



# HILLCREST HERALD



## Jan. 2021 Newsletter #2

It will be wonderful to see everyone back at school when **we start in person again on Monday, January 25**. If you received technology from us, can you please make sure to return it on Monday, January 25<sup>th</sup>. The technology borrowed came out of our school and we will need them for the kids that are returning. The sun and snow are beautiful at this time of the year and I hope you are finding time to be outside playing. Thank you for your patience as we all worked together on our virtual learning. We have to acknowledge that there are many challenges facing families during this pandemic. If there is anything we can do to support you please call and talk to me (Ms. Adams, principal) and I will see if there is anything we can do to support you further.

Below is a message from our friends at **the Haliburton, Kawartha Pine Ridge District Health Team**. These are the people providing guidance to us during the pandemic and we thank them for their ongoing efforts.

Have you applied for the **Support for Learners funding**? You can get financial support to help with additional costs this year due to COVID. Eligible applicants will receive a one-time payment of \$200 for each child to grade 12 and \$250 for each child or youth up to age 21 with special needs. Please see the link below to the application.

As you can see below **the entry to the Virtual School closes on Friday, Jan. 22** at 4 p.m. If you need assistance with the process please call the school and we will help you.

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

## Virtual Elementary School Information

An Opt Out portal will be open at <http://optout.kprdsb.ca/> from January 13 to 4 p.m. on January 22, for families to complete if they wish to transfer their children to the VES. **Parents and guardians must complete the form on this portal between January 13-22 if they wish their children to move to the Virtual Elementary School on the next available transfer date.**

The first day of virtual classes for new VES students will be **Tuesday, February 2** (February 1 is a PA Day). Teachers will begin contacting families of new VES students January 28. Until then, students will continue to attend their home school.

In other words, here's a snapshot of the important dates:

**January 13-22** – Opt Out portal open for transferring students to the Virtual Elementary School (VES)

**January 28** – VES teachers start contacting families of new VES students

**February 2** – First Day of online classes for new VES students

For further information, please see the [Virtual Elementary School website](#) or call 705-760-8620.

## Screening, Masking, and Congregating

Please continue your daily COVID screening. This is still a very important part of each day.

**Masking are now compulsory for all students in Grades 1-3** when students return to school. This masking requirement will be additional to the existing requirement for students in Grades 4-12. Students in **Kindergarten will continue to be encouraged to wear masks**. Masking requirements will also be in place for specified outdoor activities where physical distancing is not possible. As always, **parents and guardians should wear masks when picking up and dropping off their children**.

To further prevent the spread of COVID in our community students who walk to and from home are encouraged to wear their masks at all times when close to others, and when possible to avoid congregating or grouping together. When this is not possible physical distancing, and again masking, should be maintained. 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. Everyone, in school and in the community, thank you for all your efforts to reduce the spread of this virus.

## 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:

[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.*

## Parent Technology Helplines

The Board has created helplines for Parent/Student Technology Support at:

### Student/Parent Helpline - Elementary

1-877-741-4577 Ext 3002

[Elementary\\_Helpline@kprdsb.ca](mailto:Elementary_Helpline@kprdsb.ca)

### Student/Parent Helpline - Secondary

1-877-741-4577 Ext 3001

[Secondary\\_Helpline@kprdsb.ca](mailto:Secondary_Helpline@kprdsb.ca)

## 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.

## Support for Learners Funding

This fall the government initiated Support for Learners funding. Like the funding in the spring, it is intended to provide families with essential financial support for children during the pandemic. Parents can receive a one-time payment of \$200 for each child 12 and under, and this has recently been extended to high school aged children. Even if you have applied in the past, you will need to reapply to receive this second installment. The deadline for applications is listed on the government website as February 8. The application can be found here:

[Get Support for Learners | Ontario.ca](https://www.ontario.ca/get-support-for-learners)

## 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.

## *Contacting Us*

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

