



January 2021 Newsletter

Kettle Creek Public School
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Pt. Stanley, Ontario, N5L 1B6
(519)782-3983

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

Principal: Mrs. W-C

Vice Principal: Mr. Ritter

Administrative Assistant: Mrs. Sutherland

Administrative Team Message

December was a bit of a whirlwind with many fun activities as part of our holiday celebrations. Our Grade 7 students learned about the many holidays that take place around the world. They shared their learning with the rest of the school through info-commercials that explained each holiday to the rest of our school community on the morning announcements each day.

We were also really pleased to have our HOLIDAY concert shared virtually with the school community and the residents at EXTENDI CARE. Thanks to our staff and students for generously sharing their time and talents with us and our entire school community for tuning in to support. Thanks also to everyone who participated in our Covid Friendly Canned Good Drive. We were able to donate those items to the Food Bank and are very pleased to be able to contribute to the needs of those in our community.

Our Home and School and School Council met last month and continue to work hard to support opportunities for our students to learn and grow. We are so grateful to all of these volunteers to give tirelessly to help us support student learning. Our next meeting will take place VIRTUALLY on January 13th at 6:30 p.m. and we would like to extend an invitation to ALL members of our community. The link to access this meeting will be sent through the school email or can be found on our Facebook page or Website. EVERYONE is welcome and we hope you will consider joining us. Many hands make light work.

2021 has arrived and with that, we are looking forward to life becoming safer as it relates to all the Covid concerns. We are also really pleased that we made it through the first 3 months of school with minimal concerns. We really appreciate all of our families for being so conscientious about following all of the protocols and not sending sick children to school.

This week, we will be busy trying to get technology handed out to families who need to borrow some and next week we will be busy getting all of our technology returned. If you need tech for your child to participate in our online learning this week, please put your request in through the portal or give us a quick call at the school so we can get your request submitted to the Board office. Please make sure that if you do get a device from us that you send it with your child on the first day of our return to school. It really makes it easier to track down all the distributed devices. If you still have one of our devices from the spring distribution, please ensure that you also return those to us on the first day of return to learn. Your help with that is very much appreciated.

January is an exciting month for our Grade 8 students who will be attending virtual open houses for High School and choosing their courses for Grade 9. More details will be sent directly to Grade 8 parents through Messenger. As well, we have our ongoing Green Team initiatives happening and hopefully, once Covid concerns become sorted out, we will be able to have more extra curricular activities available for our students.

Once again, we would like to thank you for your ongoing support! The positive energy and feedback that provide really makes a huge impact and helps us make Kettle Creek P.S. a great place to learn. On behalf of our staff and students, cheers to a healthy and happy 2021!

Ms.W-C and Mr. Ritter

STAY CONNECTED to KETTLE CREEK P.S on your PHONE

1. Download the SCHOOL MESSENGER app to your phone. Follow the instructions from this link: <https://www.tvdsb.ca/en/parents/school-messenger-step-by-step-guide.aspx>
2. Log in using the email that you have provided to the school.
3. Follow the prompts on the app. .

We will also communicate regularly through our school website and our school Facebook page.

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 or during our nutrition breaks whenever possible. We recognize that this isn't always possible however, doing so will help us to minimize disruption during the learning time. If you do need to pick your child up at the end of the school day, please call Mrs. Sutherland at the school by 3:20 p.m. so that we can make sure they don't get on the bus. Our school day begins at 9:15 a.m. and ends at 3:45 p.m. Our 2 nutrition breaks are from 10:55-11:45 a.m. and 1:45-2:25 p.m. each day. Thank you for considering this request.

Individual Plans of Care (IPOC)

If your child has medical concern such as allergies, asthma or other medical conditions, please go on line to fill out the IPOC information through the parent portal. It is very important that all student medical concerns are on file. Thank you for your cooperation.

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.



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 JANUARY is:

ORGANIZATION to help us COMMUNICATE

School Improvement Goals

Numeracy Goal - FLEX YOUR NUMBERS

Using Parts/Whole to Improve Number Flexibility and Fluency

Literacy Goal – BETTER ANSWERS

Improving written responses to open response questions.

School Culture Intention

Using Mindfulness, Positive Self Talk and Physical Movement to help express emotions appropriately.

Sports Updates

Last month we were able to introduce Intramural Activities for students. We are grateful for our student teacher, Mr. Blankdenhip who has willingly stepped up to help us run these activities and the staff, Mr. Roy and Mr. McCurdy who are also supporting this effort by volunteering their time.

Lego Club

Once we are able to, we are hoping to have Lego club start again. Thanks to Ms. T for volunteering her time to host this extra-curricular activity for our students. We really appreciate their time doing that.

MATH TEAM

Our Caribou Math team continues to participate in the monthly contest and we thank Mr. McCurdy for all his time organizing this activity for our Intermediate students.

Mark your Calendars

Friday, January 1

- New Year's Day

Wednesday, January 6

- Epiphany

Thursday, January 7

- Orthodox Christmas Day

Wednesday, January 13

- Home & School/School Council Meeting – 6:30 p.m. (virtual link sent to all families via email.)

Thursday, January 14

- Orthodox New Year

Friday, January 15

- Spirit Day – Crazy Mask Day

Monday, January 18

- Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Friday, January 22

- PA Day – no school

Thursday, January 28

- Tu B'Shevat / Arbor Day

Friday, January 29

- Spirit Day – PJ Day

Staffing Updates

Mr. Murray , our Music teacher has returned to us in good health and we are very grateful to Ms. Hunter who covered his Music role while he was away. Ms. Robbins will be returning from her mat leave at the end of the month and we are very thankful to Ms. Mageean who has done an outstanding job teaching the Grade 5 class in the interim. Our best wishes go with her. She will be missed! Ms. James will not be returning to us this year and Mr. VanSickel will continue to teach our SK/1 class until the end of June. We are grateful for the consistency this will provide for those students and are thrilled to be able to keep Mr. Vansickle here with us.

HOME & SCHOOL/SCHOOL COUNCIL Welcome to Kettle Creek P.S.

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 January 13th at 6:30 p.m. and we would like to invite EVERYONE to join us.

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 our members have launched 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.

ECO CLASS UPDATE

Written by Payton L.

Members of the Port Stanley Keepers of the Creek Carolinian Project committee, have been working with Carolinian Canada, an organization committed to preserving our unique ecozone. They have asked our class to create a seed library as part of a restoration project. What is a seed library exactly? Well, a seed library is a place where you have easy access to native seeds. You may take the seeds you wish and plant them, but you must bring back the seeds they produce the next year. Our seed library is stored in our classroom. If you wish to be a part of this project or borrow seeds for your garden please contact the E.C.O. class at tv44441@gotvdsb.ca

Hello from Home & School Association and School Council,

As we say goodbye to an unprecedented year and the dawn of a new year is upon us, we remain committed to strengthening our community through the partnerships of Kettle Creek Public School (KCPS), families and our community.

While we all transition and adjust to the recent provincial government direction to virtual learning until at least January 11, 2021, the Home & School Association and School Council (H&SA / SC) will pivot our efforts to offer digital events and activities to engage our children, while keeping everyone safe.

We have exciting things planned for the rest of this school year. Here are some key events and broad timelines for what's in store:

- Culture Day (February 2021): We will be celebrating who we are, our community's diversity and cultivating inclusion and a greater understanding of our unique backgrounds.
- UNESCO's World Book Day (April 23, 2021): We look forward to celebrating the beauty of reading, imagination and favourite book characters of the staff and students at KCPS.
- 30 Day Fitness Challenge (May 2021): A schoolwide challenge for students and families. We will provide activities and challenges throughout the month to promote a healthy lifestyle through exercise and wellbeing.
- Eco Day (June 5, 2021): We will be championing the United Nations' *World Environment Day* to inspire our community to learn and participate in activities that focus on eco-awareness and sustainability.
- Community Speaker Engagement Opportunities (Ongoing): seeking to champion positive voices within our community to partner with us and help our efforts in cultivating a strong, compassionate community.

We are delighted to partner with Natalie from Kaleidoscope Yoga Studio in Port Stanley to offer MINDFUL MOMENT activities in the school's monthly newsletter. Please click on the icon below for January's Mindful Moment activities. Sending a huge thank you to Natalie for offering this to our students and families.



**Kaleidoscope
Mindful Moment Jar**

If you are interested in volunteering for any of the events mentioned above, have a community speaker in mind for a future partnership or any other suggestions to share, please contact us at kettlecreekhomeschool@gmail.com. We would love to hear from you.

We wish you all a Happy New Year. May 2021 bring you happiness, health and prosperity.

~ Beth, Jessica, Katy, Miranda, Sara, Suman & Tara

FUN FACT

Did You Know?: There used to be a "Figure 8" roller coaster on Stanley Beach (Port Stanley). The roller coaster is assumed to be built in the early 1900s and likely removed in the 1920s, leading up to the Great Depression. Materials from the coaster were later repurposed to build cottages in the area and some of the large beams became new posts near Mackie's Refreshment Booth. Source: <http://cec.chebucto.org/ClosPark/StanBech.html>

Please send us your fun facts on our area and community to kettlecreekhomeschool@gmail.com. It may be included in a future newsletter