



May 2020 Newsletter

Kettle Creek Public School
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<https://kettlecreek.tvdsb.ca/>

Principal: Ms. W-C

Vice Principal: Mr. Ritter

Administrative Assistant: Mrs. Sutherland

Administrative Team Message

Spring has sprung at Kettle Creek P.S. and what a spring it has been! One could say it has been a VIRTUAL whirlwind thinking about how we can serve and connect with our students and families in the middle of the current situation. Our staff have been working hard to re-invent themselves as teachers from a distance and although we've had a few glitches here and there, we have really appreciated the words of encouragement, the generous support and the patience our community has given to us.

As you probably know by now, April is one of our favourite months at our school because as a school community, we celebrate EARTH MONTH with a wide range of weekly activities. When we heard that we were not going to be physically together to teach those important lessons, we quickly put our heads together and tried to carry on through the internet. During the first week we read 3 environmentally themed books and voted on our favourite story. During the 2nd week, we encouraged students to do a recycled art activity and celebrated our students' creativity on our virtual art gallery. The last week included EARTH DAY and we had daily themes for families to think about or integrate into their day. We really hope that many families were able to chat about or do a few earth friendly things together this month.

We are continuing with our daily announcements as a way to keep connected and have some fun together each day. We are adding a SGN (Some Good News) segment to our daily posts and are always looking for input from our friends and families at Kettle Creek. If your child or your family would like to contribute a positive story from your home, please let Mr. Jamieson know (d.jamieson@tvdsb.ca) so that he can include your post into a segment. We appreciate hearing from our families because that helps us to feel connected to each other in a more authentic way. Teachers have also included daily announcements in their Google Classrooms and we will continue to post those daily announcements on the Website, Facebook and Twitter if you want to tune in for some entertainment.

In terms of the logistics of distance learning at Kettle Creek, we are coordinating with all our families to ensure that they have devices in their home to access their classroom. We have handed out cover 80 Chromebooks and SEA laptops to support staff and students and the next step is to get devices to families with limited internet. We have limited print materials being mailed out to families who have no technology options however, we are still trying to sort through the details of how that material can get back to teachers for feedback and assessment. If you are still in need of technology or internet help, please contact Mr. Ritter at r.ritter@tvdsb.ca.

We continue to hope that we will be back together in May but wait for the green light from the Ministry and Province on that. In the meantime, we will continue to do our best to serve the needs of our students and our families from a distance and ask that you don't hesitate to reach out and let us know if there is anything we can do to support your child more fully during this time. We really miss the children and continue to hold all of you and your families close to our hearts. Stay well!

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

Grade 8 Grad /Trip Updates

We are very sad to say that the Grade 8 Grad Trip to Montreal has had to be cancelled and the Grade 8 Graduation Ceremony has been postponed for the remainder of the school year. If possible, we will make every effort to hold our Graduation Ceremony in the fall.

While this news is extremely disappointing, staff along with our wonderful Grad committee will work together to determine how to honour these students and celebrate the closing of their Elementary School experience. We recognize that this is not what we had hoped or planned for but we also believe that we are a part of a community that will unite to ensure a great graduation for our students. We have already had a proposal from Terri at Two Forks who generously extended an offer to host a celebration for the Grade 8 class at the restaurant once this situation resolves. There have also been other members of our community who have expressed a willingness to pitch in and help to create a memorable and wonderful graduation for our Grade 8 students.

In terms of the trip to Montreal, as of April 21, all \$100 deposit refunds have been processed or cheques have been mailed out. If you have any questions regarding your refund, please send an email to kettlecreek@tvdsb.ca. The Grad Committee, Home and School members along with staff will meet later in May to discuss how to proceed with the funds that were raised through fundraising.

Disney on Ice Trip Refunds

Ms. Moyes, Ms. Johnson and Ms. Smith's classes trip to Disney on Ice has been cancelled. All refunds have been processed for their students. If you paid through School Cash on line, your refunds will be refunded through School Cash. If you paid by cash, cheques have been written and mailed out April 20. If you have any questions regarding your refund, please email kettlecreek@tvdsb.ca.

Green Team

We have been continuing to work very hard to keep our GREEN TEAM programs running virtually during this time away from our school building. This month we celebrated EARTH MONTH virtually and hope that students and families had an opportunity to appreciate this amazing planet.

Volunteers

April 19-25 was volunteer appreciation week and we want to take this opportunity to thank the many wonderful volunteers within our Kettle Creek community. Whether it is reading to students, going on field trips, helping with the snack program, working on the Home and School/School Council team, counting money for Hot Lunch programs, helping with fundraising ideas or taking on the role of "barbequer" at our Family Fun night. Our volunteers help us to create a school community that just would not be possible without them. We are incredibly appreciative of the help we receive for our students. It truly does take a village to raise a child!

THANK YOU!



Our Learning Skill / Global Competency focus for MAY is:

COLLABORATION / INNOVATION

When we collaborate well with others, we become
more
CREATIVE & INNOVATIVE

School Goals

Academic Goal - FLEX YOUR NUMBERS

We are working on improving number flexibility through the decomposition of number

School Culture Intention – WALK THE TALK

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

WELLNESS

Mr. Roy, Ms. Brooks, Mr. Durston, and Mr. Murray are working together as a team to support teachers and families during the launch of on-line learning. Their overall concern is the wellness of our school community. They have been making check-in calls to families, giving one to one assistance to students, helping troubleshoot technical problems, helping with school initiatives like Earth Day, and communicating with the community through different platforms like morning announcements, Facebook and Soundcloud. They are committed to being available online to help families with any concerns or questions. You may reach them through their Google email addresses. In addition, they are currently working on a Google "Wellness Hub" where they will post music, Phys.Ed, and Mindfulness activities so that our students can stay well in mind, body and spirit.

School Council and Home and School Corner

The Home and School along with the School Council members continue to work tirelessly to support our efforts at Kettle Creek. As you can imagine, the refunding of all of our hot lunch, milk program and pizza money has been a huge undertaking and we would like to thank Kelly Ward for the countless hours she has spent doing this job. We appreciate her so much and if you would like to pass along a thanks to Kelly, we would ask that you send it to the school email and we will forward it to Kelly on behalf of your family. **We are hoping that we will all take a minute to teach our children the importance of gratitude as we model this for them or work together with them to send Kelly a quick line of appreciation.**

Our next meeting will take place on Wednesday, May 20th at 6:30 p.m. and we would like to invite everyone to join us. If we are able to, we will meet at the school. However, in the event we are not able to, we will invite you to join us virtually at: <https://meet.google.com/szo-gkcd-fch?hs=122>

You can also stay in touch with our Home and School/School Council activities by joining us on Facebook:



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/>

Class Placement Meetings

Staff will be meeting this month to begin sorting out classroom placements for the 2020-2021 school year. We believe you know your child best so if you have a specific request for next year, please advise your classroom teacher by **May 11th** so that information is available to us as the teams discuss the best placement options for your child.

Please be aware **THAT WE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO MEET EVERY REQUEST** but we certainly do our best to use all the information available to us. Along with parent input, staff use professional observations, academic needs of students and social and academic combinations of the groups as a whole to make very careful determinations around what class your child will be in next year. Depending on fluctuations in registrations, a school reorganization is always a possibility right until October so information around class placements will be shared on the first day of school in September. Thanks for your help with this very challenging job. We appreciate it.

School Organization 2020/2021

This is the time of year where we receive our staffing allotment and begin the school organization process for the 2020/2021 school year. It is still early in this process so please be advised that changes may occur between now and September however, this is our AMAZING team as it stands today:

K-Ms. Mahovlich & Ms. MacPherson

K-Ms. Hayslip & Ms. Oegema

K-Ms. Howie & Ms. Topping

Gr 1-Ms. Moyes

Gr ½ -Ms. Johnson

Gr ½ - LTO (Ms. James Jan. 2021)

Gr 3 - Ms. Smith

Gr ¾ - Ms. Doupe

Gr ¾ - Ms. Ewaskiw

Gr 4 - Mr. Bevan

Gr 5 - LTO (Ms. Robbins Jan. 2021)

Gr 5/6 - Ms. Steele

Gr 6 - Ms. Kelders

Gr 7 - Mr. McCurdy

Gr 7 - Ms. Rooke

Gr 8 - Eco Class Ms. Basson

Gr 8 - Eco Class Mr. Anderson

Music - Mr. Murray

Learning Support Teacher - Mr. Jamieson

French/Phys Ed Teacher - Mr. Roy

Library/Prep – Mr. Durston

EA - Ms. Williams

We are really excited to welcome aboard and back Mr. McCurdy, Ms. Rooke, Ms. Kelders (returning May 2020 from mat leave), Ms. Williams, Ms. James and Ms. Robbins who are joining the team from various leaves and alternative TVDSB placements. We know that they will be thrilled to be back working with all the wonderful member of this community. WELCOME!

UPDATE

As many of you have already heard our government has ordered that **all public schools in the province will remain closed to students until at least May 31, 2020**. We will continue to keep you updated.

Home Connections in Mathematics

Stress-Free Math At Home

Teaching your children math at home can be stressful for parents/guardians and children. We want math to be engaging for all involved. There are many easy activities you can try to play with math ideas at home. You might be surprised at how much fun math can be with some of these ideas.

Oodles of Objects

Find objects or use a collection and organize them into columns and rows to make arrays to see multiplication and division.



The array of donuts shows:

$$4 \times 3 = 12$$

$$12 \div 4 = 3$$

$$3 \times 4 = 12$$

$$12 \div 3 = 4$$

What multiplication and division do you see in the cars?

Can you create a pattern using the objects?

Magnificent Money

Gather all of your spare change & put it into a cup.

Try something like this with your child:

Consider using your spare change to create a store at home. Make a store by pricing some objects and allow your child to find the total and to pay with change, or you can pay with a bill and allow your child to make the change. You can print pretend money off of the internet or make some yourself. You can even add tax for a challenge.



Wonderful Walks

While on your walk, gather natural objects that have symmetry (one side is the same as the other). When you get home, cut the object in half, tape it onto a piece of paper and draw the other half.



Treasure Time

Pick a favourite item, hide it somewhere in the house. Make/draw a treasure map for someone else to find it. Then switch roles!

Spectacular Skip Counting

While outside count your steps/hops/skips by 1s, 2s, 3s, 4s, 5s, 10s. Can you make up a skip-counting song to share with another person? Challenge yourself with counting by 25s. Is there a pattern?



Maze Mania

The object of the game is to get to the heart in as few moves as possible. Start on the number one in the bottom centre square. Your child can then move one jump up, down, left, or right. If they move left, they can then make two moves; up, down, left, or right. Continue on until you reach the heart, then try again. Can you reduce the number of moves made?

Funky Fractions

Why cut your sandwich into halves? What happens when you half your halves? Can you cut it into thirds? fifths? What is the smallest number of fractional pieces you can cut it into?

Parents and children are enduring a great deal of stress during these difficult times. Learning mathematics can be fun and engaging! Math doesn't have to happen with a pencil and a paper; it can be found everywhere. Remember, mathematics should be a participation sport, not a spectator sport.