



March 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

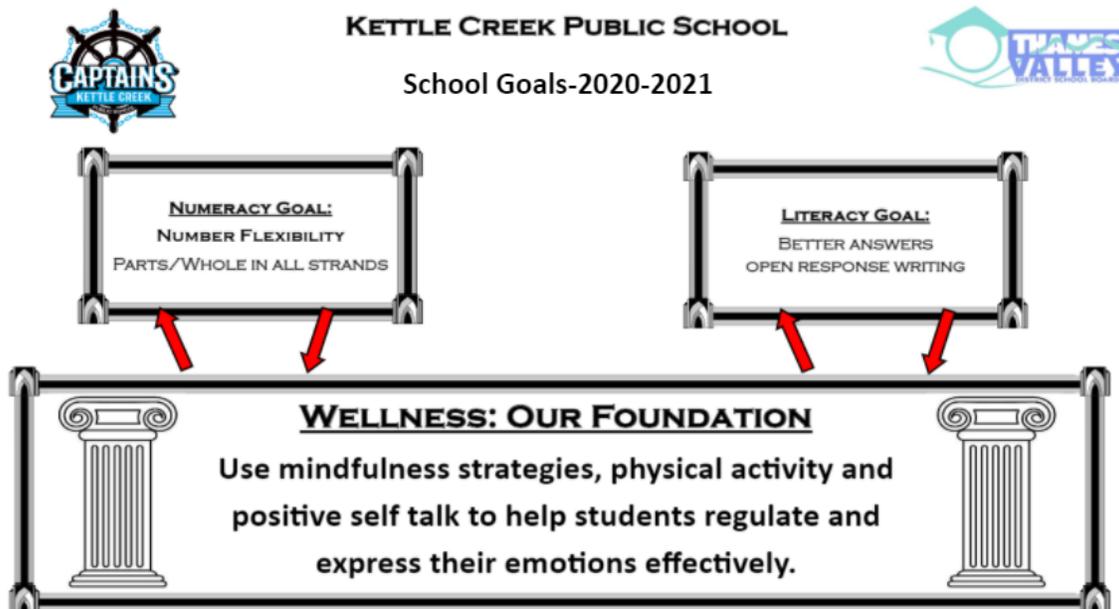
Administrative Team Message

We are so grateful to be back together in person for our learning this month-that is for sure! Our students have stepped into the building with their smiles and positive attitudes and that has inspired all of us to keep hopeful and stay focused on this moment. This month, staff and students wasted no time and the learning continued with many interesting opportunities being enjoyed. Our Grade 8 students enjoyed a COVID friendly Winter Carnival experience. As well, our ECO class continued to advocate for the preservation of the BERM in Port Stanley and have been recognized by Carolinian Canada for their outstanding efforts. We are very proud of their determination.

Our Home and School and School Council continue to do amazing work bringing our school community together and last month, we enjoyed the E-Recipe book that was shared with our school community on Family Day. Many thanks to our parent volunteers who did a tremendous job putting that together and all our families for the many wonderful contributions. This month our meeting will take place on Wed March 3rd 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. We hope you will consider joining us.

Term 1 Report Cards were sent home and many families took the opportunity to celebrate their child's academic growth and help them set learning goals for Term 2. These kinds of conversations with children really make a difference and reinforce that we value education, we are all on the same page and that we support students together on their academic journey!

As spring weather approaches, it does get 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



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.

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.



**“LAUGHTER
is an instant
VACATION.”**
- Milton Berle

Humour helps us see things differently during difficult times, and helps us to focus on things we have in common rather than our differences.

Laughing releases endorphins (feel-good hormones), that temporarily block our pain or negative feelings.

Even a short break when we are struggling helps us to believe that things will be okay.
Dr. Robyne Hanley-Dafoe

Laugh

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 March is:

CRITICAL THINKERS are able to manage WORKING INDEPENDENTLY very well.

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 and Mr. Roy) who are giving up breaks to facilitate these opportunities.

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 March 3rd 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.



Mental Health Resources
www.TVDSB.ca
www.mindyourmind.ca
www.jack.org
School Mental Health Ontario

Mark your Calendars

Wednesday, March 3

- Home & School/School Council Meeting – 6:30 p.m. (virtually).

Friday, March 5

- PA Day (no school)

Monday, March 8

- International Women's Day

Thursday, March 11

- Great Big Crunch – 9:30 a.m.

Friday, March 12

- Crazy Hair Day – Spirit Day

Sunday, March 14

- Daylight Savings Time begins (move your clocks AHEAD)

Wednesday, March 17

- St. Patrick's Day
- Green Day – Spirit Day



Friday, March 26

- PJ Day – Spirit Day

Sunday, March 28

- Palm Sunday / Passover

Friday, April 2

- Good Friday (no school)

Monday, April 5

- Easter Monday (no school)

April 12 - 16

- March/Spring Break

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.

Our Green Tip of the Month is:

Avoid using plastic water bottles whenever you can.

GREEN TEAM

Our ECO CLASS Leaders have been continuing to work very hard to get our GREEN TEAM programs running smoothly. All our recycling programs have been launched including our composting program. All of these steps will help us in our quest to maintain our PLATINUM ECO SCHOOL certification level.

This month we will 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.

ECO CLASS UPDATE

The following poem was created by Mrs. Basson's E.C.O. class as a presentation for Central Elgin counselors. The class has received support from Carolinian Canada, as well as Thames Valley Trust in their effort to create small groupings of trees on the east side of the Port Stanley berm. It is the United Nations' Decade of Ecosystem Restoration and what better way for our students to be an active part of that initiative.

Avery: Restore the rights of running rabbits to a natural habitat

Paige W.: Carolinian Canada can help create a co-operative canvas of caring.

Georgia: Hear the wind whisper through your hair. Feel the wind wash away your cares.

Nathan: Watch the water hypnotically lap at the shore.

Lauren: Memories will blossom like native coneflowers.

Sadie: Kites will fly free, like birds, unobstructed & bright.

Smith: Picnics.

Rachel: Green spaces are shrinking, don't pave paradise.

Mya: Hide and go seek, a childhood right of passage.

Robert: Bold bike trails build beautiful bonds between the berm and its people.

Payton: Binoculars for bird watching will abound, especially with bald eagles around.

Maggie: Cottonwoods and tulip trees are sure to please, tall buildings and stores, no more please.

Maya: A thinking rock is like a trusted friend who just listens but doesn't judge.

Jalissa: Wildflowers calling to pollinators, bringing colourful joy.

Shade: Festivals for fun.

Paige G: Recycled memories repeat from generation to generation, passed on experiences replicated.

Rhys: Exploring.

Hailey: A place for all people, all ages, all colours.

Evan: The opportunity cost of not honouring the berm can not be calculated by a number term.

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.