraging any Parents or Caregivers if able to drop off or send in a treat for the staff in appreciation for all the handwork and care they pour into the Students of Gulf Shore. It's also a good opportunity to send a note of appreciation to any of your Students Teachers to remind them they are doing a good job.

#3 **Consider Joining the Home and School Board** a place to share and foster ideas and ways we can help support the School.

#4 Support Fundraisers. Currently Home and School is working towards the purchase of a Heat Pump for the Multi-Purpose Room. Stay tuned for more updates in ways to help with those efforts.

UPCOMING DATES

The next meeting will be is February 11th at 7pm and will be held in the Staff room at GSCS.

ALL caregivers of students are welcomed to attend. We welcome and encourage you to get involved. And thank you to all those that help, from sitting on the board, to volunteering for jobs, contributing to bake sales or staff appreciation meals: IT ALL helps and supports our School Family. Without the help of many, we wouldn't be able to contribute as we do.

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 - Charmaine Campbell

Secretary - Martina Cole-Gallant

Fundraising- Raeona Macleod

Milk/School Food Program - Kristin LeClair

Breakfast Program - Bracken Smith/Kaitlin Cameron

Food for Thought Cupboard - Heather Doucette

PEI Home & School Federation:

Model healthy screen habits at home

After a hasty but positive implementation of restrictions on cell phone usage in schools this September, the Department of Education and Early Years this January released new guidelines for promoting healthy screen time habits for children. These guidelines offer useful recommendations for limiting sedentary activities such as watching TV or playing video games while encouraging physical activity and outdoor play. They also suggest setting boundaries around technology use, which can help promote well-being in students. They are a step in the right direction.

While the guidelines provide useful recommendations for screen time usage, they may be lacking in terms of addressing the educational well-being of today's student population. For example, they do not provide specific guidance on how to integrate technology into learning and teaching practices that support academic success. Additionally, the guidelines do not take into account the unique challenges faced by different groups within society such as those with disabilities or special education needs.

To make these guidelines truly effective, parents need to model healthy screen habits at home. Also, the Department of Education and Early Years will need to provide greater teacher training on how best to use technology in classrooms. Technology can be used for routine tasks like creating PowerPoint presentations or grading multiple choice tests but it is only useful when integrated into lessons that challenge students, perhaps even making use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to solve real-world problems that they are passionate about.

Please remember to submit your association's President's Annual Reports. These reports are due on February 28th and will be included in the upcoming 72nd Annual Book of Reports.

Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week from Feb. 10-14 is an opportunity to thank school staff for all they do and Home and School Associations can plan ways to show their appreciation during this week.

Two awards that associations should consider include the Volunteer of the Year Award, which recognizes significant contributions by volunteers in their local communities, and Life Member Award, acknowledging service to the provincial Federation. Nominations for these awards are open until March 2 using online criteria and forms available at P.E.I.hsf.ca/awards/.

Schools across P.E.I. can also celebrate Pink Shirt Day Canada on Feb. 26 with a focus on eliminating bullying and discrimination in all its forms.

Finally, set the date for the Annual General Meeting of the P.E.I. Home and School federation. Saturday April 12, we gather at the Rodd Royalty Hotel in downtown Charlottetown to celebrate our success stories and learn more about timely topics that affect our student's education. Delegates from local Home and Schools/Parent Councils gather to consider resolutions, discuss areas of mutual interest, meet with educational partners, and elect new members to the board of directors. Together, we build better schools.

For more information, go to email peihsf@gov.pe.ca or call 902-620-3186. David Schult, president of the P.E.I. Home and School Federation, lives in Charlottetown with his wife and two children, who attend U.P.E.I. and Colonel Gray Senior High School.

Screentime Guidelines

New screentime draft guidelines are now available to help encourage healthy screen use behaviours in Island schools. Following the ministerial directive on restricting cell phone use in schools, these [draft guidelines](#), developed in collaboration with health expert Dr. Travis Saunders, provide educators with best practices on screen use that enhance student health, engagement and academic success while minimizing social and physical harm.

"While screens are present everywhere in our lives, it is our responsibility to help young people develop smart screen use behaviors that positively benefit their learning and wellbeing. Providing our educators with the best practices as well as tips and tricks will give them the knowledge and flexibility to choose when and how they use screens in the classroom. Technology can be a powerful learning tool, and we want to ensure that young people are equipped to make healthy, balanced decisions."

- Minister of Education and Early Years Rob Lantz

PEI residents can review the guidelines and send their feedback to educationpolicy@gov.pe.ca until **February 6, 2025**. Comments received will help inform the development of future resources for parents, guardians and students to apply similar approaches outside the classroom.

****Presidents' Annual Reports****

Each Home and School President is requested to write and submit their Annual Report to the Federation office by February 28. Please involve your executive team in helping you with the content. All reports will be included in the 72nd Annual Book of Reports. In your report, include activities from this school year, starting in September and ending in June. You can find tips on how to write your report by reviewing last year's 2024 Book of Reports at: <https://peihsf.ca/agm/>. If you need assistance, please contact Jeana MacIsaac at the PEIHSF office at info@peihsf.ca or 902-620-3187.

Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week

Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week is from February 10-14, 2025. Home and School Associations are planning ways to thank school staff during this week. Start brainstorming ideas now to express your gratitude to the staff.

Volunteer & Life Member Awards

The Federation's Volunteer of the Year Award recognizes one volunteer's significant contributions to helping volunteers in their local school communities. The Life Member acknowledges service to the provincial Federation. Associations may nominate Home and School volunteers for these awards by the deadline: **March 2**. Criteria and Form are online at: <https://peihsf.ca/awards/>

AGM coming in April

The P.E.I. Home and School Federation's **Annual General Meeting** will be on **April 12, 2025**, at the Rodd Charlottetown Hotel. The Federation office will mail the AGM package to presidents and information will be posted at: <https://peihsf.ca/agm/> Plan to register 2-5 delegates to represent your school.

What do you know about the harms of youth vaping?

The Chief Public Health Office has developed a Smoking/Vaping presentation for junior and senior high students. The Tobacco Enforcement Officer (TEO), Kelly Campbell, has been actively trying to combat youth smoking/vaping in various ways and has presented to several intermediate-level classes. This presentation, aimed at parents/adults, highlights associated with electronic smoking devices (ESDs). The high-level topics addressed include:

- Terminology/Types of Electronic Smoking Devices
- Nicotine Replacement Therapies
- What is in a Vape

- Effects of Social Media
- Nicotine Content of Vapes
- PEI Examples of Confiscated Products (from schools)
- Ways to Hide Vapes (e.g. highlighter, sharpie, etc.)
- Safe Disposal
- Fire Safety Concerns
- Resources

I urge all Junior and Senior High Home and School/Parent Council groups to schedule a time for Kelly to speak to parents during your local school meetings. The goal is to equip adults with comprehensive information so they can effectively discuss the harms of vaping with their children and be more aware of the products available and their potential health effects. He wants to present to every school community in Prince Edward Island. Please contact him directly at kdcampbell@ihis.org.

Pink Shirt Day Canada 2025 “Choose kindness!”

Join in the national celebration on February 26th and help to eliminate bullying and discrimination in all its forms.

For more information go to: <https://pinkshirtdaycanada.ca/>

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