



Kortright Hills Public School

23 Ptarmigan Drive ♦ Guelph, Ontario ♦ N1C 1B5 ♦ (519)827-1601 ♦ Fax (519)827-9251



Wendy Donaldson, Principal
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Newsletter for December, 2015

From the Principal's Desk

A few days ago, we had some snow on the ground. As adults we can so quickly forget how exciting snow is to kids, especially when it is packing snow. That day, from the top windows of the school all you could see is kids working mightily to build, roll and create together! It was awesome!! As they entered the school they were sharing stories about their structures, how much fun they had, where they would meet at recess the next time, plans on what they could do next. Each year when this happens it makes me reflect on how when you are young you are able to see a material like snow and imagine it into anything and play games that you create on the spot. I think this is something we need to encourage in our children and our community because it is exciting to have an open canvas, like a field of snow, and bring it to life. It would be wonderful if this trait of creativity and problem solving would last a life time.

As you head into December, on behalf of the staff at Kortright, we wish you and your family a very happy holiday and festival season.

Wendy Donaldson
Principal, Kortright Hills P.S.



Have you completed your Holiday shopping yet? Please consider shopping at our upcoming Scholastic Book Fair. Books make great gifts and up to 60% of every purchase is returned to our school.

The Scholastic Book Fair arrives Thursday, December 3rd. Students will be visiting the library for a preview, and sales will begin at 3:00 on Friday, December 4th. Please drop by the library on Saturday, December 5th during the Family Fun Day event. Sales will continue until Wednesday, December 9th.

Book Fair Hours

Fri., Dec. 4th	3:00 pm - 4:30 pm
Sat., Dec. 5th	Family Fun Day 10 am - 1 pm
Mon., Dec. 7th	8:00 am - 10:30 am, 2:00 pm - 4:30 pm
Tues., Dec. 8th	8:00 am - 10:30 am, 2:00 pm - 4:30 pm
Wed., Dec. 9th	8:00 am - 10:30 am

Cash, Cheque, Debit & Credit accepted

Thanks in advance for supporting this Literacy fundraiser which will help us to continue to provide a variety of books for students to access through the library, as well as providing our staff with high quality resources and literacy materials to support learning in the classroom.

Welcome from the Library

A special thank you to the parents and students who have volunteered to help with the Book Fair. I couldn't do it without each one of you!

Suggestions

If you are looking for Christmas presents for that student who is hard to buy for, remember BOOKS make great gifts. Ten good reasons why books make the best presents:

1. Books don't have to be assembled.
2. Books don't need batteries.
3. Books never come in the wrong size or colour.
4. Books don't need spare parts.
5. Books don't need to be serviced by a dealer.

6. Books don't need watering or fertilizer.
7. Books don't need extension cords.
8. Books don't have zippers that break.
9. Books don't bite, scratch or kick.
10. Books don't go out of style.

Thank you for your continued support of our library programs,

Sheila Morgan

Teacher Librarian

sheila.morgan@ugdsb.on.ca

<http://bit.ly/KHPSLibrary>

School Stuff

Holiday Assemblies

Holiday Assemblies will be held on Thursday, December 17th and Friday, December 18th starting at 9:00 a.m. in the gym. Please feel welcome to attend. A detailed schedule of performances will be coming home soon.

Adopt-a-Family

In light of the approaching holiday season, the staff at Kortright Hills has decided to continue their participation in charitable giving. We have decided to participate in the Adopt-a-Family project at Christmas time this year.

We are adopting 3 families and each division in the school; primary, junior, intermediate will be responsible for raising funds to purchase



the gifts and food vouchers for each family. Our last day for donations is December 4th.

Lost and Found

Our lost and found is nearing capacity! Items will be on display in the main foyer on Saturday, December 6th during our Christmas Family Fun Day. Please take a look to see if any of your children's lost clothing has been found.



Any items remaining after Thursday, December 18th will be taken to the Salvation Army.

Before and After School Supervision

The playground is supervised by staff beginning at 8:25 am. Students should not be arriving before that



time unless they are going to a supervised activity (e.g. sports practice). If your child walks to and from school, he/she should leave the school immediately after

the bell at 3:20 and proceed directly home.

Safe Arrival - Notifying the School of a Student Absence

The rules of the Safe Arrival program state that the school must know why a student is not present on any particular day. This means that school secretaries will continue to try to contact parents until one is reached. Please assist us by notifying the office, either by calling at 519-827-1601 ext 200 or by sending a note. It is important that the office is notified if your child(ren) will be absent or late. The office will then inform the teacher.

Safety, Safety, Safety!

The front of the school is a very busy place between 8:30 a.m. and 8:50 a.m. and 3:15 p.m. and 3:35 p.m. Buses, cars and students are prominent during these



times and parents are reminded to respect the safety measures that are in place.

The parking lots of the school are **not** to be used as drop off points for our students. Parking is available in designated areas along Ptarmigan Drive, Merganser Drive and Mallard Court. Parents are also reminded to have their children cross at the cross-walk at the front of the school, if they should be picking up on the other side of the street. During the first few days and weeks of school, we tend to not pay attention to the traffic and have had a couple close calls with students crossing Ptarmigan, not at the cross-walk, being encouraged by parents on the other side of the road.

We ask that you **not** block anyone's driveway when picking up your child(ren). Please be respectful of our neighbours.

Please choose safety over convenience!

It's About Your Feet!

The snowy season is soon upon us and many of our children have started to wear boots. It is very important that students have both indoor and outdoor footwear. Students cannot wear their boots or muddy and wet outdoor shoes into the classrooms. Without appropriate footwear our students may slip and fall and in the case of a fire (or fire drill) many of our students would be in sock feet outside. Please ensure that your child(ren) has an inside pair of running shoes or other shoes with a non-slip sole. Thank you for your assistance and co-operation!



Allergies

Many students suffer daily from allergies. Reactions to



allergic substances

vary from relatively mild irritations such as: itchy eyes, sneezing, scratchy throat, etc. to potentially fatal conditions where the sufferer experiences breathing problems and/or anaphylactic shock. A student who is allergic to peanuts often falls in this second category. There are students at Kortright Hills P.S. who severely react to nuts. As a result, please be aware that there may be restrictions in your child's class to protect a student with such an allergy. We ask you to abide by any restriction(s) that may be imposed in these cases and **in the case of nuts or nut products we ask that you avoid sending any to school. Parents of students with potentially life threatening allergies are asked to inform the school.** Thank you for your co-operation.

Morning Attendance

Please help your child to be at school when the bell rings (8:50 am). This minimizes disruption for classrooms during learning time, and it places the value

of time management on students - a life-long skill. Please also remember to have

your child check in at the office, if he/she is late. If

the announcements are on, he/she will need to wait



quietly in the front foyer until announcements are finished to check in and receive a late pass.



Inclement Weather

It is the parents' responsibility to determine whether or not it is safe for their child to leave for school in inclement or severe weather. A parent must be aware of the following:

- When a bus does not travel a route in the morning due to fog, ice, or snow conditions, it will **not** travel that route in the afternoon.
- While we have an excellent transportation system, buses may be delayed in the morning due to traffic, poor road conditions, mechanical breakdowns, etc.

To ensure your child is not stranded at his/her pick-up point; please make sure he/she knows what to do and where to go if the bus is more than 15 minutes late.

Listen for messages on your local radio station for the City of Guelph - Yellow Card.

Bus/Taxi Cancellations

During times of inclement weather, please listen to our local radio stations: 1460 AM CJOY, 106.1 Magic FM or

900 AM CHML, 107.9 FM CJXY, Oldies

1090 AM, 105.3 FM CHYM, 1150 AM

CKOC, 102.9 FM CKLH, 820 AM

CHAM, CKCO-TV for school

transportation cancellations.

Information on bus/taxi cancellations

and school closures are also posted on the Upper Grand District School Board's website: www.ugdsb.on.ca.

If your child(ren) regularly travel(s) by bus, parents **DO NOT** need to inform the school of their child(ren's) absence when the buses/taxis are cancelled. If, however parents of bus students drive their child(ren) in the morning, they must also pick them up at 3:20 p.m.

For students who walk to school, you are asked to leave a message on the 24 hr attendance line

(519 827-1601 ext. 200) to inform

the school of any absence or late arrival during bus/ taxi cancellations.

PLEASE NOTE: On days when buses/taxis are cancelled, unless otherwise informed, the school will be open and a regular school program will be offered.



Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten Registration will take place in February. To register for Junior Kindergarten your child must be four years old on or before December 31st, 2016.



To register for Senior Kindergarten (if your child is new to our school) he/she must be five years old on or before December 31st, 2016.

If you can't register during this month, please call the school office at 519-827-1601 to arrange an alternate time. You must bring your child's birth verification and his/her immunization record and proof of address to register.

Warm Winter Clothing Drive

Kortright Hills students have decided to help fellow citizens of Guelph who are less fortunate by sponsoring a warm winter clothing drive this year. Collections for the Clothing Drive will end on Friday, December 4th.

Playground Safety

Our play structures are now closed for the season. They will reopen at the beginning of April or when the ground thaws out in the spring.



Safety Patrollers & Winter

As the chilly weather fast approaches, the school safety officers provide hot chocolate as a special treat to street patrollers on duty. In order for students to take advantage of this special offer, they must bring in an insulated mug with a lid, to be kept at school until the March Break. Please bring in a mug starting January 4th.



Winter Active...

Are You Ready For The Season?

Be involved in your children's winter activities and make it fun and safe for everyone.

Follow these tips to keep the family safe:

1. Dress for the weather. The outer layer should be waterproof.
2. Wear the right gear. Helmets must be worn for skiing, snowboarding, skating, and tobogganing.
3. Practice snow safety. Make sure children don't play in snow banks near the road, as snow ploughs may not see them.

4. Watch for frostbite. Signs of frostbite include tingling, numbness, burning and/or changes in skin colour. If you suspect frostbite go inside immediately, take off wet clothes and replace them with warm ones. Call your doctor if the area remains discoloured or numb.

Snowballs

With the cold weather comes the falling of snow. Snow is a very fun part of the winter season for our students; however, it can generate trouble if it is not used appropriately. Please help us remind our students that snow stays on the ground at school.



Bullying Prevention, Tate, Gr.2

Anti-Bullying

Who is getting bullied?

I'll stand up for those who are being bullied!

If you are getting bullied, tell a trusted adult.

If you treat them the way you want to be treated, then maybe

You will be surprised, and they will want to become your friend.

If you model how to be a good friend, they will learn to be a good friend.

Give a bully a chance - sometimes they don't even know they are bullying or sometimes they are in pain because they don't

feel like they have anyone to play with.

Sometimes Bullies are angry because they don't feel part of a family or even have a family of their own.

Wouldn't you want to give them an opportunity to be loved and offer a playdate with them?

Who knows, maybe you will turn out being the best of friends.

No more Bullying!

Violence Threat Risk Assessment Protocol (VTRA)

The Upper Grand District School Board is committed to providing safe learning environments for all students, staff, school visitors, and community members. When a student behaves inappropriately, Principals use progressive discipline to help a student take responsibility for their actions, change their behaviour, and learn from their mistakes.

When safety is threatened by the potentially violent or dangerous behaviour of a student, which places either the student or others at risk, school staff follow specific protocols for the protection of all. It is important that you and your children are aware of these protocols.

For more information, please visit the board's website: <http://www.ugdsb.on.ca/parents/article.aspx?id=51057>

UGDSB CHROMEBOOKS

The Upper Grand District School Board now has Chromebooks for student use in all 25 public libraries across the district.

The program first launched in April at three pilot sites within the Wellington County library system and has grown to include all 25 public library branches that serve our region.

Each branch has been outfitted with five Chromebooks that are available exclusively for Upper Grand students to access and complete their homework and assignments.

For more information, visit the board website at ugdsb.ca.

High School Visit

College Heights Secondary School Gr 8 information night/open house is Wednesday, January 13th, 2016 from 6:30 - 8:00pm. Please join us for a tour of the school, see what is being created in the shops and meet the teachers of CHSS.

From School Council

The School Council would like to thank everyone for their tremendous support of our Fall Fundraiser. It was very successful with Fresh from the Farm raising approximately \$900. Final numbers raised from Norcard will be available soon.

The Family Fun Day will be held on Saturday, December 5th from 10:00 am - 1:00 pm. This year proceeds raised from the raffle table will go to support the "Food & Friends" program and Special Olympics Guelph Wellington. There will be performances from Grade 3 Orff (10:30am), Primary Choir (11:00am) and the School Band (11:30am). There will be a bake table, a raffle table, Gingerbread House

Lane, refreshments, entertainment, a craft table, and the Scholastic Book Fair. This is also when poinsettia orders can be picked up.

This event has become a family tradition for many in our school community and a wonderful way to support two local charities all while having fun! It will be a fun event and we hope to see you there.

As a School Council we wanted to extend our appreciation to the school community in their fundraising efforts and support of School Council events. All money raised goes directly back to the school to support teachers, classroom needs, and the ongoing beautification of our school playground.





December 2014



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Day3	2 Day 4 11:55 Mad Science	3 Day 5 Gr. 8's Career Pathways BOOK FAIR ARRIVES	4 Day 1 Last Day for Adopt a Family & Warm Clothing Donations BOOK FAIR PREVIEWS	5 FAMILY FUN DAY
6	7 Day 2 Gr. 6 Focus on Nature BOOK FAIR	8 Day 3 Int Girls Volleyball at Taylor Evans Gr. 6 Focus on Nature	9 Day 4 11:55 Mad Science	10 Day 5	11 Day 1 Int Boys Volleyball Tournament at KHPS	12
13 Safety Patrols to Storm Game	14 Day 2	15 Day 3	16 Day 4 Centennial Band Presentation	17 Day 5 Christmas Assembly 9:00am	18 Day 1 Christmas Assembly 9:00am	19
20	21	22	23	24	25 Christmas Day	26 Boxing Day
CHRISTMAS BREAK - SCHOOL IS CLOSED						
27	28	29	30	Dec 31		
CHRISTMAS BREAK - SCHOOL IS CLOSED						

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR