**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 29 - Parent Teacher Conferences / Early Dismissal for students.

**Weekly Schedule:**

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Pentz Elementary School is proud to take part in this year’s 40th Anniversary of Terry Fox’s Marathon of Hope on Thursday, September 24th. Please help show your support by donating.

Students will be walking or running on school grounds in their class cohorts at scheduled times during the day.

**We will be accepting "Toonies for Terry" on Thursday.** Students are encouraged to bring in a toonie in support of the Terry Fox Foundation. Donations may also be made online at the following link: [http://www.terryfox.ca/](http://www.terryfox.ca/)

**PentzElementary**

Thank you for your supporting our school in the fight against cancer and continuing Terry’s legacy!

**“Nut” Aware**

Due to possible allergies, students are asked to not bring products containing nuts.
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 #: _____________________

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 2:15pm. 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.
Student Registration Forms

Student registration forms were sent home last 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/](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 for each student in Grades P-6. Cheques can be made payable to Pentz Elementary School.
Our Shared Health, Our Shared Responsibility

The goal of Nova Scotia’s Back to School Plan is to maximize in-person attendance while ensuring health and safety measures to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission. This plan includes multiple public health measures that are most effective when they are layered together.

Our shared health depends on our shared actions at home, on the bus and at school.

Together, we’ve got this!

**AT HOME...**
- Monitor child’s health using the [COVID-19 Daily Checklist](#)
- Have a plan in place to pick children up from school if they become unwell
- Teach & model proper handwashing, cough & sneeze etiquette
- Send a full water bottle to school
- Ensure children know how & when to wear a face mask

**ON THE BUS...**
- All riders & drivers wear masks
- Riders from the same household sit together where possible
- Twice daily cleaning & high-touch surfaces cleaned between runs

**AT SCHOOL...**
- Mandatory hand sanitizing upon entry
- Frequent opportunities for handwashing throughout the day
- Students in Grades 4–12 & all staff wear face masks inside.
- No locker use
- Enhanced cleaning & high touch surfaces cleaned twice daily
- Essential visitors only
- Staggered lunches & recesses when possible
- Directional arrows to control hallway flow & minimize interaction
- Designated entrances & exits for students
- Cohorts: the same students stay together through the day as much as possible

**IN THE CLASSROOM...**
- As much space as possible between students & staff
- To limit movement, staff will go to students, not students to staff
- Hand sanitizing upon entry and before & after eating
- Technology & other common items cleaned between uses
- Caring is NOT sharing

**OUTSIDE...**
- Continued cohorts during outside play
- Maximize opportunities for outdoor learning

For more information, please visit [https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/](https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/)
Nourish Your Roots Community Campaign

Our school signed up this past spring to participate in the Nourish Your Roots Campaign, but due to COVID-19 we were unable to run the fundraiser like we have in previous years. Luckily, Nourish Nova Scotia has revamped the program to make it more community based. *Boxes will be available for purchase and will still support local farmers and schools.*

Nourish Nova Scotia has built a centralized, secure online ordering platform and collaborated with communities across Nova Scotia to help us offer Nourish Your Roots differently, without school involvement.

This year they are handling the fundraising, deliveries and pick-ups on behalf of the 116 schools that signed up for the program. *When a person orders a box online, they select a pick up location convenient to them and chooses the school they want to benefit from the purchase.* It’s that simple. At the end of the #NYR2020 Community Campaign, Nourish Nova Scotia will flow proceeds accordingly.

Nourish Nova Scotia has also kept the popular option to “donate a box.” They are working with community partners across the province to deliver donated boxes to families that need support throughout the campaign.

*Ordering is open now,* with deliveries beginning on September 28th and running until the end of October. Inventory is limited at each site, respecting the capacity of the farmer to harvest, pack and deliver.

Since piloting in 2015, Nourish Your Roots have generated over 1.5 million dollars for school food programs and Nova Scotia Farmers.

**Please visit:** [http://www.nourishns.ca/](http://www.nourishns.ca/)

*Thank you for your support!*