

# WE ARE SAFE, KIND, AND RESPONSIBLE

Queen Elizabeth Elementary

# School Newsletter

APRIL 2026 EDITION

## Important Reminders

Any after-school plan changes must be called in by 1pm.

The end of the school day is very busy, and receiving changes by 1pm allows our staff enough time to properly relay the information and ensure your child's safety.

To help us maintain a safe and secure learning environment for all students and staff, visitors are not permitted to walk through the halls during school hours.

If you are picking up your child, we kindly ask that you report to the main office upon arrival. Our staff will be happy to call your student down to meet you.

We sincerely appreciate your understanding and cooperation as we work together to ensure the safety of everyone in our school community.

## Recognizing Students

### Each Month

This year we are recognizing students each month who model the values of the Mi'kmaq 7 Sacred Teachings. In March we focused on WISDOM. It is to acknowledge and practice values that are respectful of everyone. We recognize and can change our behaviours that are not positive or respectful. Has the ability to positively build a better and a more sustainable world. To know the difference between right and wrong and apply this to your daily life.

(See winners and photos on page 2)

## Welcome Back to School!

We hope everyone had a fantastic and restful March Break. We're excited to be back and ready for all the learning and fun ahead!

## Dates to Remember

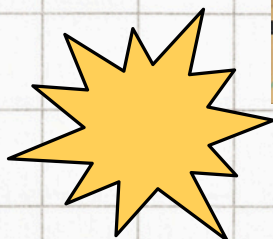
- April 2- Annual Darrah Samples Spelling Bee
- April 3- Good Friday (no classes)
- April 6- Easter Monday (no classes)
- April 8 - 7:00 School Review Meeting
- April 9 - Grade 6 Bake Sale
- April 10- PD Day (no classes)
- April 21 - Multicultural Day for students
- April 22- Earth Day, wear blue or green

## More Dates

- May 1- Area Association/CUPE 3260 Annual Convention (no classes)
- May 13 & 14- Welcome to Kindergarten 2:45pm
- May 18- Victoria Day (no classes)
- June 5 - New Kindergarten Orientation (No school for our current Kindergarten Students)
- June 24 - Grade 6 closing
- June 25 - Last day of school for students

# Winners of the 7 Sacred Teachings Award for WISDOM in March

KA- Peyton, Layla	2A- Hillis, Rosie	4A- Brooklynn, Carl	6A- Gentry, Chloe,
KB- Samuel, Keira,	2B- Jack, Evelyn	4B- Kenzie, Tucker,	Anna, Fred
KC- Isla, Jace	2C- Cohen, Ruby, Leigha	Jasper	6B- Annie, Oliver,
1A- Arleigh, Dane,	3A- Quynn, Annika	4C- Eren, Benjamin	Silas, Sadie
Wyatt	3B- Kennedy, Bennett	5A- Bennett, Mason	
1B- Ellie, Liam, Karver	3C- Catherine, Jameson,	Anna, Lucy	
1C- Alice, Elsie, Brady	Cooper	5B- Liam, Read	



## Counsellor's Corner



This month I wanted to highlight a tool that I was introduced to about a few years ago when I attended a Conference for School Counsellors. It is called "Finch", a playful self-care/mental health app that is suitable for young children. Because so many kids enjoy screen time and playing games online, I like this app because it encourages the development of healthy habits and introduces the kids to mental health tools in a fun way. It can be really effective for kids who benefit from instant feedback and visual progress.

The app is safe, private and can be used on both tablets and phones. It can be downloaded for free from the Google Play store (for Android phones and tablets) or the Apple App store (for I-phone and I-pad). It is FREE to use, though a person can upgrade to a premium version.

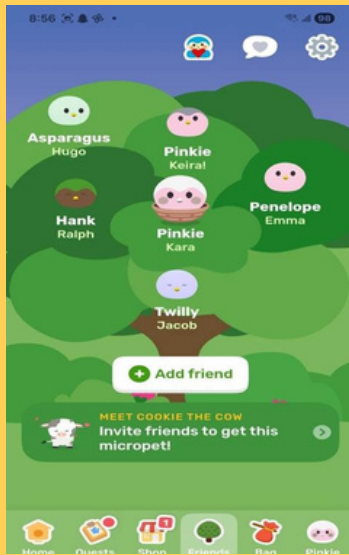
### How It Works

**Nurture Through Self Care to Build Healthy Habits-** Your child hatches a baby pet bird or "birb" that they give a name. To help it grow and go on adventures, they complete real-life tasks like brushing their teeth, drinking water, or tidying their room.

**Gamified Motivation/Earn Rewards-** Completing goals earns "Rainbow Stones" to buy cute outfits and furniture for their bird's house.

**Emotional Intelligence-** The app prompts daily mood check ins and reflection questions, helping kids identify their feelings in a low-pressure way. The bird will also give motivational messages throughout the day such as "You can do this." One feature that I really like is that in tracking moods, if a child selects the emoji face "bad" or "meh", a "First Aid Kit" pops up offering various strategies such as Anxiety Breathing, Rant Zone, 3-3-3 rule etc.

## Counsellor's Corner continued...



You can also add family members and friends who have the app to your "Tree Town" and can send "Good Vibes" throughout the day.

Check it out and see what you think! I hope you have fun.

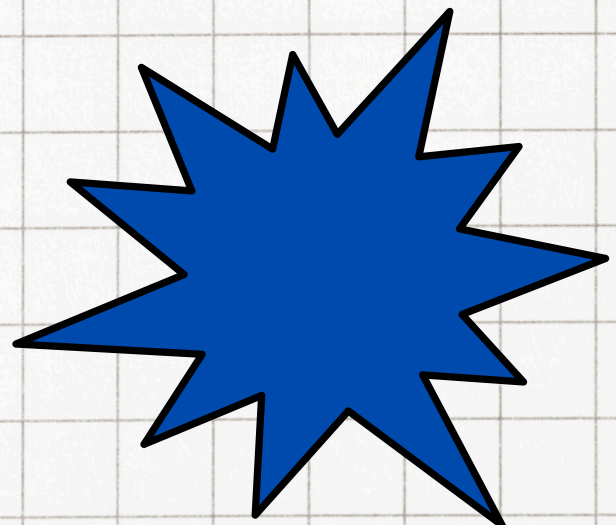
Ms. Kara



### **2025-2026 YEARBOOKS!**

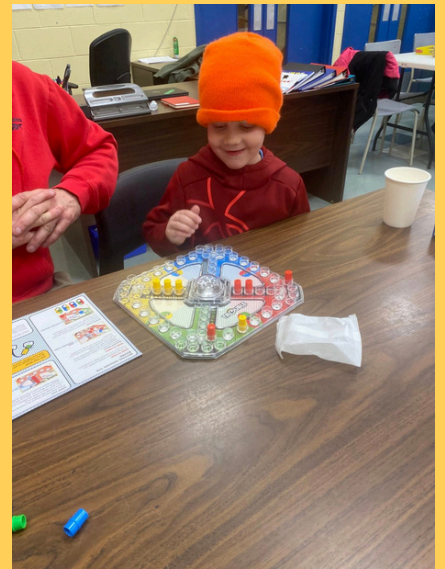
If you would like to order a yearbook please go to the website below:

**<https://store.plicbooks.com/projects/3c835f11-4059-4c81-b13a-dc3e5a31e615>**



## Family Connection Night

March 25<sup>th</sup> we held our Family Games Night and had a great turn out. Everyone had soup from Ruby's and each family got to leave with a board game.



## THE NEXT EVENT: Multicultural Family

**When:** Thursday, April 23 5:30- 6:30 (Supper provided)

**Where:** Queen Elizabeth School Library

**What:** A chance to learn about some different cultures from around the world, and from friends in our community.

A sign up will come out shortly.

If you would like to share information about your culture with the students during the day, or during the evening event, please reach out to Jaime Moase at [jlmoase@edu.pe.ca](mailto:jlmoase@edu.pe.ca)



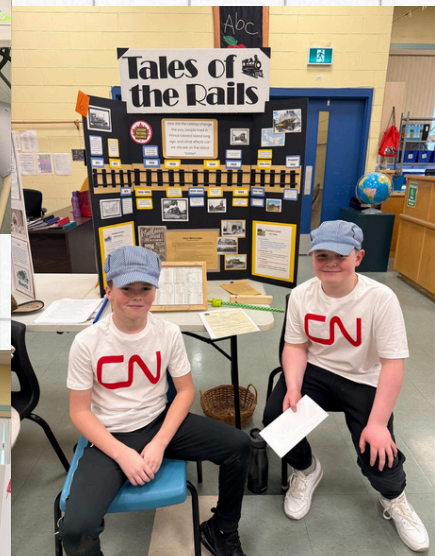
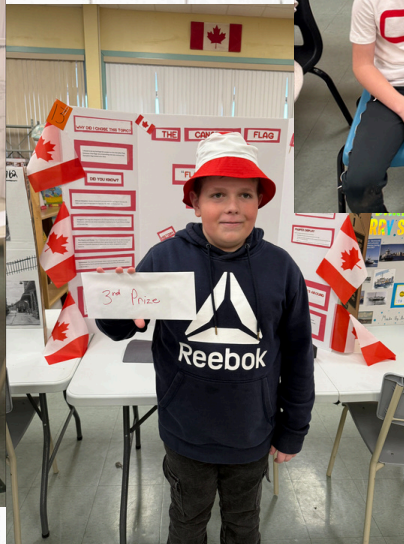
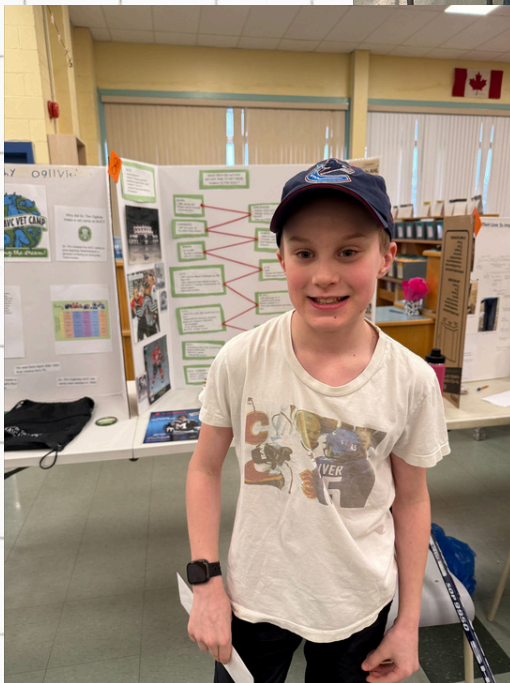
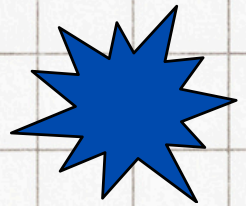
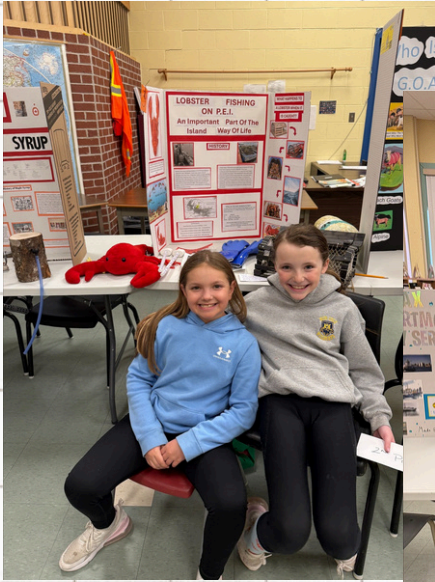
# Winners of the Heritage Fair, Congratulations!

## Grade 5

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place Mason Kember, Theo Newson
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Anna Stavert, Lucy Jollimore
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Kitson McIver

## Grade 6

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place Liz Lykow
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Carrlee Paynter
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Finley Weeks



## Exciting News: School Review

### QUEEN ELIZABETH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Notice to Parents & Guardians

SCHOOL STUDY (2025-26) and PUBLIC MEETING FOR INPUT

Acknowledging the rapid population growth across PEI over the past 10 years and the accelerated residential growth, the Public Schools Branch initiated a School Review in February of 2024 to determine the impact of these trends on the enrolments and space utilization in its 56 schools. With several schools voicing concerns about a lack of classroom space and, in particular, areas for dedicated student support programs and services, the PSB wanted to identify those specific schools where additional spaces were of paramount need.

Queen Elizabeth Elementary School was found to be using all of its 19 classrooms as well as hosting French classes in the Library until a portable classroom was added in September 2025. Student support programs and services were situated in a number of repurposed areas that had been originally designed as Teacher Preparation Centres (6), storage areas, office areas and a Library classroom/Computer Room. The school does not have any additional space to address increases in student enrolment that might create more homeroom classes or areas that could be used for student support.

The Town of Kensington is one of the provincial areas experiencing population and residential growth with the expectation of developments continuing over the next several years. Approximately 100 new residential units have been recently completed or are nearing completion. A subdivision of 87 units is expected to be developed over the next few years. Other areas within the Town are potential future sites for even more residential units. The impact of this residential growth will undoubtedly place increased pressure on QEES and KISH to accommodate more students.

Rather than add more portable classrooms or change school boundaries, the preferred solution recommended to the PSB Board of Trustees is a permanent addition to Queen Elizabeth Elementary School with six (6) classrooms and a minimum of eight (8) student support spaces.

In accordance with PSB Policy GP-14 SCHOOL REVIEW, a PUBLIC MEETING to respond to questions and receive feedback or other suggestions has been scheduled for:

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at QEES in the library. Please plan to attend.**

\*Copies of the full School Study Report may be picked up at QEES.

**SCHOOL REVIEW MEETING:  
Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00  
We HOPE to see you there.**

# PEI Home and School Federation Newsletter, April 2026

It's time to register for 73rd AGM & Conference

Please register your school and ensure it is represented at this meeting.

Bullying is being addressed by guest speaker Alain Pelletier at the AGM.

Date: Saturday, April 18, 2026

Time: 08:40 a.m. – 02:50 p.m.

Fee: \$40 per person

Place: Rodd Charlottetown Hotel, 75 Kent Street, Charlottetown

Conference Highlights: Theme: "Stop Bullying. Start Belonging."

A.M. Keynote Speaker: Alain Pelletier "5 Faces of Bullying"

Workshop Topics:

1. Child Exploitation Unit
2. "5 Faces of Bullying"
3. Food, Finances & Fundamentals, etc.

Participation: This meeting is open to all parents and educators! While each member school is limited to five (5) voting delegates, more than 5 people can register to attend from each school. The greater the attendance, the richer the discussions.

REGISTER by early deadline April 1st at: [Your paragraph text](#)

PEI Home and School Federation contact information: 902-620-3186 | [peihsf@gov.pe.ca](mailto:peihsf@gov.pe.ca)

Review 2026 Proposed Resolutions before the AGM

Resolutions submitted by local Home and School Associations will be discussed and voted on at the Annual General Meeting on April 18. Please ensure your voting delegates (parents and educators) review these resolutions in advance so they come to the meeting ready to vote.

The proposed resolutions include:

2026-01 = Integrating Playground Equipment into the Provincial Capital Budget

2026-02 = Increase Psycho-Educational Assessment Capacity for School-Aged Children in Prince Edward Island

2026-03 = Repeal Section 43 and Prohibit Corporal Punishment of Children

2026-04 = Urging Compliance with PEI Teacher Librarian Directive (Md 2025-05) By Hiring A Provincial Teacher-

Librarian Leader

Find proposed resolutions online: [Your paragraph text](#)

School Bus Driver Award

The PEI Home and School Federation's [School Bus Driver of the Year Award](#) celebrates the dedicated bus drivers who help keep PEI's students safe every day as they travel to and from school. Nominations for the 2026 award are now open! [Submit your nomination by May 8, 2026.](#)

National Volunteer Week, April 19-25, 2026. Ignite Volunteerism: A year-long, nation-building celebration. We will celebrate how people in Canada have ignited volunteerism in their communities to deepen our collective impact. Visit: [Your paragraph text](#) for resources

PSB School Board Trustee Reports

Congratulations to the Public Schools Branch Board of Trustees' new Chair, Andrew MacFarlane, and Vice-Chair, Karen Clare, who assumed their one-year roles on March 13, 2026.

Westisle (Zone 1)

Andrew Avery, Zone 1 Trustee for the PSB, has been working to meet all 9 schools in the Westisle Family of Schools since his Feb. 9 by-election win by acclamation. The primary concern across all schools is the need for more support staff, particularly teachers and educational assistants. The shortage of trained EAs is expected to worsen for the 2026-2027 school year, and Avery will advocate for addressing this in upcoming PSB budgets. On Feb 10, Hon. David Jenkins released a report on Student Safety in Island Schools with recommendations to ensure safe learning environments. Avery expressed concerns about the by-election process, which relied solely on mail-in ballots with a tight timeline, and plans to request a full review to establish the proper Election Day, in-person voting stations for 2028. He encourages community members to volunteer for school breakfast programs, noting that students who eat breakfast are more focused learners. Tignish Elementary Principal, Mike Ellsworth, received the 2026 Doug MacDougall Inspire Award for his dedication and positive impact on students and staff. Andrew Avery ([andrewavery@edu.pe.ca](mailto:andrewavery@edu.pe.ca))

Bluefield (Zone 4)

I've been able to meet some Home and School Associations in my zone and will schedule more meetings soon! In the meantime, I encourage people to reach out to me with any concerns or questions. I'm also looking forward to attending the AGM on April 18 and having great conversations with Home and School Association members. I've attended this AGM several times and have always found these meetings to be both informative and an excellent opportunity to network. Karen ([kclare@edu.pe.ca](mailto:kclare@edu.pe.ca))

Charlottetown (Zone 5)

With the warmer days of April bringing energy and smiles to everyone, we're excited by the prospect of joining one of your upcoming Home and School Association Zone 5 meetings. We'd also be thrilled to lend a hand with any student events you have in the works for May. Supporting the fun and learning that make our schools so special is important to us. In March, we had the pleasure of attending the awarding of the "Extra Mile" award to Mrs. Jill Burry of Stonepark Intermediate School. The affection and respect the students and educators displayed for Mrs. Burry were truly inspiring. It was a privilege to be asked to participate in this ceremony, and congratulations again, Mrs. Burry! Public School Board meeting minutes are available in the Board of Trustees section of the Public Schools Branch website. Kindest regards & Happy Easter to All! Andrew ([amacfarlane@edu.pe.ca](mailto:amacfarlane@edu.pe.ca)) & Gaylene ([gcarragher@edu.pe.ca](mailto:gcarragher@edu.pe.ca))



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