

September 2019

Welcome to the 2019 – 2020 School Year! I hope all of our families had a wonderful summer and are excited to begin a new year of learning. A special welcome is extended to all those new to the Centre Peel community: staff, students, families and to our year 1 kindergarten students as they begin their school careers. I have no doubt that together we will make Centre Peel a great place to learn and grow. We’re going to have a great year!

The Centre Peel team has some new faces joining us. In our ESL team the teacher Mrs. Lepard will be working with us 0.5 and the EA working with her 0.7 is Mrs. Gebhardt. Plans are in place for Mr. Stretch to return to Core French. To start the year he will be working alongside Mrs. Ogram who is an LTO supporting his return to full-time teaching/duties. I know that our families join me and the staff in welcoming them to our Centre Peel family. Our Centre Peel team looks forward to working with all of our families and welcomes ongoing communication to support student learning and enjoyment at school.

I am excited to be a part of the Centre Peel learning environment and look forward to getting to know the students and families. A little about me as your new principal, my name is Miss. Kay and I live by the Grand River in Fergus in a 4 story condo. I have worked for Upper Grand District School Board since 1983 having taught in Erin, Guelph and Fergus before entering administration where I have had schools in Grand Valley, Kenilworth, Fergus, Guelph. I look forward to building connections with the staff, students, families and community members as I begin to make Centre Peel my home away from home. Please feel free to approach me and introduce yourself or, if you are in to the office, drop by my door and say hello.

Thanks to our caretaking staff, headed up by Tim Ziegler, our school is ready for a new school year.

Over the summer we had some construction work done to repair and improve part of our back hardtop area and the West parking lot, and new sod was laid along the edge of the grass area outside the gym doors – the baseball diamonds look amazing and the soccer field, basketball court and tetherball area are ready for use. As you are aware, the Creative Playground is for students between 5 – 12 years of age. During the first few weeks of school, staff will take the time to introduce and re-introduce students to the expectations for safe play. Ongoing review of rules and routines for safe play occur regularly in class and from the office during the months when the Creative Playground is open.

As you know, current staffing and classroom placements are **tentative**. Our staffing compliment will be finalized in the first few weeks of school based on actual enrolment of students present. Once this happens, our Family Handbook will be sent home with the oldest/only child in each of our families.

The **School Messenger App** for the Upper Grand DSB (available **free** from the app store) allows you to stay informed and up-to-date with what’s going on at Centre Peel and gives you notifications whenever there are updates to the school website such as newsletters, calendars and announcements! It’s easy to join the on-line community. Search Upper Grand and download it for free. Once downloaded, select Centre Peel P.S. to follow us and receive notifications. Please contact the office if you have questions or would like assistance with accessing this home-school communication tool.

I look forward to a wonderful year together.

Please feel free to contact me at the school with questions, comments or concerns.

Sincerely,

Christine Kay

Principal

**Each student has received an envelope with forms that need to be completed and sent back to school. The oldest and only from each family has also received the newsletter and calendar.**

**Student Verification Form** - please make any changes in your personal information and **sign** and date and return to school. If you have a box # please put it on the form.

**Student Personal Information Routine uses and/or Disclosures:** Please read this carefully. **Consent form for posting Students’ personals information to School/Board Websites** (pink sheet)

**Consent to Share Personal Information** (white sheet)

**Tentative Classroom Organization for September 2019**

For September our **tentative** school organization is as follows:

JK/SK Amanda Wilde, Cassey O’Donnell

Grade1A Jana McCutcheon

Grade 1/2 Corinne Caswell

Grade 3 Carolyn Alexander

Grade 3/4 Jaclyn Duskocy

Grade 4/5 Catherine Knicely

Grade 6 Brandon Eyer

Grade 7 Holly Cochrane

Grade 7/8 Bren Huhtala

Grade 8 Anthony Bowman

Special Education Rob Neufeld

Planning Guy Rathbone

Library Rachel Playford

Core French Brendan Stretch

ESL Itinerant Teacher Kristin Lepard

CYC Dana Watson-Forsey

Educational Assistants Carolyn Geerlinks

Custodians Mr. Ziegler, Ms. Schmidt, Ms. Hutton

Office Coordinator Amanda Moore

Principal Christine Kay

**Our Daily Schedule**

8:55-9:45 Period 1

9:45-10:35 Period 2

10:35-10:55 First Nutrition Break

10:55-11:15 Outdoor Recess

11:15-12:05 Period 3

12:05-12:55 Period 4

12:55-1:15 Second Nutrition Break

1:15-1:35 Outdoor Recess

1:35-2:25 Period 5

2:25-3:15 Period 6

3:15 Dismissal to the gym to line up for buses

**Acceptable Use of Technology - UGCloud**

The UGDSB has provided our school with reliable access to WIFI in all classrooms, and teachers and students use technology to transform learning within our school. With the support of our Centre Peel Public School Council and our Centre Peel parents, we welcome and encourage the responsible use of technology in all classrooms.

As all of our parents are aware, we use technology for instructional purposes to leverage learning for all of our Centre Peel students. W**e** will not be sending home UGCloud forms for parent signature. If you have questions or wish to discuss the use of technology, please contact Miss Kay.

**Video/Movie Permission Forms**

At Centre Peel, we send home permission forms for parents to sign so that they are aware that teachers use videos from time to time for educational purposes and the intent of why the movie is being shown. If you require further information about these forms, please contact your child’s teacher.

**Visitors to our School**

All visitors to the school (including parents and volunteers) are asked to enter through the front doors and check in at the office and sign the visitor’s book. For the safety of our students we need to know who is in our school at all times. If you wish to visit a classroom, please call the teacher and make arrangements in advance. Parents are asked to come to the office if they are picking up their child. We will call your child down to the office to meet you. It is important for the office to know if your child has been picked up for bus attendance.

**Safe Arrival Program**

Our school operates a Safe Arrival Program in conjunction with Daily Attendance. If your son or daughter will not be attending or will be late, we ask that you contact the office or send a note with a sibling to let us know. If we do not hear from you we will begin to call to determine your child’s whereabouts (first home, then parent’s work numbers, then emergency contacts). Students arriving late must check in at the office to let us know they are here.

**Creative Playground Updates**

Our Creative Playground is ready and waiting to welcome students ages 5-12 for the 2019-2020 school year.

Creative playground equipment is off limits to students when wet or snow covered. Avoid student clothing with long, exposed scarves, cords or drawstrings on children’s hoods, hats and jackets that can pose a choking hazard on play equipment. Slip on sandals, smooth soled shoes, skipping ropes and bicycle helmets are not allowed on the climbers.

Ongoing review of the rules and routines for safe play occur regularly in class, and from the office.

**Meet the Teacher Open House**

 You are invited to our Meet the Teacher Open House which will take place on Thursday September 19th, 2019 from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm. Please plan on joining us to meet your children’s teachers and to visit their classrooms.

**FUNDRAISING**

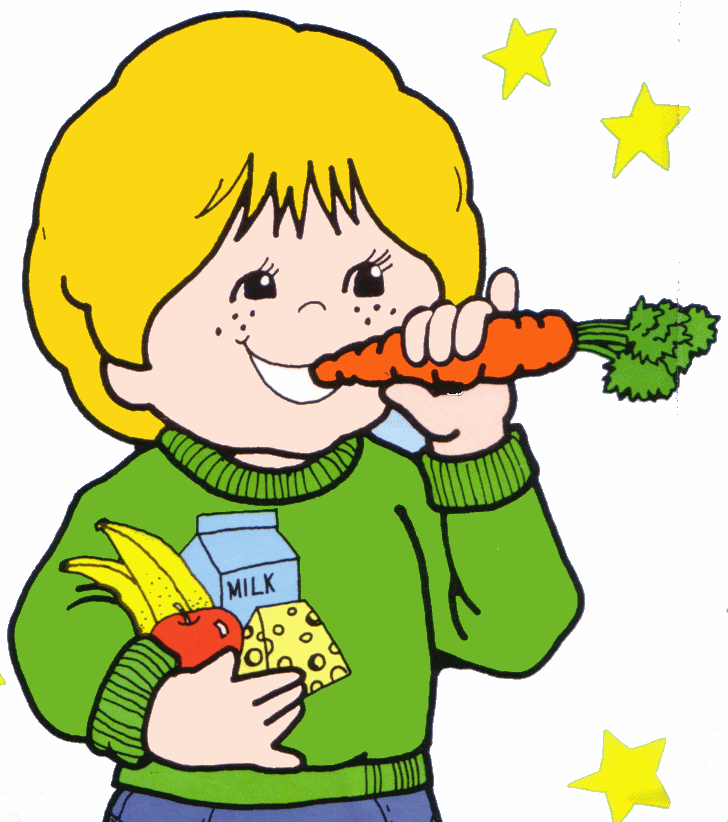
****Chocolate bars will be available at the office for pick-up during Meet the Teacher night. Please ensure that you have sent back your family’s form stating how many boxes you would like so that we can have them ready for you to pick up. Thanks in advance to all of our families who help us out by taking part in our fundraising events. Money raised helps lower the cost of school trips, track and field events, graduation, skating and many other events.

**Remember to Label Clothing**

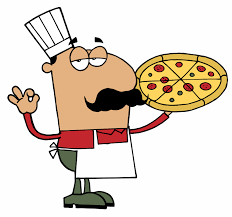
****It is important to label your child’s clothing, back packs, shoes and lunch boxes. Lots of students have the same shoes or back packs and it makes it easier to identify the owner if items are labeled. Please have your child dress for the weather. Students will be outside for recesses unless there is heavy rain or extreme weather conditions.

**Indoor and Outdoor Shoes**

Students should have indoor and outdoor shoes. To participate in gym class all students MUST wear running shoes. Please look for shoes that have non-marking soles. Black marks left from running shoes are very difficult to remove from the gym floor.

**Food and Friends**

Our healthy snack program is being offered through Food and Friends once again this year. Snacks will be available for all of our students every morning. Apples, plums, cereal, cheese, yogurt and whole grain crackers are some of the foods offered. Thank you again to Mr. Huhtala for heading up the Food and Friends Program!

**** **Pizza/Milk Days**

We are always looking for volunteers to help run our Pizza and Chocolate Milk Days. We will be starting this program on September 18th. Order forms have been sent home with the oldest and/or only student in each family.

**Newsletters and Calendars**

Just a reminder that all of our newsletters and the monthly calendar can be found on the Centre Peel PS website. Our website has some great and useful information for all of our Centre Peel families. Beginning this October the paper copy of the newsletter will only be available upon request as the information is always available on the Centre Peel Public School website. If you would like a paper copy of the newsletter sent home with your oldest child each month please fill in the request attached to the back of this newsletter and return to the school as soon as possible. The monthly calendars will still be sent home with students along with hot lunch order forms. Families are also able to sign up for email notifications on our website for important announcements and events.

**Online Bullying Reporting Tool**

Centre Peel PS takes all incidents of bullying seriously. If your child is the victim of bullying or sees bullying behavior at school, please encourage him/her to speak with someone at school or use our board’s online reporting tool. **Report Bullying** gives students and parents 24/7 access for reporting bullying. You don’t have to identify yourself – just your school – and your message gets sent directly to the school principal for follow-up. You’ll find the Report Bullying button on our school’s website and the link is provided here: [**https://webapps.ugdsb.on.ca/reportbullying**](https://webapps.ugdsb.on.ca/reportbullying)

Please know that we always take steps to maintain a Safe and Inclusive School for everyone. Our Bully Prevention Plan and Safe, Equitable and Inclusive School strategy will be updated this fall and will be available on our school website. Centre Peel’s intervention/strategy plans include Conflict Resolution, Progressive Discipline, CYC Programming, Behaviour Plans, and Character Education. Contact your child’s teacher or myself if you ever have any questions or concerns.

**Medication at School**

Parents are required to complete a form and submit all medication (prescription and non-prescription) to the main office where it will be administered. All medications must be in their original labelled container with the dosage clearly visible. Please contact the school office if your child suffers from a condition that may be life-threatening unless medication is administered immediately. A special consent form must be completed and up to date medication provided.

**Smoke and Vape–Free School Environment**

The Upper Grand DSB provides a smoke and vape-free environment for its students, staff and others while on school Board property and at school events. Under our policy, all forms of tobacco, and any processed form of tobacco that may be smoked, inhaled or chewed is included. Additionally, all forms of e-cigarettes are also covered under this policy.

Smudging is the tradition of using sacred smoke from sacred medicines (e.g., tobacco and sage) that forms part of indigenous culture and spirituality. Smudging is allowed in schools under the Smoke-Free Ontario Act. Participation by staff and students is optional in a smudging ceremony.

**Students with Life-Threatening Medical Conditions**

UGDSB Policy 518: Students with Life-Threatening Medical Conditions, outlines the roles and responsibilities for all in the educational community to support students with possible life-threatening medical conditions. The prevalent medical conditions covered under this policy are Asthma, Anaphylaxis, Diabetes and Epilepsy/Seizure Disorders. If your child has one of these, or any other life-threatening medical condition, please visit: [www.ugdsb.ca/board/policy](http://www.ugdsb.ca/board/policy) (and look for Policy 518) or contact the school as soon as possible. We will work with you to develop a Plan of Care to support your child.

**Life-Threatening Allergies**

We have children and staff in our school with potential life-threatening allergies (called anaphylaxis) to various foods and other materials. Anaphylaxis is a medical condition that can cause death within minutes. In recent years, anaphylaxis has increased dramatically among students. Although this may not affect your child’s class directly, we are letting you know so that you are aware that we aim to create an allergy safe environment at our school. If your child is in a classroom with an anaphylactic child, or your child has anaphylaxis, you will be informed by the classroom teacher. Our school has procedures in place for the prevention and management of anaphylactic reactions. If your child has health concerns of any kind, please tell your child’s teacher or the office and we will take the necessary health protection steps. Thank you for your understanding in ensuring an allergy-safe environment for all of our students.

If your child will be bringing snacks to share with the class please make sure they are clearly marked whether they are peanut/tree nut free. Thank you for your understanding.

**Important Upcoming Dates to Remember:**

**September 7th- Student Verification forms and consents are due**

**September 18th- First Pizza and Chocolate Milk day of the year**

**September 19th- Meet the Teacher Night from 6-7:30 pm, Chocolate bar pickup at the office**

**September 20th- School Picture Day (more information will follow)**

**September 26th- Terry Fox Run**

**September 27th- PD Day**

* nature habit that lasts all year-round. Find out more at [*httphttps://davidsuzuki.org/take-action/act-locally/one-nature-challenge/*](http://30x30.davidsuzuki.org/)
* Do a Google search: “What to do on a nature walk” or “Arbour Day activities”

**Talking About Mental Health Sept 2019 – Heading Back to School**

Hope that you had a wonderful summer! Transitioning back into school as summer ends can be exciting but also can be stressful for some children and families. As the children and youth head back to school, here are a few suggestions on how to make this a mentally healthy school year for all.

* Take care of your body
* Mental and physical health are linked. Make sure to get enough sleep, drink water, and eat well.
* Talk to your child/ren
* What did they like and enjoy about last year? What are they looking forward to this year? Have children name one thing they are looking forward to and one thing they are not looking forward to as much.
* Identify strengths and challenges
* Have them name 2 things they are good at in school and two things that they think might be more difficult. Strategize some ways to deal with challenges. At the end of the day reflect any strategies used and encourage them to try new strategies to build their coping tool kit.
* Problem solve with your child/ren
* Provide your child opportunities to make their own decisions and to come up with solutions for their concerns. Remember to keep your expectations realistic and age appropriate.
* Remain calm, and show your child trust, support and love when they are feeling stressed, anxious and worried.

Have a wonderful and mentally healthy school year!

**Combined Grade (Split Grade) Classrooms**

Combined classes group children from two or more consecutive grades into one classroom. Schools combine classes for a variety of reasons to meet the learning needs of students and to balance class sizes. All classrooms are created with students who have a range of skills and abilities. As in same-grade classrooms, teachers, in combined grades, use a variety of strategies to ensure that the grade appropriate curriculum expectations are covered.

Combined classrooms are very common in schools today and they are neither better nor worse than single-grade classes. Studies have proven that students in combined grades do just as well academically as students in single-grade classrooms. The academic research on combined classrooms has outlined the benefits that students gain while in combined classes. These benefits include learning to work individually and as part of a team, development of leadership skills, development of decision-making skills, self-motivation, and responsibility.

Student placement is carefully considered by school staff every year. Individual student needs, as well as class dynamics, are balanced to create school classrooms. When placing students in classrooms, the principal and all teachers take into consideration many different factors which include: the number of students, the number of boys and girls, student learning styles, academic strengths and needs, learning skills, work habits, and social and emotional strengths and needs. Whether the students are in an older or younger grade in a combined classroom, they will be challenged at their own academic level.

For further information about combined classrooms, please consult the following information that has been developed by the Ministry of Education:

* An Introduction to Combined Grades <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/combinedClassrooms/combinedClassrooms.pdf>
* Combine Grades <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/literacynumeracy/combined.pdf>

------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

**Monthly Newsletter Request**

**Our family would like to receive a paper copy of the newsletter each month along with the monthly calendar.**

**Name of Oldest Student: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Grade:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Our family will access the newsletter online, please send home a copy of the calendar each month.**

**Name of Oldest Student:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Grade:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**