

Pictou Landing First Nation School

September 7, 2017

Dear Pictou Landing School Families:

Welta'sualulek Apaja'sulti'oq Pjila'si!

Another year has begun! We welcome back our students and parents. We, the staff of Pictou Landing First Nation School extend a special welcome to new families whose children are joining our learning community in Grade Primary. The staff here is dedicated to providing challenging and rewarding educational experiences for all learners. We look forward to your continued support and involvement. Let's work together so that our learners will have an exciting and successful year!

We at Pictou Landing First Nation School are dedicated to providing a safe positive learning environment that focuses on the Cultural, Social and Academic development of our children.

Our goal at Pictou Landing First Nation School is for each child to:

- be excited about learning and develop a lifelong desire to learn
- speak well, write well, read well, work well with numbers, and speak our Mi'kmaw Language
- be able to problem-solve and think critically
- have an interest in our culture and caring for our environment
- be able to work independently and with others
- be creative
- care and want to give back to their community
- persevere
- have integrity and self-respect
- have moral courage and be a responsible citizen

This year our elementary school teaching and student support staff is as follows:

Ms. Jackie Alex	Mi'kmaw Language Teacher Grades P,1,2 & Speech & Language Support
Ms. Valerie Bernard	Mi'kmaw Language Teacher Grades 3,4,5,6 & Classroom support
Ms. Lacey Colombe	Grade 5 & 6 Teacher
Ms. Kim Dorrington	Grade 3 & 4 Teacher
Ms. Irene Endicott	Principal
Ms. Nadine LeBlanc	Grade Primary Teacher
Ms. Laura McIsaac	Grade 1 & 2 Teacher
Mr. Colin Munro	Math Support all grades AM & All Grades Physical Education Teacher PM
Ms. Stephanie Gardner	Educational Program Support Worker
Ms. Lindsey McPhee	Educational Program Support Worker
Ms. Melanie Nettleton	Speech Language Pathologist
Ms. Brenda Wilson	Music

Non-Teaching Support Staff:

Ms. Karen Prosper - Receptionist
Ms Tiffany Denny - Custodian

Ms. Marsha Herney- Kitchen Worker
Ms. Sylvia Francis – Kitchen Worker

All Visitors: Upon entering the school, please report to the receptionist or principal. Thank you.



Some “Back to School” Notes

School Hours

- o School doors open at 8:30 am. Supervision begins at 8:30 am (not before)
- o Breakfast is available to any student requesting it through our Breakfast For Learning program from 8:35 to 8:55.
- o Students are dismissed at 3:00 pm, but may be required to stay later to finish assignments or serve a detention. You will be notified by phone.

Home-School Communication

We like to keep in close contact with parents and caregivers. PLFN School offers many lines of communication to keep you updated on school events and classroom curriculum.

- You will receive monthly newsletters that will include upcoming events and other items of interest to students and parents.
- Pictou Landing School Information Page on Facebook is another way to keep up to date on school events as well as the lunch menu for that day.
- We also have a website www.pictoulandingschool.ca where you will find a weekly menu and an announcement page for school updates. Each teacher has a teacher page to keep you updated.

We would like to post to this website photographs and video of our students and their work in school.

However, because this site is on the Internet and open for anyone to see, we do require your permission. This permission has to be signed each year and we have sent it home today.

- **Check In Phone Calls Home** : Periodically, your child’s teacher may give you a phone call just to check in with you. This is just a very informal check in to you as parents, giving you the opportunity to give us any feedback regarding your child, or if you have any questions.

Please do not hesitate to call us for any concern you may have regarding your child’s experience in school. It is always best to have open two-way communication between home and school, and many problems can be resolved quickly.

You are always welcome in our school, as well as to phone (755-9954), but if you wish to meet with the teacher, please understand that she/he has a class to teach and therefore can meet with you after or before school, or you can make an appointment.

Discipline Policy

- o Our school wide discipline policy will be sent home with your child. Please ensure that you review it with your family. As always, we will be teaching our students the traditional concepts of respect and sharing that form the foundation for a full and healthy way of life, through the Seven Sacred Teachings. Each teaching honours one of the basic virtues of LOVE, RESPECT, COURAGE, HONESTY, HUMILITY, TRUTH, and WISDOM. Our students learn about these teachings in school and put them into practice everyday. Please read our discipline policy for an explanation of these teachings. Thank you.

Safe Arrival Phone Call Home

- o Please call and leave a message if your child is going to be absent or late – 902-755-9954.
- o If your child is absent during morning attendance check and we have not heard from you, our receptionist will be making a phone call home to make sure your child is safe at home.

School Closures and Delays Due to Storms

PLFN School follows these procedures for closures and delays:

- When CCRSB reports a **district wide closure or late start**, PLFN School will close or start late.
- If CCRSB closes early, PLFN School will close early and notify parents via telephone, school website and Facebook information page . Please ensure your contact information is up to date.

Power Outages

For the safety and health of students and staff, PLFN School will close if the power is out for as long as 1-½ hours. PLFN School staff will call each family if this occurs. Please keep your emergency contacts current with the office so that we can make special arrangements if you are unable to pick up your child.

Early Dismissal

If your child needs to leave school early, please send a written note or phone call to the teacher that morning. This will allow the teacher to have your child ready without disrupting the classroom.

Changes to Child's Pick Up/Drop Off Schedule

To ensure your child's safety, PLFN School requires a note or phone call from his/her parent if someone other than the parent is picking up your child.

Medication

In order for any medication (prescription, over-the-counter medicines and topical creams or ointments) to be administered at school, a parent must complete a Medication Authorization Form, available in the front office. All medication must be in the original container with the appropriate pharmacy label.

- Whenever possible, medication prescribed three times daily (antibiotics) should be given at home, e.g., at breakfast, after school and at bedtime.

Illness at School

When a child becomes ill at school, PLFN School contacts the parents immediately so that the child can be picked up within one hour. This ensures prompt medical attention, when necessary, and minimizes the spread of infection and communicable diseases.

Please keep contact information updated on school records, to include current phone numbers for your home, work, cell, or a nearby friend or relative. Your child may return to school 24 hours after his/her symptoms have subsided without the use of fever-reducing medication.

Contagious diseases are a rare occurrence; however, if there is evidence that your child may have been exposed to a communicable disease, PLFN School will notify you. To prevent the spread of illness, we request you keep children at home if any of the following symptoms are present:

- **Fever** of 100° F or greater.
- **Vomiting** on two or more occasions within the past 24 hours.
- **Diarrhea** with three or more watery stools, or any bloody stool, within the past 24 hours.
- **Rashes**, especially with fever or itching.
- **Eye discharge or conjunctivitis (pinkeye)** if eye isn't clear or 24 hours has not passed since antibiotic treatment began.
- **Open or oozing sores** are not properly covered and antibiotic treatment has not been underway at least 24 hours if antibiotic treatment is necessary.
- **Head Lice**
- **Scabies** if treatment has not begun.

Head Lice

Students will be checked periodically for head lice. If live lice or eggs are found, the affected student will go home until the problem is resolved. In this way we can prevent the spread of lice to others. Please remind your child not share hats, hair bands, brushes, hair elastics etc.

Allergy Alerts

Please be aware that we have staff members and students who are allergic to SHELLFISH. These foods are not allowed in our school.

Accidents

If a child is injured at school, PLFN School calls the parents immediately. If we cannot reach parents, we contact the persons listed on the emergency form. It is extremely important that we have accurate information. PLEASE KEEP THIS INFORMATION UPDATED by notifying us of any changes on your child's Emergency Form; we especially need accurate addresses and home, work and/or cell phone numbers.

Lunch

Our school provides a nutritious lunch on a daily basis. Menus go home each week.

If your child is not eating the menu lunch please provide a lunch which requires no preparation. Our staff is very busy supervising lunch (they do not get a lunch break) and there is not time to be preparing soup or microwave cooking.

- An appropriate bag lunch would be a sandwich, with fresh fruit or fruit cup, or pudding. We can store bag lunches in the fridge if needed.

-

Snacks

Please encourage your child to bring HEALTHY SNACKS to school.

We have a NO POP policy. That includes Energy Drinks and "chubbies"

Please pre-pop popcorn at home if you are send that as a snack. We have staff and students who are sensitive to the odor of microwaving popcorn in the building. It causes headaches.

Field Trips

Field trips are a valuable part of PLFN School programs. Permission forms will be signed by parents for each field trip outside of the school. These forms will contain the trips purpose, itinerary, including date, time, method of transportation and any additional information. All children must have parent permission to go on a field trip.

Footwear

All students are required to have indoor shoes for indoor use (not necessarily brand new) preferably sneakers. Proper outdoor footwear should be appropriate to the season and daily weather conditions.

Emergency Drills

PLFN School conducts emergency drills throughout the year. Learning safe, orderly and controlled conduct is the primary purposes of emergency drills. Emptying the building quickly is certainly an important goal but so is the maintenance of proper order and discipline. The first few drills of the year are announced in advance to allow students to learn to conduct themselves appropriately. All remaining drills are unexpected and are conducted at different times of the day to get students accustomed to conditions of a real emergency.

Homework

- o Your child's teacher will be providing you with information regarding homework.
Teachers will keep you updated on their website page at www.pictoulandingschool.ca
- o Provide a supportive setting for homework to be done.
Select an area away from too much noise or distraction.
Make sure the area has good lighting and appropriate supplies.
Make homework a priority- to be completed before T.V. or computer games.
Provide support when needed.
Be in contact with your child's teacher regarding any homework issues.
- o Be sure to check backpacks daily. Look for homework assignments, memos from school, agenda, and any messages from the teacher.

