



# September 2021 Newsletter

Kettle Creek Public School  
350 Carlow Rd.  
Pt. Stanley, Ontario, N5L 1B6  
(519)782-3983  
[www.tvdsb.on.ca/portstanley](http://www.tvdsb.on.ca/portstanley)

Principal: Mrs. W-C

Vice Principal: Mr. Ritter

Administrative Assistant: Mrs. Sutherland

## Administrative Team Message

WELCOME back to Kettle Creek P.S! Our team has had an absolutely fantastic week back with our students and the building is humming with energy because everyone is so excited to be LEARNING AND GROWING together again.

We know that students who have engaged family support succeed academically and socially and to that end, we invite you to "stay in the game" when it comes to your child's learning. Our teachers are always willing to discuss concerns and keep families in the know. As a school, we will share information through Messenger, our website and our Facebook page. Unfortunately, due to COVID restrictions, we will not be able to have parents in the building so if you have anything you need to discuss or are picking a student up, don't hesitate to call the office and we will make arrangements with you to get that organized.

For our new families who are joining us this year, we would like to welcome you with open arms to the most amazing school community! We hope you will consider volunteering and getting involved with our Home and School/School Council group. Our first virtual meeting date is set for Wed. Sept 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. and the link to attend the meeting will be sent to your email. As mentioned in a previous note, we are unable to provide school tours but we invite you to tour our school virtually by following the link provided on our website. Just go to OUR SCHOOL and click ABOUT US.

We hope everyone has a great September start up and want to let you know that if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call me or any member of our team at the school. If you need to speak with me after hours, I can always be reached on my cell at 519-619-5107.

Thanks again for all your patience and positive support as we navigated the first week back. We can't tell you how thankful we are to be together again and we are looking forward to working together with all our families. It's going to be a GREAT year of learning!

Cheers!

Ms.W-C and Mr. Ritter

### Student Information and Attendance

It is very important that all parents/guardians log into their parent portal to check the annual verification forms for the 2021-22 school year (photo permissions, etc.). Please complete these permissions as soon as possible. Thank you.

### Medical Information

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.

### 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](http://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.

**PLEASE**



**NO PEANUTS  
OR  
NUT PRODUCTS**

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.

## 2021/2022 Staffing

We would like to welcome everyone to Kettle Creek! We are looking forward to meeting new people and getting to know everyone in our school community. AT THIS TIME, our 2020/2021 staffing is as follows:

Kindergarten-J. Hayslip/J. Oegema  
Kindergarten -L. Mahovich/A. MacPherson  
Kindergarten-A. Howie/S. Lamb  
Gr SK/1-K. Bellia-Trumpakis  
Gr 1 - J. Kelders            Gr 1 - M. Latta  
Gr 2 - J. Johnson        Gr 2/3 - M. McEachen  
Gr 3 - A. Smith         Gr ¾ -J. Ewaskiw  
Gr 4 – K. Doupe        Gr 4/5 - T. Robbins  
Gr 5-A. Steele  
Gr 6-J. Christian        Gr 6/7 - J. Keays  
Gr 7-K. Rooke         Gr 7/8 - J. Anderson  
Gr 8-K. McCurdy       Gr 8 - J. Basson  
Prep - T. Ambrose  
Music - K. Murray  
French and Phys. Ed - M. Roy  
Learning Support Teachers - D. Jamieson  
Library Learning Commons / Prep - D. Durston  
Educational Assistants: S. Williams, H. Jackson, J. Magee, B. MacCuaig  
Administrative Assistant - Mrs. Sutherland  
Custodians: C. Allen & R. Lunn  
Vice Principal - Mr. Ritter  
Principal - Ms. W-C

PLEASE NOTE that depending on enrollment, online learners and other factors, we could face a reorganization so this list may change

## 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.

## **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.

## Class organizations

As many of you know, we have faced multiple reorganization plans over the summer and have had the challenge of putting class lists together several times. We have spent HOURS doing our very best to ensure that classes are well balanced, parent requests put forth in the spring were honoured and everyone has a friend. Unfortunately, we were not always able to accommodate all requests in our class placement process this year and as a result, your child may not be thrilled with their placement. We would ask that as parents, you use this as a learning opportunity to teach your child the very important life lessons they will need to navigate this year and the rest of their lives:

1. There are WONDERFUL people everywhere and we need to be open to being kind and making new friends throughout our life.
2. Resistance to "what is" only brings pain. Acceptance brings joy.
3. We can't always get what we want. Sometime we have to do our best with what we have been given.
4. What we think we **want** isn't always what we **need**. Sometimes the adults/school staff in our life need to be trusted. They have my best interest at heart.
5. I need to be a positive person in all situations.
6. Through thankfulness comes joy. Be grateful and find the good in where you are.

Thank you so much for your help with this important work!! We know that while it is difficult to have a child struggling, these struggles can often be the best learning opportunities for all of us to demonstrate growth and resilience.

## CLASS SIZES

With the increase in our enrollment, our class sizes are larger than we expected. We MAY be allocated an additional classroom to help us with this situation and if that happens, current class placements may change. IF that happens, we will inform families by September 23<sup>rd</sup>. While this situation is not ideal, we know how beneficial smaller class sizes are. Having said that, please be advised that there are tremendous needs throughout the Thames Valley so we may not receive additional staffing. However, if we do face changes, we promise to communicate that information to the affected families as soon as we can.

## Remote Learning Students

We are thrilled that we now have a class of 23 – Grade 4/5 students who are learning from distance with our new to us-remote teacher, Mrs. C. Monteith. Although these students may not all be from our immediate school catchment area, they are attached to our school and will be included in all of the fun activities we have here-even if it is from a distance. A special welcome to those families. We are glad to have you aboard!

## Drop off and Pick up

If your child is not taking a school bus to school, please drop them off between 9-9:15 AT THE ARENA parking lot. Our "Kiss and Ride" program will include bright pylons and staff in yellow vests directing you to pull up. Staff will proceed to welcome and direct your child to the back playground area using their designated pathways. (Junior/Intermediate students will use the arena walkway and Kindergarten and Primary students will use the front sidewalk.)

If you are picking your child up at the end of the day, please write a note in your child's planner so the teacher can remind your child at the end of the day. Please try your best to organize the pick up plans **in the morning and avoid calling the school unless it is a last minute change of plan/emergency.** It really makes our end of day dismissal chaotic when we have last minute calls coming in to the school.

All NON-BUS students will walk with a supervisor to the arena parking lot and parent/guardians are asked to give us a wave from your car and we will escort your child right to you. If you need further clarification, please give Ms. W-C a call and we will discuss it more thoroughly. THANKS so much for all your help. We really appreciate each of you!

## 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.

## Insurance

For the 2021-22 school year we are pleased to offer families the option of two student accident insurance providers to choose from if they wish to purchase insurance for their children. Please include this information and the links below in your school newsletters so that parents are aware of their option to purchase. <https://www.studyinsuredstudentaccident.com/>  
<https://insuremykids.com>

## Protocols Updates

We will be doing our best to follow all of the Board/Ministry protocols to ensure safety at school. This will result in a few changes that include but are not limited to:

1. All students (and staff) MUST do a self-screening BEFORE coming to school **each day.**
2. Grade 1-8 mandatory masks worn in the building. Masks outside-optional.
3. Limited capacity students in the bathrooms at any given time.
4. Portions of the instructional day taking place on our beautiful yard when possible.
5. P.E instruction will take place outside as much as possible.
6. No parents or volunteers in the building.
7. All class and bus seating plans will be kept at the office for contact tracing purposes.

## 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 SEPTEMBER is:  
**COLLABORATION**

**Green Tip of the Month:**  
Use RECYCABLE containers to reduce waste.

### Technology Returns

If you have borrowed technology from us and are **NOT doing REMOTE LEARNING**, please have your child return that technology. Thanks so much for your help with that.

### Virtual Classrooms Continue

As part of our preparedness plan, all staff will continue using an online platform to support their in-classroom programming. While we are at school in person, the site will contain simple connections to curriculum. If your child is absent from school, general homework information will be made available on the site. Staff will review their virtual classroom areas with students at school so that they become more comfortable navigating those independently. Please ask your child for a tour of their virtual classroom so you can get a sense of what to look for as well. These virtual sites will be ready to go by the end of September at the latest.

### LUNCHROOM PROCEDURES

Students will be eating in their classrooms and will be expected to stay in their chairs. Please send an extra container or baggie to school so that waste can be sent back home. Thanks for your help with this.

### 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.

### Mark your Calendars

Friday, September 24

- PD Day – no school.

Wednesday, September 29

- Terry Fox Run
- Home & School / School Council Virtual Meeting – 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, September 30

- Orange Shirt Day

### COLOUR WEEK at Kettle Creek P.S.

During the last week of September, we will be finding some colour! Mark your calendars:

#### **Tues Sept 29<sup>th</sup> - RED AND WHITE DAY**

For our Annual Terry Fox Run Day (weather permitting), we will be wearing RED AND WHITE to show our pride in the great Canadian Hero-Terry Fox. Staff will be focusing on the story of Terry's life and contributions as a great Canadian Hero so that students know exactly what the run is about and why we are doing it. We won't be able to go out as a whole school but will do a staggered format with our classes. Due to Covid restrictions, we will not be able to collect a TOONIE from each student as we have in the past but if you wish to make a donation to this wonderful cause on line, you can do so at: <http://www.terryfox.ca/KettleCreekPSPortStanley>

#### **Wed Sept 30<sup>th</sup> – ORANGE SHIRT DAY**

On Wednesday, we will wear ORANGE to show our understanding and support of our Indigenous people and the challenges they have faced through the residential school system. Staff will work with students to ensure that they have an understanding of the importance of EVERY child and classes will discuss bias and the negative impact of systemic racism.

## HOME & SCHOOL / SCHOOL COUNCIL

On behalf of our parent community, we would like to welcome you to the Kettle Creek P.S. community! We are confident that your child will love learning here!

The research is clear that student success in school improves significantly when parents are engaged and involved in their child's school community. To that end, we would like to provide an opportunity for you to join us in your child's Elementary School experience as a volunteer on our School Council or Home and School team.

We meet virtually approximately 5 times a year and those meetings are never more than about 1 hour. Our team organizes the hot lunch program, the milk program, Talent Shows, recipe books and many other fun events to support our school community and, even though we aren't running those programs right now, we are hopeful that we will be able to start those programs soon.

If you would like to be in the loop about what we are planning, we are happy to add you to our email list. Please send an email containing your name, your child's name and email address to the school at [kettlecreek@tvdsb.ca](mailto:kettlecreek@tvdsb.ca)

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

Home and School Co-Chairs:  
Katie Guthrie, Sarah Hennessey, Beth Pfeffer

School Council Co-Chairs:  
Jessica Kooger, Tara Lenaghan, Suman Rizvi

## Home and School / School Council Elections

We will also be looking for leadership for both of these groups and to that end, we ask you to consider stepping up to fill a role.

The positions we need filled are as follows:

2 Co-chairs for School Council  
2 Co-chairs for Home and School  
a School Council Secretary  
a Home and School Treasurer

As you can see, these 2 organizations work together with slightly different functions but they all meet together and work together for the improvement of our school.

**If you would like to nominate someone or you are interested in helping out with any of these positions, please email Ms. W-C at [e.wendelcaraher@tvdsb.ca](mailto:e.wendelcaraher@tvdsb.ca) by Tuesday September 28th with a name and contact phone number and she will follow up with a call to provide details.**

If we have numerous people interested in serving in this capacity, we will have a vote and details will be explained at our meeting.

We really hope that you are able to join us for our first meeting on Wednesday, September 29 and look forward to meeting all of you.

