



# ***HILLCREST HERALD***

**The Staff at Hillcrest Wish You a Safe and Peaceful  
Holiday.**



## *Jan. 2021 Newsletter*

2020 will soon be behind us and the students, parents/guardians, and staff at Hillcrest are all looking forward to the New Year.

Congratulations goes to Mr. Collins, our Head Custodian, who is retiring! We want to say thank you for the years he has spent working with us, and we wish him all the best as he moves into a new phase in his life.

In December the Student Council, supported by Ms. Daskewich, held two Spirit Days and a Door Decorating contest. It was wonderful to see the festive hats, sweaters, and doors.

Thank you to everyone, students, parents & guardians, and staff for their support as we have put into place and maintained the safety guidelines to reduce the spread of the COVID virus. These will continue to be in place in the New Year.

Please see the message from our friends at the Haliburton, Kawartha Pine Ridge District Health Team below. This group of people are working hard every day to guide us during the pandemic and we thank them for all their efforts.

As always if you have a question or concern please do not hesitate to call your child's teacher or myself.  
Ms. Adams, Principal

### **An Important Note from our Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Team Spread the Word, Not COVID-19**

Colds, runny nose... and COVID-19. This winter, it's extra difficult to determine if your child's sniffles are something more serious.

If your child is sick and showing COVID-19-like symptoms, keep them home. This helps prevent COVID-19 and ensure schools stay safe and open.

The Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit reminds parents/guardians to screen a child each day *before* sending them to school or child care. Resources are in place to help you make the right call:

- Ontario's COVID-19 School Screening Tool <https://covid-19.ontario.caschool-screening/>) – Answer questions in this online tool to see if your child should go to school or day care. A printable version is also available.
- Schools and COVID-19 ([www.hkpr.on.ca/2020/09/16/covid-19-and-schools/](http://www.hkpr.on.ca/2020/09/16/covid-19-and-schools/)) – Visit this Health Unit webpage for resources and guidance on keeping your student and schools safe during COVID-19.

If you are unsure about your child's symptoms and what to do next, call the Health Unit at 1-866-888-4577, ext. 5020.

## Sites To Get Updated Information on COVID

Since COVID conditions are changing constantly, we also encourage you to visit [Ontario.ca/covidresponse](https://ontario.ca/covidresponse) regularly, as well as your local health unit's website:

[Public Health - Region of Durham](https://www.hkpr.on.ca/2020/09/16/covid-19-and-schools/) (Municipality of Clarington)

[peterboroughpublichealth.ca](https://peterboroughpublichealth.ca) (Peterborough County and City)

[www.hkpr.on.ca](http://www.hkpr.on.ca) (Northumberland County)

<https://hpepublichealth.ca/> (Quinte West/Murray Ward)

## Kids Help Phone

This has been a stressful time for adults, and we need to remember that it is stressful for children as well. Sometimes they need to talk to someone who is not mom, dad, or their teacher. We encourage you to share with your children and teens:

*Students: need to talk? Get help 24/7 at [kidshelpphone.ca](http://kidshelpphone.ca) or 1-800-668-6868, or text 686868. You matter.*

## School Parent Council

We had our second virtual School Parent Council meeting on Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Some of the things we talked about included the virtual Fundraiser we just had, and the possibility of the Little Caesar's Pizza Fundraiser for March. It is always great to see new people at the meetings and if you are interested please look for the invitation to the next virtual meeting on Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021. 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.kprschools.ca](http://www.kprschools.ca), through our social media channels (@kprschools 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.kprschools.ca](http://www.kprschools.ca)

## 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>

**Please remember that parents and guardians are not allowed to come on the school grounds 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.

### Switching to or from our Virtual Schools

The next opportunity to transfer students from in-school learning to KPR's Virtual Elementary School (VES) will be early in the new year. An Opt Out portal will be open on [kprschools.ca](http://kprschools.ca) from January 13 to 22 at 4 p.m. for

families to complete if they wish to transfer their children to the VES. The first day of class for new VES students will be Tuesday, February 2. VES teachers will contact families of new VES students beginning January 28. Until February 2, students will continue to attend their home school

**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](http://www.kprschools.ca)

*Contacting Us*

The Office Staff continue to work hard to answer questions, call if you need assistance, 705 653 1430.

