



October 2021 Newsletter

Kettle Creek Public School
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Principal: Mrs. W-C

Vice Principal: Mr. Ritter

Administrative Assistant: Mrs. Sutherland

Administrative Team Message

September was buzzing with activity and excitement in the halls at Kettle Creek Public School. We had a fantastic start to the school year and as always, our students exceeded all of our expectations as they adjusted and got back into the routines beautifully. We were also so proud and THRILLED with all the support our community provided as we adjusted to our new norms.

Unfortunately, due to our increasing enrollment, we had to reorganize our classes which meant that a number of students had to change classrooms and meet new classmates and teachers. Although this was challenging, students and staff adjusted amazingly and we moved through the process with positivity and openness. Thank you so much to all our families for your understanding and flexibility throughout that process. Your support and kindness made a difficult situation manageable.

Our MEET THE FAMILY BBQ is on hold but staff have planned to reach out to the families in their classrooms. Please stay tuned to your child's teacher to find out how they will be connecting with your family.

Kettle Creek P.S. Spirit Days began with a Red and White Day where we celebrated and honoured the great Canadian hero, Terry Fox. Our Junior Council students did a dynamite job demonstrating leadership as they promoted the run throughout the school. We have all the colours going on this month and Red and White Day was followed by ORANGE DAY. Staff and students spent significant time discussing the stories of our First Nations peoples, issues around equity and the profound contributions of our Indigenous people to this country. We appreciated greatly all the rock donations. These help us understand the vast number of lives impacted by the Residential School System.

We must say how thankful we are to all of our families for all your efforts to help us stay healthy at school. Parents are keeping their sick children home and following the Health Unit protocols which is making all of us feel confident, safe and relaxed at school. You have no idea how much we appreciate your help with that. We know that is not easy: your conscientiousness around that is the only way we can keep our doors open and make in person learning work for all of us. It takes a village to raise a child and we appreciate our village which pitches in to help us meet the wide variety of learning needs here at Kettle Creek.

As we approach the season of harvest, we are filled with profound gratitude for the fact that we are able to be at school with your beautiful children and for all the people who support our efforts to make Kettle Creek P.S. a wonderful place to learn and grow!

Cheers!

Ms.W-C and Mr. Ritter

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. Thank you to the many families who have already done so.

Daily Screening

Please don't forget to do the DAILY SCREENING for your child BEFORE they arrive at school. You will find it right on the TVDSB home page. THANK YOU!

Kettle Creek P.S. IS NUT SAFE

Due to students with allergies, Kettle Creek P.S. 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.



Student Voice

Our Student Voice initiative led by Ms. Basson has started this month and we have a representative serving as a leader at our Home and School/School Council meetings. The team came up with some creative, "COVID-Friendly" ways we can continue to build school spirit and have extra fun at school. Stay tuned- Spirit Day announcements will be coming soon.

Caribou Math Team

We are pleased to announce that Mr. McCurdy has open up the Math Team opportunities to all students from Grades 4-8 at our school. A special thanks to Mr. McCurdy for volunteering his time so that students who are interested can participate. Go Captains-Go!

Drop off and Pick up

Thank you for the help with our new DROP OFF AND PICK UP at the arena. The process has gone incredibly well and we couldn't do it without your cooperation. Very much appreciated.

Picking your child up during the school day

Due to COVID restrictions, we are not permitted to have parents entering our school building. If you have to pick your child up during the school day, we would ask that you send in a note with your child to inform their teacher. Once you have arrived at the school, please use the doorbell to indicate that you are out front and we will escort your child to you. We will sign your child out electronically on your behalf. THANKS so much for your help with this new procedure.

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 our's, that would be fantastic.

Our learning skill focus for **OCTOBER** is:

SELF REGULATION – the key to good COMMUNICATION

People who have self control, communicate words of kindness and think before they speak.

Green Tip of the Month:

Composting is a great way to reduce your garbage.

Re-fillable Waterbottles

Due to COVID, water fountains have been turned off. Students need to bring in a re-fillable waterbottle everyday. Re-fill stations are still working for students/staff to use.

Grade 8 E.C.O. Class: September

(written by Melody A.)

We have only been in school a short time, but the E.C.O. class is already doing big things! The zucchini that grows in the garden has proved to be a tasty treat. We used our own homegrown plants to make baked goods such as cookies, bread, and cake to share with the class. This isn't the only treat we had; In only the second week of school, we walked (no bus due to COVID, *but* walking reduced our carbon footprint) to a local trout farm to observe native species in our Carolinian forest. There, we collected and identified leaves from the ground, so that we could bring them back to school. With our leaves, we created art pieces that showcase the native species of southwestern Ontario. As a class, we will create an art gallery with our work so that the rest of the school can see the wonderful trees that belong to our forest, as well as what the E.C.O. class has been up to! In addition to that, our class is working on brochures, books, websites and more that catalogue the plants we have growing in the backyard of KCPS to share with the school. From garden-grown zucchini treats to trout farm trips, this school year in the E.C.O. class has already been eventful, successful, and promising.

Want to VOLUNTEER?

Due to COVID restrictions, we can't have volunteers in the building right now but, we will eventually and when we do, please call the school. Fingers crossed that will be happening sooner than later.

Grade 8 Yearbooks 2020/21

Thanks to our volunteer, Ms. Sutherland, we were able to put together a Grade 8 Graduation yearbook with some fun memories of the 2020-2021 school year. Although it was a hard year, we hope that our Grade 8 graduates enjoyed the positive times together during their last year at Kettle Creek P.S. Please contact the school to arrange a time to pick up the yearbook.

ORANGE and BLACK / COSTUME DAY

We are excited about the fun of dressing up for Halloween so to that end, we would like to invite student who are comfortable doing so, to dress up on OCT 29th. If your child wishes to dress in a costume, we would ask that the following guidelines are adhered to:

1. NO facemask.
2. Don't send additional parts such as wands, swords etc. We want to avoid tears around missing parts or students getting hit by others with such pieces.
3. Keep it FUN. Younger students are frightened by scary costumes so please keep it fun and save the gruesome for home.

If you prefer **not** to send your child in costume, please feel free to send them in BLACK AND ORANGE colours instead. Each family is asked to consider what is appropriate for their child and dress accordingly.

Please note that due to COVID restrictions, we will not be able to have students bring in treats to share with the class. It will be simply a day of fun, colour and costumes.

Mark your Calendars

Monday, October 11

- Thanksgiving – No school

Friday, October 15

- Orange & Black Day

Thursday, October 21

- Great Big Crunch

Friday, October 29

- Costume / Black and Orange Day

Home and School / School Council Corner

On behalf of the Home and School and School Council leadership, we are pleased to let you know that our first Home and School/School Council meeting has taken place and our leadership team is as follows:

School Council

Co-Chair: Tara Lenaghan

Co-Chair: Jessica Kooger

Home & School:

Co-Chair: Beth Pfeffer

Co-Chair: Sara Hennessy

Secretary: Sue Colquhoun

Treasurer: Kelly Ward

Both these groups play a vital role in creating connection between our school and community members and we are really hoping to have many new faces participating this year. A special invite to our new Kindergarten parents and all parents who just want to be in the loop about what is happening at the school. Your voice matters and a wide range of representation ensures that many ideas are presented and all needs addressed. We hope that you will consider joining us!

The next meeting is planned for Wednesday, November 24 at 6:30 p.m. and the link will be sent to your email. Hope you will join us.

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.
4. CHECK THE APP FREQUENTLY for school updates such as bus delays, pizza days, newsletters, etc.

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



SWPH School Health Newsletter

WHAT TO EXPECT FOLLOWING A CONFIRMED CASE OF COVID-19 AT SCHOOL

Hearing there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 in your school can be stressful, particularly if you haven't experienced one before. Knowing this, we wanted to use the first edition of our new monthly School Health Newsletter to share what our collaborative process looks like to ease your worries!

- Southwestern Public Health is notified of all positive cases within our Region and follows up with each. Our investigation includes assessing risk to others who were exposed in the school community while the case was infectious. This includes staff, visitors, and students on transportation to and from school, during before-and-after-school programs, in classrooms, at recess, and through extra-curricular activities
- **Presently, important SWPH actions will include:**
 - Notification to the School Board and/or School Administrator of the case
 - Providing administrators with a general letter to communicate the presence of a case to the school community
 - Frequent check-ins with School Board and/or School Administrator to support communications and to answer questions
 - Determination of high-risk close contacts and cohorts of the case
 - Collecting information including legal name, date of birth, guardian (if a minor), and contact information will be required. For public schools, this is completed by the school board. For private schools, your school nurse can provide you with a template to compile this information, including ahead of time to prepare in the event of a case
 - Specific letters will be provided for high-risk contacts inclusive of instructions for testing and isolation
 - **Current key points include:**
 - Fully vaccinated and asymptomatic contacts will need to be tested right away and again seven days from the last exposure to the case. If they meet the criteria within the letter, they can return to school and will not need to isolate
 - Unvaccinated or partially vaccinated contacts will be required to self-isolate for 10 days from the last exposure. They will need to be tested right away if they have symptoms or seven days from the last exposure date if they do not have symptoms
 - Staff letters will include a risk assessment survey link. Staff are asked to complete this as soon as possible. Nurses will review the surveys and determine if the staff are high-risk close contacts and if they need to isolate. They will then receive an email with the results of the assessment and will be asked to notify their administrator about their ability to return to work

Your Public Health Nurse is available to discuss this process in greater detail at any time. While some items are subject to change, we remain committed to a collaborative partnership and information that is both timely and based on current evidence. Please note this information is not intended for dissemination to the school community. We thank you for doing your part to keep our school communities safe.



September 2021