**Weekly Schedule:**

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**Welcome To A New School Year!**

We would like to extend a warm welcome to all new and returning students and staff, with a special hello to our Pre-Primary students who are just beginning their school adventure. Our school has had a few staff changes this year, and we have already begun to work together as a strong team and are looking forward to an exciting year of learning.

As a staff we are excited, happy and always a little anxious about the start of a new school year. We know the importance of starting off on the right foot, and that building a relationship with your child is a key to their learning and achievement.

Parents are encouraged to stay abreast of school activities and events by reading our school newsletters and checking the school website and Facebook. Your child’s classroom teacher will also communicate specifics related to just that classroom in addition to the newsletter. Communication between home and school is another key to a successful school year. We encourage you to contact us with concerns or praise, so that we can move together toward success.

We invite you to work together with us. There are a number of ways that we need and want community involvement in the school. We are calling all parents, guardians and family member to support school activities. The newsletter outlines some of the activities, but please feel free to share ideas of other ways you could be involved.

I am very excited about the school year ahead as the Principal of Pentz Elementary and look forward to meeting you soon.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Smart

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**“Nut” Aware**

Due to student allergies, students are asked to not bring products containing nuts.

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**Mission Statement**

Pentz Elementary is a community of students, staff and parents working together to develop a positive, healthy learning environment that promotes the academic and personal growth of its citizens.

“Pride and Progress in our school.”

School Phone: 688-3210
School Fax: 688-3211
School email: pes@ssrce.ca
Website: http://www.pes.ednet.ns.ca/
Principal: Rebecca Smart
Administrative Assistant: Gail Grace

**Upcoming Dates:**

- **September 24** - Terry Fox Run
- **September 25** - In-service Day (No school for students.)
- **October 12** - Thanksgiving Day (No school)
- **October 23** - Conference Day (No school for students.)
- **October 29** - Parent Teacher Conferences / Early Dismissal for students.
- **November 18** - Thanksgiving Day (No school)
- **November 19** - Conference Day (No school for students.)
- **November 26** - Early Dismissal for students.
- **November 27** - Early Dismissal for students.
- **November 28** - Early Dismissal for students.
- **December 23 - 28** - Break
- **January 19** - In-service Day (No school for students.)
- **February 19** - In-service Day (No school for students.)
- **March 19** - In-service Day (No school for students.)
- **April 27** - Break
- **May 11** - Break
- **June 2** - Break
- **June 3** - Break
- **June 4** - Break
- **June 5** - Break
Volunteering - Your support is needed!

Volunteering at your child’s school is a wonderful way to be involved in your child’s education. If you would like to be a volunteer, please complete the form below and return it to your child’s classroom teacher. All new volunteers working with children must undergo an R.C.M. and a Child Abuse Registry check. These forms are available in the school office. We appreciate your support!

Parents are encouraged to support school programs by volunteering. An hour of your time makes a BIG difference to our children. If we don’t have volunteers, these programs cannot operate. Please feel free to volunteer in the following areas:

[ ] Breakfast Program (Monday/Thursday/Friday - 7:20 - 8:15 a.m.)
[ ] Library (Thursday - morning or afternoon or both)
[ ] Hot Lunch Program (Wednesday - 10:30 - 12:15)
[ ] Classroom

Parent Name: _____________________________________  Phone #: _____________________

Staff Members:

Grade P/1  Mrs. Deanna Harlow
Grade 2    Mrs. Selena Wentzell
Grade 3/4  Mrs. Patricia Daniels / Mrs. Hilary Huskilson
Grade 5/6  Mrs. Jennifer Stead
Resource /Reading Recovery /LLI  Mrs. Nancy MacIntosh
Music      Ms. Kayla Marchand
Physical Education  Mr. Dylan Norton
French Support (Grades 4-6)  Mrs. Stead
Teacher Assistants  Ms. Stubbs, Mrs. Hubley, Ms. Tanner and Mr. Hubley
Early Childhood Educators  Mrs. Sherry Mason and Mrs. Linda Matheson
Guidance Counselor  Ms. Ann Lambe
Speech Language Pathologist  Mrs. Janessa Allison
School Psychologist  Ms. Rachel Lathrup
Administrative Assistant  Mrs. Gail Grace
Custodians  Mr. Kim Morey and Mr. John Nowe
Teacher Assistants  Mrs. Tammy Baxter and Ms. Natalie Nickerson
Principal  Mrs. Rebecca Smart

School Hours:

7:55 - 7:57  Homeroom/Announcements
8:00 - 9:55  Classes in session
9:40 - 9:55  Recess #1 (Grade 2 and 5/6)
10:00 - 10:15  Recess #2 (Grade P/1 and 3/4)
10:10 - 11:30  Classes in session
11:30 - 12:00  Lunch Hour #1
12:00 - 12:30  Lunch Hour #2
12:30 - 1:50  Classes in session
1:52  Dismissal

Recess and Lunch Time / Playground:

All children are expected to play outside under the supervision of staff members during recess and lunch time. Please dress your child appropriately for current weather conditions.

“Nut Aware "School

Within our school community there are students who have a potentially life-threatening allergy (anaphylaxis) to foods, predominantly to peanuts and tree nuts. We feel the best way to reduce the risk of accidental exposure to these students is to respectfully ask for the cooperation of our parents and guardians within this school community to avoid sending these products or products with nuts in the ingredients. This would include granola bars and trail mix.
We have been asked by the SSRCE to update families with the following information. All requests are aligned with Public Health directives.

**Water:** Students need to bring a water bottle (clearly labelled with their name) to use at our water bottle filling stations. They will not have access to drinking fountains.

**Microwaves:** Students will not have access to microwaves this year for heating up lunches.

**Hand Sanitizer:** This is provided at the school and is located in each classroom, so there is no need to send any. It’s acceptable for children to have a small bottle in their backpack but it must be a brand that is unscented.

**School Access:** There is limited access to the building to ensure safety of all students. The building will be locked at all times but the office will be directly accessible via a buzzer system at the side door.

**School Drop Offs and Pick Ups:** Remembering that this is not a normal school year, and due to the Public Health expectation that cohorts be maintained, as well as other COVID–19 protocols, children cannot be dropped off at school until 7:55 am and must be picked up before 2:15 pm. Supervision (inside or outside) cannot be provided before or after these times.

**Parent Pick Up Area:** Parents/Guardians who are picking up students after school are asked to wait by the front door and are asked to practice physical distancing from one another. Students will be dismissed in a staggered order. Ensure physical distancing from other students, parents, classes and staff as you make your way to the parking lot to leave.

**Masks:** All students (PP – 6) must put on a mask before getting on the school bus and wear the mask until they are able to sanitize their hands in the classroom. This is also the case for students who are being dropped off at all grade levels, they are to put on a mask before entering the building and wear the mask until they arrive at their classroom and can sanitize their hands.

**COVID – 19 Checklists:** Checks for COVID – 19 symptoms are to be completed daily before students (and staff) leave for school. The most updated lists will be shared as they become available.

**Student Illness Pick-up Plans:** Families are to have a plan for pick-up with emergency contacts should a student become ill during the school day. Students who become ill during the day will not be transported home on the bus.

**Bus Notes:** Bus notes will only be accepted for day care and custodial arrangements.

**Attendance:** Sections of the attendance policy have been suspended for this year.

* Guidelines may change throughout the year as Public Health directives change – please keep an eye on SSRCE website as well as social media pages.
Nova Scotia School Insurance Program

SIP is now providing an electronic version of the 2020-2021 Student Accident Brochure. Parents may access the brochure on the South Shore Regional Centre for Education’s website at www.ssrce.ca or visit the website for the Nova Scotia School Insurance Program at sip.ca for more information. If parents require a hard copy of the brochure, they may contact the school office.

Student Registration Forms

Student registration forms were sent home earlier this week for updating, as required by the SSRCE. If families have any additional changes, they are asked to contact the school office as soon as possible. It is imperative that phone contact numbers and bussing information is accurate at all times throughout the year. If there are any questions, please feel free to call the school.

School Newsletters through PowerSchool/SwiftK12

To help ensure all families have access to our newsletters, along with limiting paper, we will be sending out our newsletters through PowerSchool/SwiftK12 as an attachment using parent email addresses, as provided by parents on student registration forms. If families still wish to receive a paper copy of our newsletter, we would ask you to contact the office.

Copies of our newsletters will continue to be available on our school’s website at: http://www.pes.ednet.ns.ca/. Upcoming activities and dates will also be posted on Twitter and Facebook.

Student School Supplies

We would like to thank families for sending in the student school supply money for their children for this school year.

Parents who have not had the opportunity to send in the supply money may do so this week, or send in a note to the classroom teacher indicating when it will be sent in. Parents may also pay in installments, if they wish, coordinated through the school office.

The fee is $35.00. Cheques can be made payable to Pentz Elementary School.
Calendar for the 2020-2021 School Year:

- Orientation Day (First day for teachers)
- In-service
- Labor Day
- First day for students
- Professional Development Day (incl Prog Planning)
- Thanksgiving Day
- Parent-Teacher Afternoon (P-12)
- Quarter 1 Ends (10-12)
- Remembrance Day
- Term 1 Ends (P-9)
- Assessment/Evaluation (P-9)
- Report Card Distribution (10-12)
- Report Card Distribution (P-9)
- Professional Development Day (P-12)
- Last Day before Holiday Break
- First Day after Holiday Break
- Early Primary Registration
- Semester 1 Exams Begin
- Semester 1 Ends (10-12)
- Assessment/Evaluation (10-12)
- Semester 2 Begins
- Report Card Distribution (10-12)
- Heritage Day
- Term 2 Ends (P-9)
- Last Day before Spring Break
- First Day after Spring Break
- Assessment/Evaluation (P-9)
- Good Friday
- Easter Monday
- Parent-Teacher Afternoon (P-9)
- Quarter 3 Ends (10-12)
- Report Card Distribution (10-12)
- Report Card Distribution (P-9)
- Professional Development Day (P-12)
- Victoria Day
- Semester 2 Exams Begin
- Assessment/Evaluation (10-12)
- Assessment/Evaluation (P-12)
- Report Card Distribution (P-12); Last Day

1 - No students present
3 - No classes for students in grades Primary to 9 (based on school configurations)
4 - No classes for students in grades 10-12 (based on school configurations)
5 - No afternoon classes (based on school configurations)

* SUBJECT TO CHANGE *
**Milk Program**

Milk will be sold for $0.40 per 250 ml for white partly skimmed. Milk is offered every school day and should be ordered through the weekly Hot Lunch order form.

**Hot Lunch Program**

We will be starting our Hot Lunch Program soon, with the assistance of a parent coordinator, offering rotating menu items, which adhere to the region’s Nutrition Policy. LaHave Bakery will once again be offering mini cheese pizzas on Thursdays, and bagels on Fridays. **Pre-orders for Hot Lunch Programs are required and will be taken on a weekly basis. Order forms will be emailed on Mondays.** Families are required to complete the weekly order form and forward payment by Fridays. **Menu items will be listed on the weekly Hot Lunch order forms.**

**Breakfast Program**

Our Breakfast Program has begun this week and will continue to be offered daily throughout the school year, free of charge to all students. Breakfast items will be available to students in the classrooms.