

# Gulf Shore School Newsletter

## January 2024

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**Happy New Year** -On behalf of all staff, we would like to wish everyone a healthy and prosperous 2024.

### **Dates to Remember:**

Monday, January 8	1 <sup>st</sup> instructional day 2024
Wednesday, January 17	Home & School Meeting@ 7:00
Monday, January 22	Magic Toothbrush Presentation – Grades K-3
Friday, February 16	Winter Wellness Day
Monday, February 19	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.

### **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 2024-2025 -**

If you've missed the deadline to register your child for kindergarten for the 2024 – 2025 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, 2024, 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. 9/2024. 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. 8/2024.

Grade 7 to 9 students will be bringing home a music expectation contract the week of Jan. 8/2024. It will be signed by the teacher, the student, and the parent or guardian. These contracts must be returned by Jan. 15/2024 to participate in any extra-curricular music activities outside of the school.

Please send in your payment for our band trip to Montreal. Receipts will be sent home this week for payments already received. It is essential families follow the payment plan.

### **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. Fingers crossed we can keep this good streak up the last few weeks of the season into playoffs and finals before February break!

### **Gulf Shore Home & School -**

Home and School would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year! Hoping 2024 brings peace and happiness to all.

We would like to apologize because of unforeseen circumstances our Poinsettia sales did not take place this year. We are hoping that we can continue with this fundraiser next Christmas.

The next home and School meeting will be held Wednesday January 17th at 7 p.m. at the school, all are welcome to attend.

## Home and School News, January 2024

### 2024 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. 19, 2024**. 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 passing 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, 2024**.

### Annual Reports

Presidents/Co-Chairs are asked to submit your 2023-2024 Annual Reports to the Federation by **Feb. 29**. Annual reports are compiled in the Federation's Book of Reports posted at: <https://peihsf.ca/agm/>.

### 2024 School Staff Appreciation Week, February 12-16

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!

### 2024 Annual General Meeting Notice

Book your calendars! The Prince Edward Island Home and School Federation will hold its 71st Annual General Meeting (AGM) on **Saturday, April 13, 2024**. All Home and School Association members are invited to attend the AGM. Each Association is invited to designate five of your school's attendees as voting delegates. Registration details will be posted in February at: <http://peihsf.ca/agm>

### Home and School and You

Dionne Tuplin, PEI Home and School Federation president writes a monthly column for The Guardian. Her January 2024 news column will be published in The Guardian and posted at: <https://peihsf.ca/news/> on Friday, Jan. 5.