



April 2021 Newsletter

Kettle Creek Public School

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<http://kettlecreek.tvdsb.ca/en/index.aspx>

Principal: Mrs. W-C

Vice Principal: Mr. Ritter

Administrative Assistant: Mrs. Sutherland

Administrative Team Message

Spring has sprung and it has been absolutely wonderful to enjoy the beautiful weather and the signs of growth that are becoming evident all around us. It has been a great month of learning at school and students and staff have enjoyed being together and carrying on with the learning agenda.

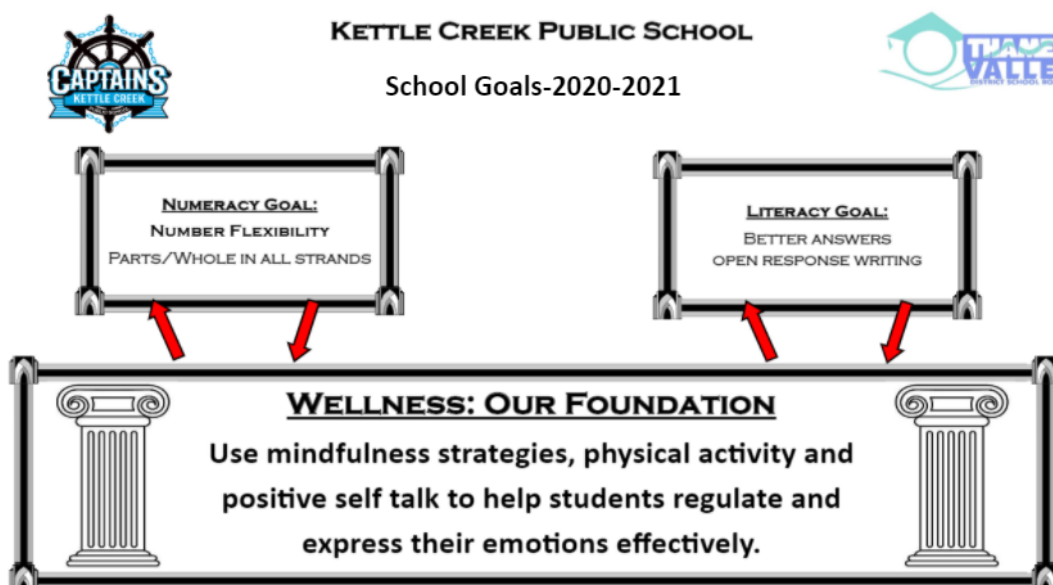
April is EARTH MONTH at Kettle Creek P.S. and we have many wonderful activities lined up for the teaching and celebration of this amazing planet we share. The leadership of our students is so important for this and we appreciate all GREEN TEAM and ECO Class members for their dedication in making these crucial lessons meaningful for all students.

Our Home and School and School Council continue to do amazing work bringing our school community together and this month we are looking forward to our first KETTLE CREEK virtual CULTURE FAIR where students and families will take you on a trip around the world as they feature various cultures reflected in our school community. This event will take place on April 8th at 6:30 p.m. and the link for that will be sent to every family via messenger and posted on our Website and Facebook page. We are so excited about learning more about each other and about the many interesting cultures in our school and around the world. Thank you to our parent volunteers who are working so hard to support these valuable learning opportunities.

Our next meeting Home and School/ School Council meeting will take place on Wednesday May 5th at 6:30 and the link for that will be posted on our Website, Facebook page and sent to your email. The meetings are only an hour and the team does a dynamite job bringing in great ideas to make our school a great place to learn. ALL WELCOME! We hope you will consider joining us.

As mentioned last month, spring weather means it is wet and muddy on our school yard. Please consider sending extra pants or boots with your child so we can avoid having to bother you at work for a change of clothing. Thank you for the many ways you support us here in the waters at Kettle Creek P.S. We really appreciate it and certainly can't do it without you!

Ms.W-C and Mr. Ritter



Kettle Creek P.S. IS NUT SAFE

Due to students with allergies, Kettle Creek Public School is nut safe. To look for safe lunch ideas that do not contain or indicate “may contain” these products, please check out this website: www.snacksafely.com. Please do not send any nut products (or may contain) to school with your child. Please note that items from bulk food locations often come into contact with nuts. Please check their safety before sending them to school. Per Thames Valley’s Policy, please do not send **Wow Butter** or any items made with Wow Butter to school. Thank you for helping us to ensure the safety of each of our students.



Thank you – Donations

Kettle Creek Public School is so blessed to have such a generous and supportive community. Thank you to the following:

Port Stanley Optimist - \$1000 – new mulch/wood chips to clean up the muddy areas in the Kindergarten yard

Port Stanley Christ Church Food Bank – ongoing monthly support for our Snack Program

Home & School – students are lucky to have a wonderful Home and School that continues to support student learning. They have purchased things like an additional Pickleball net, games, books and 2 new chromebooks

LEARNING SKILLS & GLOBAL COMPETENCIES

In order to support academic growth, we will be continuing to explicitly teach the 6 learning skills as outlined on the Provincial Report card. We will coordinate on a school wide level, the focused skill of the month. This will provide common language and consistency across the school and allow all staff to provide teachable moments throughout the school day with all the students. The monthly focus pages can be found in the front of each child’s planner so if you would like to coordinate your home focus with ours, that would be fantastic.

Our Learning Skill/Global Competency focus for April is:

Take RESPONSIBILITY and think about how to COMMUNICATE appropriately with others.

ECO CLASS – Maple Syrup

By Robert C.

Did you know there is only one ingredient in homemade maple syrup? It’s sap, that’s it, unlike store brands that are full of artificial flavours and preservatives. The E.C.O. class made some homemade syrup for not only the benefit of our taste buds, but also the environment. You would think that at least one of the trees on the outskirts of the school would have some sap for us to gather, but I guess not. We needed mature sugar maples. The only trees that we could harvest from were the trees right outside our portable. To follow suit with our fashion of naming inanimate objects: we named the trees. We had already named one Harold. The others were nameless and we couldn’t have that! So we named them Tina and Trevor. Trevor was definitely a stubborn tree that really wanted to keep his sap. On the other hand, we have Harold who was very generous with his sap. Tina had her good days, although she was stubborn a handful of times. To get sap from a tree the temperature has to drop below zero at night time, and then rise above zero for the sap to flow. To get the sap from the trees you need to tap them with a small spial. We did this and had buckets in place to catch the sap. The syrup making process seemed simple enough. We had to boil the sap until it reached about 210, at which point we transferred it to a smaller pot and continued to boil it until it reached ~220 degrees. Then we ran the syrup through felt and a coffee filter. The scent filled the room and was much better than the smell of teens. It seems pretty easy, after all it’s just boiling, but we did have some trials. During this process you’ve got to keep watching that pot and the syrup. Sometimes you forget that it’s there and that’s how we ruined a batch of sap. We left it on WAY too long and turned it into hard candy! Accidental candy seems fine, but it was hard as a rock stuck in the pan. We also used our own sap and syrup to test density using homemade hydrometers, as well as produced some fun viscosity science labs. We learned a lot about patience and perseverance in our syrup making quest this year. In the end we saved enough syrup for each of us to have our own small cup and celebrated with a waffle party! Who knew there was so much to learn from sap?

Clubs/Intramural Activities

We are pleased to let you know that our LEGO club, GREEN TEAM and Intramural Activities are up and running and students are enjoying the opportunity to do different things at recess time. We are thankful to our staff volunteers (Ms. T, Mr. Roy and our student teachers) who are giving up breaks to facilitate these opportunities.

Mark your Calendars

Thursday, April 1

- April Fools Day

Friday, April 2

- Good Friday (no school)

Sunday, April

- Easter Sunday

Monday, April 5

- Easter Monday (no school)

Thursday, April 8

- Culture Fair event (6:30 p.m.)

Friday, April 9

- Jersey Day – Spirit Day

April 12-15

- March/Spring Break – no school

Tuesday, April 13

- Ramadan Begins

Thursday, April 22

- Earth Day / Green Day

Friday, April 23

- World Book Day – Dress as your favourite book character

Monday, April 26

- Mother's Day Recipe Book – orders due (Home and School Fundraiser for Playground Equipment)

Friday, April 30

- PJ Day – Spirit Day

PLANNING AROUND SCHOOL HOURS

In an effort to minimize classroom disruptions and ensure that curriculum can be covered appropriately, we are asking parents to consider booking appointments after school hours. We recognize that this isn't always possible however, doing so will help us to minimize disruption during the learning time. Our school day begins at 9:15 a.m. and ends at 3:45 p.m. Thank you for considering this request.

HOME & SCHOOL/SCHOOL COUNCIL

The Home and School along with the School Council members continue to work tirelessly to support our efforts at Kettle Creek. Our next meeting will take place virtually on May 5th at 6:30 p.m. and we would like to invite EVERYONE to join us. We also post updates about Home & School/School Council activities on our school website and Facebook pages.

GREEN TEAM

We continue with our **WASTELESS WEDNESDAY campaign** and we are working very hard to ensure that all students make an effort to reduce the waste they create everyday but especially on Wednesdays.

REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

MILK BAGS- We are recycling Milk Bags and are weaving them into mats.

POP TABS- We are recycling pop tabs to support a student who needs a new wheelchair.

EYE GLASSES- We are working with the Lions Club to collect used eye glasses. They recycle them and give them to folks who cannot purchase new glasses.

It's EARTH MONTH at Kettle Creek P.S. and we look forward to teaching many important lessons about the earth this month.

Earth Month at Kettle Creek P.S.

APRIL				
MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI
Earth Month Begins!		Read Environmental Books		Book Voting Day
MARCH BREAK				
		EARTH WEEK	Earth Day!!!!	Fantastic Friday
Mindful Monday	Trash Tuesday	Wasteless Wednesday	Thrilling Thursday	
RECYCLED ART DISPLAYS				

OUR GREEN TIP OF THE MONTH IS:

Spend at least half an hour outside today and name 1 thing in nature that you noticed today.

March 2021

Home Connections in Mathematics

Are We There Yet?

Short jaunts in the car can be a great time to continue to build your child's sense of numbers and how they are used in the world around us. Below are a few things you might try.

Count

Young children love to count, and counting is a foundational skill. Driving anywhere can provide lots of opportunities to count types of cars, buses or trucks. Children sometimes struggle to count over the decade or century- up and over a ten or 100. You can help to count up and over the decade or century by modelling counting and then discussing patterns in our number system. It is also valuable to take opportunities to count by numbers other than one. For example, you might count by twos to count the tires on trucks, count by fours for legs on horses or cows.

Notice, Read and Talk About Numbers in the World

Students often struggle relating a number to the quantity it represents. Try a scavenger hunt for different numbers. Challenge your child to find a spot where she might find about five, ten, 50 or 100 people. Discuss with her how to determine if she is close to the target. Older children might benefit from comparing populations to numbers familiar to them. The populations of smaller centres might be compared to the number of students in their school. Larger centres might be compared to the population of the town or city in which you live. By doing activities like these, we can help students develop a sense of quantity and personal benchmarks to use when estimating.



Engage in Real-life Proportional Reasoning

As students move from grade to grade, the curriculum requires them to do more and more proportional reasoning. Travelling presents many opportunities to engage your child in authentic situations where he or she considers how two quantities scale together. When filling the gas tank, have your child check the level of the gas tank before filling. Share the capacity of the tank and ask



them to predict the number of litres and the cost of the gas.



"Are we there yet?" is a great question to turn back on your children and play with. Share with them the length of the trip. Have them track on road signs the distance to the

destination or the next stop. Predict the length of time to the destination based on the speed you are travelling, or the time taken to your current location. Check predictions against the predictions on the GPS or App.

Play With Numbers

Some of the long hours in the car can be spent playing with numbers to enhance students' understanding and enjoyment of math.

Guess My Number is a game that is easily played that reinforces some key ideas about the relative size of numbers. To play the game, select a range of numbers comfortable for the children playing. One player chooses a number and others try to guess that number. After each guess, a hint is given as to whether the guess is too high or too low. Challenge your child to develop a strategy to make the fewest guesses or develop a strategy with them.

McNugget Numbers are a set of numbers that can be fun to play with. Originally, Mc Nuggets were sold in boxes of 6, 9, and 20. A McNugget Number is a number you can make combining the numbers 6, 9 and 20. (For example, 15 is a McNugget number because you could order a box of 6 and a box of 9.) You could challenge younger children to find the numbers of McNuggets that could be ordered between 10 and 20 with only boxes of 6 and 9. Older students could be challenged to find numbers of McNuggets that could not be ordered with whole boxes of McNuggets or even the largest number that could not be ordered. (It is 43.) Finding all the McNugget numbers would be a great family challenge.



Children benefit from the opportunity to understand how numbers are used in the world in many useful and enjoyable ways.