



## February 2020 Newsletter

Kettle Creek Public School  
350 Carlow Rd.  
Pt. Stanley, Ontario, N5L 1B6  
(519)782-3983  
<https://kettlecreek.tvdsb.ca/>

Principal: Mrs. W-C

Vice Principal: Mr. Ritter

Administrative Assistant: Mrs. Sutherland

### Administrative Team Message

2020 has arrived at Kettle Creek P.S. we are enjoying the best of this Canadian winter with fantastic indoor and outdoor learning opportunities for everyone. Although our basketball interschool competition ended this month, our Intermediate Basketball teams continued to practice and worked on their Basketball skills during recess breaks. As well, students benefitted from the many other extra-curricular offerings such as Craft Club, Lego Club, Green Team, Spirit Days, Me to We, school mentors and the Musical rehearsals that were offered during the month of January.

This month we had a visit from Cody Deane who is a former WWE wrestler. He demonstrated some really cool moves and encouraged students to follow their dreams and use their gifts and talents to make this world a better place. Students were inspired and showed outstanding manners as they listened to the interesting stories that our guest shared.

We have so much to look forward to in February including our Kindergarten registration which continues until Feb 7<sup>th</sup>, our Spirit Days, a concert with the UKES OF HAZZARD, the Intermediate Division Valentine's Dance and moving the back half of our school into their newly renovated spaces. Our construction continues on with the next part of our school being upgraded. The great news is that at this point, we are well on schedule to being all done in September. We can hardly wait!

As we look ahead, we are getting organized for our KETTLE CREEK BOOK SWAP which will take place March 9-12th. If you have any gently used children's books that you are willing to donate, please bring them to the school on **Monday, March 9th**. We appreciate all books however, we would be really pleased to have books or magazines for Grade 7 and 8 students because they are often the most difficult reading materials to find. Thanks for considering us in your spring cleaning. A special thanks goes to Mrs. Koolen who once again is organizing this wonderful and environmentally friendly event for our students.

As always, it is an absolute pleasure to work with such amazing families at Kettle Creek as well as the members of this community. Thank you for your positive and ongoing support – we really appreciate it!

Ms.W-C, Mr. Ritter and Mrs. Sutherland

#### Volunteers

We are always looking for more volunteers to support our efforts at Kettle Creek. In particular, we are looking for 1 hour on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. If you are interested, please give us a call at the school so we can get you set up. THANKS!

#### Kettle Creek P.S. IS NUT SAFE

Due to students with allergies, KCPS is nut safe. 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. As 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.

**PLEASE**



**NO PEANUTS  
OR  
NUT PRODUCTS**

## Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten registration for the 2020 school year will continue through till Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>. If you or anyone you know has a child ready for Kindergarten, please come to the school between 10-3 p.m. to do that. To streamline the process and make it more efficient, you can register on line, print your form and then bring verification documentation (birth certificate and proof of address) to the school to complete the process.

## Staffing Updates

We are excited to welcome back Ms. Mahovlich and Ms. Steele who have returned from their maternity leaves. They are ready to dive in with their students and looking forward to getting familiarized again with all the members of our community. Unfortunately, we have to say goodbye to Ms. Kunder and Mr. Bennett and are so grateful for their outstanding work in the Kindergarten and Grade 5/6 classrooms. They will be missed but we know that wherever they go, their students will benefit from their outstanding skills and positive energy. We were also sad to say goodbye to our 0.5 EA Ms. Rickwood who was able to secure a 1.0 position at Elgin Court. We do miss her but are pleased to welcome Ms. Verkest in that role. We know that staff and students will appreciate her contributions to our school community.

## Green Team

Our ECO CLASS Leaders have been continuing to work very hard to keep 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 earn a PLATINUM SCHOOL certification level. Last month we enjoyed snowshoeing and bird watching activities in our back yard and students were excellent participants with our Jaffa guests. This month our team members will continue to meet and we will begin learning how to weave milk bags into mats. We appreciate our executive members who are providing fantastic leadership for these club members.

### **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.

**INK JET CARTRIDGES**-We are recycling cartridges. Please send to school if you have any.

Our learning skill focus for FEBRUARY is:

**INITIATIVE** to help us **INNOVATE**

### **School Goals**

#### **Academic Goal - FLEX YOUR NUMBERS**

We are working on improving number flexibility through the use of number lines and skip counting.

#### **School Culture Goal – WALK THE TALK**

We continue to use mindfulness to help us focus on the needs of others in our class, school, community and world.

## Sports Updates

The Intermediate Basketball season was in full swing this month and our Intermediate boys and girls who participated in this opportunity developed excellent skills and demonstrated outstanding attitudes both on and off the court. This of course, made us very proud of each athlete. Although we were not able to continue with the interschool competition, team members enjoyed working with their coaches during the recess time to continue developing their skills and they also had fun playing boys versus girls and mixed team games. Thanks to our coaches Mr. Roy, Mr. Bennett, Ms. Falk and Mr. Anderson for all the extra time they gave up to provide this opportunity for our students. We really appreciate you!

## **The Sounds of Music**

We are starting to plan for the SPRING THING and Mr. Murray is enjoying the sounds of Ukles, guitars and recorders in music class. The UKES OF HAZZARD will be performing for our students on Friday February 28<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m. and we would like to invite all members of the community to join us for this positive and fun event.

## **Indoor Shoes / Extra Clothes**

Please remind your children to dress appropriately for the weather - boots, hats, gloves and coats. **All students must have indoor shoes.** This will help with keeping the floors clean and free from causing slips and falls. It is also extremely important for students to wear clean footwear during gym classes. If possible, please send an extra pair of pants and socks to keep in your child's school bag, as our yard gets very wet and muddy at times. Thank you for your support and ensuring the safety of your child.

## Mark your Calendars

February 3-7

- Kindergarten Registration continues

Friday, February 7

- Pizza Day

Friday, February 14

- Pizza Day
- Intermediate Valentine's Day Dance – 2:30 p.m.

Monday, February 17

- Family Day – no school

Friday, February 21

- Pizza Day

Wednesday, February 26

- Hot Food Day – Chicken Fingers

Friday, February 28

- Pizza Day
- Spirit Day – Jersey Day
- Ukes of Hazzard Performance – 1:00 p.m.

Friday, March 6

- PA Day – no school

March 16 – 20

- March Break – no school

## **Southwestern Public Health WINTER WALK DAY 2020**

Go Green! Travel Clean! Wednesday, February 5<sup>th</sup> is Winter Walk Day. Join others to help reduce vehicle emissions around YOUR school. Whether you walk to school, take the bus or have to be driven, you can still participate!

- Kids bundle up and walk to and from school
- Parents park a block or two away from the school and walk the rest of the way with your kids
- Parents turn off your engine and idle free for the kids when dropping and picking them up

## **ME to WE**

The Me to We Club will be focusing on the Ronald McDonald house as their next charity of choice and we are looking forward to sharing more about this worthwhile cause and how we will support them as information becomes available. Stay tuned -more information to come.

## **Kettle Creek P.S. School Council and Home and School Corner**

Our Home and School and School Council members continue to work tirelessly to support our efforts at Kettle Creek. Along with the hot lunch, pizza and milk program, they contribute tirelessly to make our school a great place to learn.

***Our meeting will take place on:***

***Mon. March 30, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.***

We would like to invite everyone to join us.

## **Grade 8 Grad Trip Fundraiser Updates**

The Grade 8 Grad Trip Fundraiser committee has set a goal of covering the Montreal trip expense for every student in the graduating class. So far, they have been very successful and they have covered all payments required thus far since the original deposit.

Our parent volunteers have also been busy this month and we would like to thank all the members of our GRAD COMMITTEE for their time and effort spent planning our PAINT NITE at Debackere farms. The evening was a huge success with over \$700 being raised toward the student trips. Many of our students were also very successful covering their trip expenses by selling pepperettes. Thank you to Mrs. Sutherland for helping us get that organized. At this point, our Grad Trip committee have raised over \$9000 toward the trip to Montreal and we are so grateful to these parents for organizing and the entire community for participating and supporting each fundraiser.

## **COMING SOON – Book Swap**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Kettle Creek P.S. BOOK SWAP will take place during the week of March 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>. If you have any gently used children's books you would like to donate, please bring them to the school on March 9<sup>th</sup>. We are especially in need of books or magazines for students in Grades 7 and 8. Thank you for considering us in your spring cleaning this year.

# Home Connections in Mathematics

## February 2020 -Children's Literature and Mathematics

We have known about the importance and benefits of reading with our children for a long time. Children's literature can be a rich source of learning mathematics at all levels, not just primary. Using literature helps to meet the needs of all learners and accommodate a range of learning styles. The use of literature should continue throughout the junior years as stories help to bring mathematics to life. Students of all ages love stories and love to talk about stories. When teachers and parents use literature with a mathematical connection, they help students learn to "talk mathematics". Good stories provide good opportunities for math talk. Author and researcher, ReLeah Cossett Lent asserts that background knowledge is the glue that makes learning stick. "Picture books, sometimes known as children's books, aren't just for little kids anymore. Surprisingly, picture books contain more rare words per thousand words than prime-time television or the conversation of college graduates. Picture books build background through visual images as well as through words, an especially important factor for this generation of visual learners" (Cossett Lent).

Literature can be used in numerous ways to create challenging math problems with a variety of entry and exit points. For example, in the magical Chinese folktale, *Two of Everything* (Hong, 1993), a couple finds a pot that doubles whatever is put into it. Children can be challenged with how many people would be in their family if the entire family fell into the Magic Pot. Children of all ages can use a variety of strategies to solve this problem. You can also extend the activity by changing the Magic Pot to tripling what is put into it, and so on.

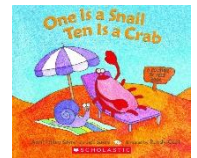
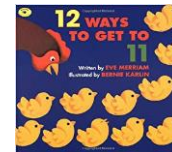
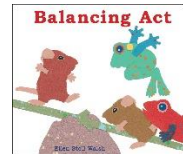


A variety of non-fiction (books, newspapers, magazines, the Web) literature can be used in teaching mathematics. They are all great sources for problems that have the added benefit of helping students make connections to the world around them.

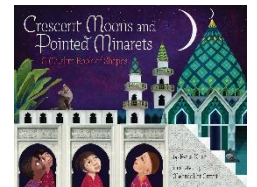
One excellent online math site and resource for children's literature and mathematics is the **Erikson Institute Early Math Collaborative**. We have included here an example of 3 children's books that build an understanding of equivalency. <https://earlymath.erikson.edu/3-childrens-books-build-understanding-equivalency-and-teaching-equivalency-concepts/>

"Long before young children are writing equations with the equal sign, they are exploring how amounts that look different can actually be equivalent.

Ideas about equivalence develop through everyday, concrete experiences that require children to find something that is **the same as** something else. Imagine a child figuring out how to fill a space in a block structure when the desired shape is not available (two isosceles right triangle blocks are **the same as** a square block) or sharing colored candies with a sibling (my 3 reds and 1 yellow are **the same as** your 2 reds and 2 yellows). The following books offer engaging visual representations of equivalence—in the form of balance and equivalent representations of numbers."



Another great book is *The Warlord's Puzzle* by Virginia Walton Pilegard, where children can explore spatial, geometry and fraction concepts using tangram pieces.



*Crescent Moons and Pointed Minarets* by Hena Khan, celebrates the shapes—and traditions—of the Muslim world

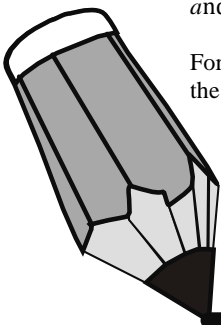
For students of all ages, literature resonates with their experiences and imaginations, making them more enthusiastic about solving the related mathematics problems and more likely to learn and to see mathematics as a useful tool for exploring the world.

Here are some great links to children's literature and activities to go with them. Also be sure to check out your school and local library. Have fun!

<https://earlymath.erikson.edu/>

<https://dreme.stanford.edu/news/children-s-books-foster-love-math>

<https://www.the-best-childrens-books.org/math-for-kids.html>



In support of our Eco-School program, newsletters are posted "on-line." If you wish to have a paper copy sent home every month, please let the office know by returning the form below to the school. . Thank you!

Child(ren) Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send home a paper copy of the monthly newsletter

Parent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_