



February 2021 Newsletter

Kettle Creek Public School
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Pt. Stanley, Ontario, N5L 1B6
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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

January 2021 has come and gone and the uncertainty around what was happening from week to week and the fact that we were not able to return to in person learning made this month challenging and disappointing for many families and staff members. HUGE kudos go out to all of our families and staff for the resilience you have shown this month as we grappled with technology, glitches and the learning curve that this on-line platform presents.

We were extremely pleased to see that the participation and engagement in our virtual classrooms has been outstanding with close to 98% of students participating and with that level of engagement, we were able to keep the learning agenda moving forward even if it was a little slower or different from the usual.

Our Home and School and School Council met at the beginning of January and they have some exciting plans that they are working on. We would love to keep everyone in the loop and provide an opportunity for families to participate in these fun projects. Information and updates for about Home and School/School Council are now located on our Website and Facebook page and we invite you to sign up to the email group so you can receive the most recent updates and plans.

As you know, this online learning platform is a work in progress for all of us and we appreciate the many families who took the time to provide feedback and suggestions for how we as a team can make the learning better for our students. We had many positive affirmations and we also had some really excellent suggestions for improvement. Staff have taken all the information shared to make some adjustments for next time.

We are so thankful to hear that we are back Feb 1st and we want to assure you that we will continue to diligently follow safety protocols. Masks are now mandatory for all students in Grade 1-8 both indoors and outdoors unless a medical note is provided. We also ask that all of our families continue to do the outstanding job of keeping sick children at home. This has been a huge part of our success in terms of staying healthy at the school and your help with that is so very much appreciated.

If your family has borrowed a device from us, **PLEASE ENSURE THAT IT IS SENT WITH YOUR CHILD ON THE FIRST DAY BACK TO SCHOOL.** We will continue to allocate that device for your child at school but having those at the school will allow us to supplement our depleted fleet of devices and enable us to integrate those teaching tools at school as needed. Your help with that is very much appreciated.

This month, we are really excited about our First Kettle Creek P.S. Recipe E-Book release. If you haven't had a chance to submit your family's favourite recipe, we would invite you to follow the link on the Website and add yours. We will be asking for all submissions to be in by Feb 9th so that our volunteers have time to put it together for a Family Day release. Thanks to our Home and School volunteers who have spent so much time organizing and getting this project launched.

Term 1 Report Cards will be sent home February 12th and we encourage you to review these with your child, celebrate academic growth and help your child set some learning goals for Term 2. We are very proud of all our learners who have done a wonderful job in our new way of learning both in person and on line.

Once again, we would like to thank you for your ongoing support! The positive energy and feedback really makes a huge impact and helps us make Kettle Creek P.S. a great place to learn both in person and on line. On behalf of our staff and students, we are excited to see everyone back in person on February 1st.

Ms.W-C and Mr. Ritter

Staffing Updates

We are sad to say goodbye to Ms. Jackson, our afternoon Educational Assistant, who received a full time opportunity at Forest Park P.S. We are very happy for Ms. Jackson but will miss her wonderful contributions to our school community. To cover Ms. Jackson's role, we would like to welcome Ms. Brit MacQuaig who will be filling as our afternoon E.A. until the end of June.

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.

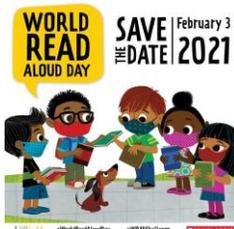
Kettle Creek P.S. IS NUT SAFE

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.



WORLD READ ALOUD DAY!

Feb 3rd is WORLD READ ALOUD DAY and we will celebrate at school by having mystery guest readers coming to your child's classroom to read this year's featured book. This book is written by basketball legend LeBron James and is called I PROMISE -an inspirational book for young and old. As well, as part of our celebration, we are inviting all families to break out a book at 7 p.m. on Feb 3rd and choose someone to READ THAT BOOK ALOUD to the family. It can be any book and families are invited to take a photo for our Website and our SGN segments on the announcements. Come on Captains, join in Feb 3rd at 7 and enjoy some time reading together as a family.



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 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

VALENTINE'S DAY

Well, once again, we need to rethink how we do things to make it safe for all our students so...to that end, we will ask all families to avoid sending Valentine's Day Cards/gifts/treats to the school. Instead, we will use this opportunity to provide students the chance to create and share positive Valentine's sentiments IN CLASS and we will post these on the walls around the school as part of our Random Acts of Kindness campaign this month. I know that it is fun to do these at home with your children but at this time, your understanding and cooperation around this is appreciated. If you wish to make Valentine's notes at home, please consider making them for members of your family or soldiers who are serving overseas. Thank you.

Clubs

We had just organized virtual Yoga Club and LEGO club before the announcement came in on Thursday that we are back to in person learning so unfortunately, our plans for extracurricular activities will not be implemented at this time. The safety protocols do not allow mixed cohorts making it really challenging to find a way to have students come together in a club format. We are working on ideas and hope to have something extra for our students soon. At this time, we aren't sure what that will look like or when that will be started but will keep you posted.

Mark your Calendars

Monday, February 1

- Back to in person learning.

Tuesday, February 2

- Groundhog Day

Wednesday, February 3

- World Read Aloud Day (7:00 p.m. families read together)

Thursday, February 11

- International Day of Women's and Girl's in Science

Friday, February 12

- Chinese New Year
- Report Cards sent home
- Spirit Day – Pink & Red Day

Sunday, February 14

- Valentine's Day

Monday, February 15

- Family Day – no school
- Flag Day

Tuesday, February 16

- Shrove Tuesday – Pancake Day

Wednesday, February 17

- Ash Wednesday
- Random Acts of Kindness Day
- Read Canada Day

Saturday, February 20

- Love your Pet Day

Sunday, February 21

- International Mother Language Day

Wednesday, February 24

- Pink Shirt Day

Friday, February 26

- Spirit Day – PJ Day

Saturday, February 27

- Purim starts

Devices

Please don't forget to send any borrowed devices back to the school on our first day of in person learning. Thanks for your help with that.

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.

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

Written by Lauren Evelyn

The Kettle Creek ECO class has invested itself further in the berm project this winter. We are honoured to have been asked to become ambassadors of the Port Stanley berm soon-to-be forest! What is the berm? It's a small piece of land surrounded by water. It's located in Port Stanley, just right of Little Beach. We are planning to help make a Carolinian forest on it. Some may even say "we speak for the trees" on the land, like the Lorax. Our plans for the berm are slowly moving forward. We will be working with the berm community to start the forest. We hope to plant the first couple trees in the spring, and gradually plant more. Besides our work with the berm, we have received a donation from the St. Thomas Elgin Community Foundation! The money is for our class to help with the seed library. You might be wondering what a seed library is. Well, our seed library so far is a pocket chart organizer holding several little native seed packets. We will use the donation to make signs and package the seeds. In the spring the library will be up and running! It will be like an exchange program. Community members and students can take a seed packet, and then when they have grown the native plants, they can harvest and return the seeds to the library. Stay tuned for more information in the spring!

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.



Home Connections in Mathematics

Supporting Understanding of Division

For many students, division is a procedure to be learned and an unfriendly one at that. Many of us learned to *Divide, Multiply, Subtract, Bring Down* in a digit-focused procedure.

Granted, some do become proficient at this procedure. For many students and adults, however, the concept of division is lost in replicating the procedure. How can we keep the focus for children on understanding the meaning of division and help them to be fluent in tasks requiring division at the same time?

$$\begin{array}{r} 135 \\ 3 \overline{)405} \\ \underline{30} \\ 10 \\ \underline{9} \\ 15 \\ \underline{15} \\ 0 \end{array}$$

First: Children need to understand that division and multiplication are related operations.

$488 \div 8 = \square$

So how many groups of 8 makes 488?

I know that 8×50 makes 400 / total 400

I know that 8×9 makes 72 / total 472

and another 8×8 makes 64 more / total 488

and then 8×1 makes the last 8 / total 488

how many 8s? $50 + 9 + 8 + 1 = 68$

Division shouldn't be scary. We want our children to think forwards and backwards in multiplicative situations and know they could use what they know about multiplication to handle division problems.

Second: Children need to get comfortable with a variety of situations where division makes sense.

Rate: Kyle earned \$72 for his 6 hours of work at the Sub Shack on Friday night. How much does he make per hour?

Comparison: Tina read 25 pages, which was 5 times as many pages as Gloria read. How many pages did Gloria read?

Area: The parallelogram covers 32 square units and has a base that is 8 units wide. How tall must the parallelogram be?

Combinations: Shirley's Pizza has 8 possible kids' combo meals with a main course and a side dish. If they offer 2 side dishes, how many main course dishes must they offer?

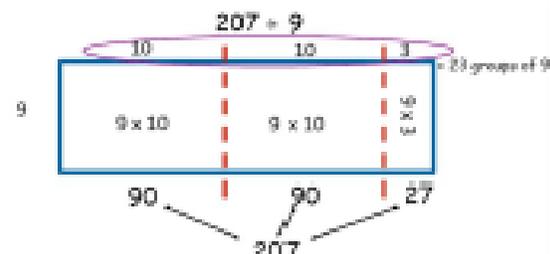
Third: Visuals and Strategies Help A Lot! Many children in Thames Valley schools are learning how to use arrays and number lines to facilitate their thinking in multiplication and division situations. These representations allow students to see and work with mathematical relationships and deepen understanding.

1) Building arrays are a particularly useful place for students to begin learning about

$36 \div 3$ means 36 tiles in a rectangular array with a width of 3. I have to find out how long the rectangle must be.

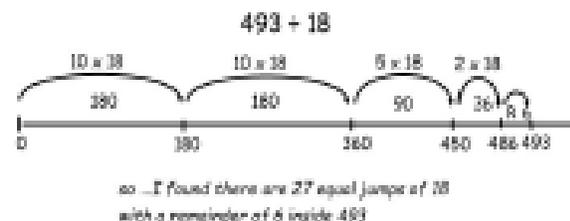


multiplication and division as they show equal rows and columns leading to a total number of squares. After building, our children can transition to using grids and open arrays to become more efficient.



2) Number Lines also support our children to keep a sense of the numbers as they work to find a solution for division questions.

There is no one best way to handle division.



Our children are much better off, however, if we encourage them to work from a place of understanding rather than rule-following.