



HILLCREST HERALD

Dec. 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians

As you know we had a case of COVID at school last month. We worked through this situation with the help of the Public Health Unit and the Board and want to say how appreciative we are of the support they provided. We continue to be diligent with the **COVID safety protocols** in place through our school. It is so important for our younger and older students to see all the adults in their lives **setting the standard for safety** by consistently wearing their masks and physically distancing when they meet. If your child's mask is slipping below their nose, the elastic may be wearing out. If you don't have a replacement please ask, we have some here at school. We continue to ask all parents to complete the COVID Screening every day before school, <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/> and if your child is ill please keep them home. Together we are working to **keep everyone in our community safe**.

Ms. Daskewich has been working with our Student Council and they have organized two December Spirit Days and a 'decorate the door' contest. They are making sure that all of their events are inclusive and follow the safety rules. **On Dec. 14 it is Christmas Hat Day** and on **Dec. 18th it is Red and Green, Cute/Ugly Christmas Sweater Day**.

We are lucky to have such an amazing staff and facility that allows us to continue with some of the clubs. The numbers, cohorts, and safety considerations have had to be modified but we are pleased to let you know that Mme Brinkman is running the Crochet club, Mr. Windolf and Mr. Creelman are running the Guitar club, Ms. Petherick is running a Reading club, and Mme Thompson is running a virtual Girls Who Code club.

Progress reports were sent home electronically on Monday, Nov. 30th. If you were unable to access the report please call or email and we will find another way to get it to you. Please take some time to talk to your child about their report card. Ask them what next steps they are going to take in their classroom.

Please do not hesitate to call your child's teacher or myself if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you.

Ms. Adams, Principal

School Parent Council

It was decided at our first meeting that School Council Chair for 2020 – 2021 will be Jen Scriven. Meetings are virtual and the invitation will be sent out to all parents email address prior to the meeting. Everyone is welcome to attend the meeting, even if it is just to listen to the information being shared. Please consider joining us.

Inclement Weather School Closures

The KPR Board has made an important change to how we handle inclement weather days (snow days) this winter. We wish to let all families know that schools will be **closed** on inclement weather days this year, to protect student health.

We know school closures are an inconvenience and hardship for parents and families. Ultimately, however, we must ensure student well-being at all times. To meet public health requirements and maintain student health, we are not able to combine groups or “cohorts” of students who attend school when buses are cancelled. We also cannot ensure that our schools would have enough staff on-site during snow days to safely supervise the much smaller groups of students in their existing cohorts.

Therefore, if all buses are cancelled to a school, a region of schools or all schools board-wide, those schools will be closed for the day.

More specifically:

- when ALL buses are cancelled across the entire board, ALL schools will be closed for the day
- when ALL buses are cancelled within a specific geographic region of the board, such as the Municipality of Clarington, Northumberland County or Peterborough County, schools in that region only will be closed for the day
- and, finally, if ALL buses are cancelled for a specific school or group of schools, only that school or group of schools will be closed for the day.

When only a few buses are cancelled, or buses are delayed, schools will remain open.

Schools will provide learning for students to work at home on these days in a variety of ways, either through previously assigned or new work through the classroom teachers’ regular communication platforms, based on the age and grade of the students. Virtual elementary and secondary school programming on snow days will continue as normal.

We will inform families of school closures on snow days in several ways, including local news media, on www.kprschoools.ca, through our social media channels (@kprschoools on Twitter and Facebook), and by email or text from SchoolMessenger.

Please ensure that your school has up-to-date contact information for you, so that we can text or email you directly about what is happening at your child’s or teen’s school. You can sign up for our direct text service by sending a text message to **978338** with the message of “**Y**” or “**Yes**”.

For further information, please see the letter emailed to all families November 25 from Director of Education Jennifer Leclerc, or visit www.kprschoools.ca

What families are asking...

Will teachers still go outside to teach when it is snowing or cold?

*Yes, and in addition all students will be outside for both recesses. Be sure your child **dresses for the weather** and it is still a good idea to put a change of clothes in the backpack. More time outside is more time with clean, mask free, fresh air.*

Will I be able to meet with my child's teacher to talk about their progress report?

*You can **contact your child's teacher** anytime and they will be happy to arrange a time for a phone or Zoom meeting.*

What happens when a student refuses to wear a mask?

*Our students are all being so responsible for their safety and the safety of their loved ones. Steps will be taken, up to and including calling home, if after encouragement and reminders a student still isn't wearing their mask. We feel most students are doing their part, even the young ones! Please make sure that **you pack at least 2 masks** per day, especially now that the weather is turning cold.*

Can I drop my grade 6 daughter off at 8:20 in the morning?

*No, because there is no supervision prior to 8:25. The school **bell rings to come inside at 8:45**. If your child arrives after this time they need to come to the front door and will be let in by myself or Mrs. Gagne, our secretary. They will be marked late. You can report your child late using the student absence portal.*

Are we still doing the 'litterless' lunches?

*Yes we continue to ask parents to pack things that students can **open themselves** and all lunch items, including garbage that goes with it, brought to school will go home with the child. This is a good time to **remind parents** to send **spoons** as needed. Please make it a spoon that can be brought home, washed, and re-used. All of these things will help with the COVID rules and with our environment.*

Preventing the spread of COVID-19

Please take advantage as well of the federal government's COVID Alert app, to learn of any possible exposures to COVID before any symptoms appear. You can download the app for free from

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19/covid-alert.html>

Our local health units also have posted some new and helpful advice for families on celebrating Halloween safely. You can find tips at:

<https://www.durham.ca/en/health-and-wellness/novel-coronavirus-update.aspx#Halloween>

<https://www.hkpr.on.ca/2020/10/07/halloween-safety-during-covid-19/>

<https://www.peterboroughpublichealth.ca/novel-coronavirus-covid-19/covid-19-social-gatherings-holidays-events/?highlight=halloween#halloween>

Please remember that parents and guardians are not allowed to come on the school grounds at these before and after school times. Staff will be outside to support students as they arrive/leave.

Frequently Asked Questions

KPR has created a list of "Frequently asked Questions" which is being updated as information is received and can be found [here](#). There is some important information and some responses to questions that Parents and Guardians have been asking.

We appreciate your patience as we continue to work hard to keep children in school safely. Please note that we are moving forward in accordance with protocols set out by the Ministry of Education, Public Health, and KPR Guidelines. These Guidelines have been changing over time as more is learned about COVID – 19. Please be mindful that our school is a **scent free school**, if you provide your child with hand sanitizer, it must be scent free.

KEEP OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY SAFE



Do not come to school if...



You or someone you are in close contact with have travelled outside of Canada in the past 14 days



You have been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19



You have any of the following symptoms

- Fever
- New or worse cough
- Shortness of breath
- Difficulty breathing
- Sore throat
- Headaches
- Diarrhea
- Unexplained fatigue/ malaise/muscle aches
- Chills
- Runny nose/nasal congestion without known cause
- Nausea/vomiting
- Pink eye (conjunctivitis)
- Difficulty walking
- Abdominal pain
- Decrease or loss of sense of smell or taste



Help Stop the Spread of COVID-19
www.kprschools.ca

Contacting Us

The Office Staff has been working hard to answer questions, 705 653 1430.

