



Kortright Hills Public School

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Newsletter for January, 2016

From the Principal's Desk

Happy New Year to you all and I hope that you have been able to have some valued time with family and friends over the winter break. As we move into the winter time at Kortright Hills, there are lots of exciting things on the horizon. We look forward to hearing about all the exciting things that our students have to share about their holidays. All the best for a warm and snowy January!

"The Principal's Office"

At times I find myself talking to parents about the changing perception of the principal's office. When I was a student in elementary school, I was terrified of the principal's office. It represented a place that you were sent to if you were 'in trouble'. Further, if your parents found out you had been to the principal's office, you were in even bigger trouble. Perhaps for some, the perception of "the principal's office" hasn't changed, however as the principal of Kortright Hills, I would like to actively change that.



I strongly believe that people strive to behave in the best way possible, as often as they are able. I do not believe that any student at Kortright Hills intentionally sets out to hurt others or be disrespectful. However, when faced with conflict or challenges, emotions flare and often students are not always able to behave in accordance with the Kortright Hills view of what is acceptable in society. I believe our role is to help students understand the part they have played in situations, assist them to reflect on how they could do things differently and provide opportunities for them to practice with guidance as necessary.

It is my hope that students do not feel "in trouble" when they come to the principal's office but rather, "in training" to learn to change their behaviour in the future. To truly change behaviour, I believe a person must trust the adults they are working with. They need to feel that they are cared for and that the adults have their best interests at heart. Ideally, I would like students to feel that when they come to the principal's office we will work together to resolve the conflict they have found themselves in as well as explore new ways to help them manage difficult situations in the future.

Wendy Donaldson
Principal, Kortright Hills P.S.

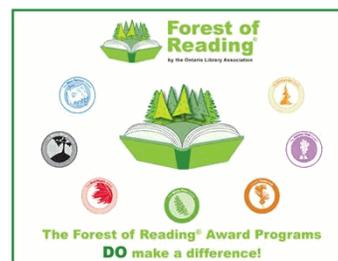
Library News



Thank you to our Kortright Hills community! Our Scholastic Book Fair was a great success,

raising \$2400 for new books and resources for our library. A wonderful gift of reading and learning for our students!

A new year brings new excitement to our library!



Our Forest of Reading program will begin in January. Students from Kindergarten - Grade 2 will participate in the Blue Spruce program during their visits to the

library. Grade 3 - 8 students will be invited to participate in an independent reading program based on their grade level (Silver Birch Express, Silver

Birch, or Red Maple). All 50 of the nominated books are written by Canadian authors and have been added to our collection. More information will be sent home with students who wish to participate. You can also check out our library website to view the nominated books.

Kindergarten - Grade 2 <http://bit.ly/BlueSpruce>

Grade 3 & 4 <http://bit.ly/SBExpress>

Grade 5 & 6 <http://bit.ly/SBFiction>

Grade 5 & 6 <http://bit.ly/SBNonFiction>

Grade 7 & 8 <http://bit.ly/RMFiction>

Grade 7 & 8 <http://bit.ly/RMNonFiction>

Thank you for your continued support of our library programs,

Sheila Morgan

Teacher Librarian

sheila.morgan@ugdsb.on.ca

[Link]<http://bit.ly/KHPSLibrary>

Reading Tip - Encourage Questioning

Questioning makes reading fun. But to learn how to question, your child needs to hear your questions first. This is not about asking your child questions, instead, it's about modeling what it means to be curious by sharing questions you have while you read. Don't rush to the answers right away; let the questions hang in the air. Pose several questions and then let your child take a turn asking questions that come to his/her mind. You're showing your child how to be an active player in the world of reading.

Family Literacy Day is January 27th.

ABC Life Literacy Canada is encouraging Canadian families to have "15 Minutes of Fun" learning together. Learning can happen at any time. Practicing literacy together every day has tremendous benefits for both children and parents. Here are some great ways to get started:

- Read a "wake up" story in the morning (after reading your bedtime story the night before).
- Search online for fun places to go in your community. Pick out a spot for your next family day trip.
- Make up a new recipe together and post it online.
- Tell knock-knock jokes together while doing the dishes.
- Create a story with your family: take turns writing one sentence at a time, then read the whole story aloud when you're done.

- Write a review of a book you read together as a family. Send it to the author through email or snail mail.
- Organize a book swap at your school or with your friends.
- Track your trip to school, the park, and the grocery store on a map. Find a different route to take to each place.
- Learn to play a musical instrument. What about the ukulele?
- Write a note to include in a grown-up's lunch - ask them to write back!
- Make a popsicle stick model with your family.
- Write your names graffiti-style using chalk on your sidewalk - you may need to shovel first!
- Play a board game together.
- Look up the words to your favourite song online. Have a sing-off with your friends!
- Count how many steps it takes to get from your bedroom to your kitchen. Find out who in your family has the most steps to a snack!

From: <http://abclifeliteracy.ca/fld/15-minutes-of-fun>

School Stuff

College Heights Secondary School

Grade 8 Parent Information Night.

When: Wednesday, January 13th, 6:30-8:00pm

Where: College Heights Secondary School

Come and tour the school, see the classes, and meet the teachers.

Centennial CVI Secondary School

Grade 8 Parent Information Night.

When: Thursday, February 11th

Where: Centennial CVI Cafeteria

Tour the school and find out what Centennial has to offer.

Come and see Education that Works!

Breakfast Program

Metro Green Apple School Program has donated \$1000.00 to our school to start a Breakfast Program. Starting January 4, 2016 students who need a healthy breakfast can go to the Neighbourhood Group room in the morning between 8:30 and 8:50 to receive breakfast.

The Green Apple School Program aims to encourage Ontario students to adopt healthy eating habits by participating in a project that will have a positive impact on their home, school or community.

Like previous editions, Metro will invest \$500,000 by awarding \$1,000 grants to elementary and secondary schools in Ontario.

Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten registration will take place the week of February 1st - 5th, 2016. 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 week, 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 to register.

Inclement Weather

It is the parents' responsibility to determine whether or not it is safe for his or her 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 they know what to do and where to go if their 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 when the buses are cancelled. If, however, your child(ren) regularly walk to school, you are asked to leave a message on the 24 hr attendance line (519 827-1601 ext. 200) for any absence or late arrival.



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. Also, if parents of bus students drive their child(ren) in the morning, they must also pick them up at 3:20 p.m.

Christmas Food Drive

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Christmas Food Drive. We didn't have a total by printing time, but if the amount of food in the hall is any indication, then Kortright Hills families were wonderfully helpful and giving.

Indoor Shoes

Parents are asked to ensure that all students have indoor shoes (or running shoes). With the wet weather outside, it is inevitable that the floors will occasionally be wet. Not only is it unhealthy and dangerous for students to walk around the floors of the school in socks, students will not have a chance to change into their footwear if there is a fire alarm or a drill. Also, appropriate footwear is required for participation in gym.



Extra Clothes

Now that our weather is turning considerably colder, it is a good idea to send along some extra clothes with your child. An extra pair of dry socks and an extra pair of mittens are always good things to have tucked into the backpack



Weather for Safety Patrols

At minus 25° Celsius (including the wind chill), safety patrol duty is reduced to the last five minutes of the morning scheduled time and the first five minutes of the afternoon scheduled time. Parents and patrols should check the local radio stations or internet weather reports for temperature readings.



Lunch Options

Tired of preparing lunches? The Grade Eight class is selling lunches as a way to help with their fundraising for their Quebec trip. Orders can be placed online at www.lunchboxorders.com.



Swiss Chalet & the Shed Market (alternating Tuesdays).

Subs (from Subway) are available on Wednesdays for a cost of \$4.10 (4 inch) or \$4.45 (6 inch).

Choices: ham, turkey, turkey and ham, veggie.

Post-Dated Cheques for the Food Programs



Please be advised that the second installment of cheques for the food programs will be cashed on or around January 4th, 2016.



Head Lice Watch

Winter is the time of year when head lice is most common in our school. To try to keep it under control, we ask parents to periodically check their children's hair and inform the school if head lice are found.

Transitions and Transition Planning

While it may feel like it is early in the year to think about transitioning to the next school year, many plans are well underway to ensure that students have a successful transition. For students that are changing schools, such as Grade 8s moving to secondary school, visits may have already begun. Such transitions can be very stressful for students, just as it can be stressful for adults to move houses or change jobs. With careful planning and a



collaborative approach toward supporting the transition, this stress can be minimized.

New requirements from the Ministry of Education came into effect in September 2014 requiring all students with an Individual Education Plan (IEP) to have a transition plan. This plan includes goals and actions to meet each goal, and considers the strengths and needs of the student. Some goals may address smaller transitions throughout the day, such as moving from recess to the classroom or from one activity to another, or larger transitions, such as moving from one school year to the next, or from one school to another. For many students, the supports provided to the whole class are all they need to have a successful transition, which means they may not need a specific transition plan goal and actions on their IEP at this time. However, for students that have challenges with transitions -- large or small -- a plan should be in place.

When planning for any transition, the student's physical, emotional, and learning needs are considered. As a parent, your collaboration with the school team is crucial to make sure that the needs of your child are fully understood, and that actions taken at home and at school will ensure a successful transition. Physical needs, such as changes made to a washroom for a student in a wheelchair, may be part of a plan, just as visits and pictures of a new school may be helpful meeting the emotional needs of a child. A student's current teacher will also share successful strategies and accommodations with next year's teacher, this will help the new teacher prepare for the learning needs of the student.

As a parent, you can play an important role in transition planning for your child, you know your child best. Whether planning for next year's new classroom, or for a new school, working together with school staff to provide visits to the new school, talking about the transition in a positive way, and looking at pictures of the new teachers and building may give the reassurance that your child needs. Preparation is crucial for transitions to be successful, and a team approach between home and school is key.

More information about transition planning from the Ministry of Education is available. The new rules for transition planning for students with special education needs can be found at:

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/extra/eng/ppm/ppm156.pdf>.

The Ministry also has a resource guide for transition plans with a focus for secondary students available at the following link:

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/general/elemsec/speced/transiti/transition.pdf>

Help Stop the Spread Of Germs And Stay Well

Wash your hands: There are no vaccines to protect us from the common cold or a stomach virus that is easily spread to others. Teaching children to wash their hands properly can reduce the chances of getting sick. **Everyone** should wash their hands before eating, after using the bathroom, coughing and after blowing their nose. Wash your hands before preparing food. Use hand sanitizer when soap and water are not available.

Cover your cough and sneezes: Teach children to cover their cough and sneezes to stop the spread of different illnesses such as colds and the flu. Use a tissue or arm to cover the mouth and nose.

Stay home when you are sick: When many people are close together as in schools and classrooms it's easy for illnesses to spread. Children should not be in school with a fever, undiagnosed rashes, vomiting or diarrhea. Children should recover completely before returning to school. When children have vomiting and diarrhea they should stay home at least 24 hours following the end of symptoms.

From School Council

The School Council would like to extend a thank you to everyone who attended the Family Fun Day on Saturday December 5th. The event was a huge success and we thank all the volunteers who baked, donated items for the raffle table or volunteered their time to help the day run smoothly. The raffle table was an outstanding success raising \$1220.00 which was split between our 2 charities, the Food and Friends program and Special Olympics Ontario, Guelph Wellington. The remaining net proceeds of \$696.00 were donated to families in our community who needed help over the holiday season.



The School Council was also busy with the Poinsettias and Fresh from the Farm fundraisers. The Poinsettia Fundraiser raised \$603.00 and the Fresh from the Farm raised \$874.00. Thank you to everyone who helped make these a success. All of the funds raised benefit the



education and well-being of students at Kortright Hills.

The next Council meeting is Monday January 18th at 7pm in the school library.

Dates to Remember

January 22 nd .	P.A. Day	No Classes
February 15 th ,	Family Day	School Closed
March 14-18 th	March Break	School Closed
March 25 th & 28 th	Easter Break	School Closed
May 23 rd	Victoria Day	School Closed
June 3 rd	P.A. Day	No Classes
June 30 th	P.A. Day	No Classes

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Monthly Environmental Newsletter Inserts



January's Environmental Theme: WASTE MINIMIZATION

In Canada, we create a lot of garbage. We throw away too much paper, plastic bags, food, old toys, electronics and much, much more! The good news is that at our school we have made a really good start to reducing some of our waste. We recycle paper, cardboard and containers made of metal, glass and plastic. We try to photocopy double-sided and use GOOS bins (bins that hold paper that is Good On One Side and can still be used). We do waste audits to see what we are throwing away and it seems we need to try to reduce our food waste as well as our packaging. Start thinking about bringing uneaten food from lunch back home to eat as a snack after school because we find perfectly good apples and other fruit, or even uneaten sandwiches, in the school garbage cans.

The best way to solve the problem of too much waste is to not create it in the first place. We have been talking about reducing the number of things we buy and buying items that can be reused instead of immediately being thrown away and taking up more landfill space. For example: use cloth towels instead of paper towels, borrow most books from the library instead of buying them new, use cloth bags instead of plastic bags, use litterless lunch containers and a metal water bottle that you can refill, and use reusable gift bags instead of wrapping paper. The list goes on and on - there are so many ways you can help to reduce waste!

We also need to let our government know that we don't want all that extra packaging when we buy things. Other countries have already banned all that unnecessary plastic, cardboard and Styrofoam that toys and cosmetics and games and food come covered with. So make a difference - write a persuasive letter to both the Ontario and Canadian Governments to ask them to be tougher on packaging laws. Our garbage dumps are filling up. They need to hear from you to stop all this waste!

Slogan of the month: *Let's reduce our waste - our planet is worth it!*

INQUIRY

HOW TO SUPPORT INQUIRY AT HOME

Now-a-days "knowing stuff" is no longer enough. Any resourceful student with an iPad could sit in front of the TV and Google all the questions to Alex Trebek's responses on Jeopardy, and get them correct. We are moving away from simply "knowing content," to being able to apply knowledge in interesting, creative, and critical ways. To accomplish this, students and teachers need to ask the right questions. Asking the right questions is what inquiry is all about.

Children are great at asking questions. They are naturally curious, and are constantly asking questions to make sense of their world.



Instead of just telling your child the answer, try one of these strategies. First, you can get them to look up the answer. This will help them develop the ability to solve their own problems. Or, you can ask them "What do you think?" This will give you insight into what they already know, and then you can ask them more questions to guide them to an answer.

An inquiry-based approach is seen throughout the Ontario Curriculum. Students learn best when they are formulating their own questions and working towards solutions through discussion with their peers.

A closed-question:

These are questions with a specific answer. Here are two examples:

Why do some stars twinkle?

What colours mix to make purple?

Closed-questions are great questions for your child to look-up in a book, or google.

An open-question:

These are questions that could be answered in many ways. Here is an example:

How can we best support the Syrian refugees?

Open-questions are great questions for you to explore with your child. Discuss with them what they already know, and help them form their own answer.

TIPS FOR INQUIRY AT HOME



- Resist providing the answer
- Resist giving a procedure (math)
- Ask questions to clarify their thinking
- Ask your child to explain the reasons behind their answer

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Letter for parents/guardians – inclement weather (Dec. 2015)

Dear parents and guardians,

The school board has new information on its website regarding inclement weather.

This document contains important information on school bus cancellations, school closures due to severe weather and extreme cold temperatures.

You can read the full document at www.ugdsb.on.ca/inclementweather/

The document also contains information on the risks of frostbite in extreme cold temperatures. Frostbite can happen within minutes of skin being exposed to extreme cold temperatures. Please ensure your children are dressed properly for frigid temperatures.

Additionally, parents and guardians should be aware that adult crossing guards are employed by the municipality. As such, municipal crossing guards may not be providing service during extreme weather conditions. Please refer to the document on the board website for information about the municipality's policy on crossing guards.

Thank you,

Noisy Toys

Parents may think that noise is a problem they need not worry about until their child reaches the teenage years. Not so. Some toys are so loud that they can cause hearing damage in children. Some toy sirens and squeaky rubber toys can emit sounds of 90 dB, as loud as a lawn mower. Workers would have to wear ear protection for similarly noisy sounds on the job.

The danger with noisy toys is greater than the 90-dB level implies. When held directly to the ear, as children often do, a noisy toy actually exposes the ear to as much as 120 dB of sound, the equivalent of a jet plane taking off. Noise at this level is painful and can result in permanent hearing loss.

Toys that pose a noise danger include cap guns, talking dolls, vehicles with horns and sirens, walkie-talkies, musical instruments, and toys with cranks. Parents who have normal hearing need to inspect toys for noise danger.

Before purchasing a new toy, listen to it. If the toy sounds loud, don't buy it.

Examine toys you already have at home. Remove the batteries or discard the toys if they are too noisy and pose a potential danger to hearing. Some parents place heavy duct tape over the speakers on noisy toys.

[The Sight and Hearing Association](#) publishes a list of the noisiest toys each November for your information.