



Kortright Hills Public School

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Farhan Hussain, Principal

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Newsletter for September 2017

From the Principal's Desk

Another school year has started. The staff here at Kortright Hills Public School hopes that everyone had a pleasant and relaxing summer. We are looking forward to a rewarding year of learning and hope that you are as well.

If you are new to our school family, we extend a warm welcome and encourage you to become actively involved in the activities that are available. We invite all parents to become involved in the education of your children. School Council welcomes new members, and volunteering in the classroom and/or library is encouraged.

Open and ongoing communication between home and school is very important for student success. I value an "open door" approach and heartily welcome your input and suggestions. Together, we can provide the children with the best education possible.

The Kortright Hills Community is extremely fortunate to have such committed and caring individuals working together to provide quality programs and activities to meet the educational needs of all students.

We are always open to new ideas and welcome your input and your suggestions. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact the school. We anticipate a rewarding school year and look forward to developing a strong community partnership.



SCHOOL COUNCIL

The first School Council meeting will be held on **Monday, September 18th: 7-8 p.m.** The night will consist of a Meet and Greet followed by elections. *We welcome anyone who would like to come and see what council is about.*

Every year your child's life is enriched with support that your School Council brings to Kortright Hills Public School. For those individuals that make up School Council, their lives are enriched too, knowing that with a little support and effort they are contributing to the success of the School community.

If you are unable to make the meeting but are still interested in volunteering, please contact the school. The Parent Council will be sending information home in the next couple of weeks regarding our pizza/milk program and upcoming fundraising.

Email Notification

Please visit: <https://webapps.ugdsb.on.ca/casl> for electronic messages about things happening in our school, for example :

- Monthly Newsletter
- Upcoming events
- Messages from School and Board
- Messages from Student Council





Our board has a wonderful resource for all of our students that can be accessed 24/7 from school or from home. It's called UG2GO and includes Learn360 (educational video streaming), Student Link (a site children use at school that gives them access to web sites that are kid friendly and relate directly to their current units of study), Tumblebooks (a site that has hundreds of books children can click on and have read to them), Overdrive (eBooks and audiobooks), and much more.

When students are at home they can go to this URL: <https://www.ugdsb.on.ca/ug2go>

They will be prompted to enter the same Windows username and password that they use at school to get onto the school network. Once they enter their Windows username/password they will enter the site and they can then click on any of the resources and be taken directly to the individual resource without the need for any additional passwords.

OPEN HOUSE/MEET THE TEACHER



Thursday, September 21st, 2017 @ 6:00 p.m. *More information to follow.*

Going off Property at Lunch

Students will not be allowed to leave school property for lunch unless they are heading home or being picked up by a parent. This means that students will not be able to sign out with friends and go to buy Pizza or go to the Hasty Market over the lunch hour. Having students who do not regularly go home for lunch and stay at school enables us to be able to supervise them at school as well as ensure their safety during the school day.

Agendas

To offset the cost of the agendas this year students are asked to contribute \$7. Please forward this money to your child's homeroom teacher.



Library News

Welcome back to the library!

I hope everyone had a relaxing summer and was able to read a good book or two. Please drop by the library to let me know about your new favourites! I have many new books to share with you too.

Our school library will be open to students beginning the second week of school. All classes will be invited to attend a library orientation session and then students may begin to check out books. Parents are welcome to drop by the library to check out our Parent Resource section. These books may be checked out under your child's name.

Information about library helpers, book clubs, and other exciting library activities will be announced later this month. I'm looking forward to another fantastic year of reading and learning with the students of Kortright Hills!

Sheila Morgan
Teacher Librarian
sheila.morgan@ugdsb.on.ca
<http://bit.ly/KHPSLibrary>

School Stuff



Bell Times

Kortright Hills will be following a balanced day schedule. Please note that there will be no Intermediate Bell and the Nutritional Break/Recess times have changed. The balanced day schedule is as follows:

Time	Event
8:50 a.m.	School Starts
8:50 - 9:40 a.m.	Instructional Time
9:40 - 10:30 a.m.	Instructional Time
10:30 - 11:15	Nutritional Break/Recess
11:15 -12:05 p.m.	Instructional Time
12:05-12:55 p.m.	Instructional Time
12:55-1:40 p.m.	Nutritional Break/Recess
1:40 - 2:30 p.m.	Instructional Time
2:30 - 3:20 p.m.	Instructional Time
3:20 p.m.	Dismissal



2017-2018 School Calendar

On the website under "calendars" you will find a copy of the 2017-2018 school year calendar. You may wish to print a copy and keep it handy to allow you to make reference to it when making vacation plans and arranging babysitting on PD days during the year.

SEPTEMBER 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5 First day of school!	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15 Student Verification Forms Due	16
17	18 School Council 7-8pm	19	20	21 OPEN HOUSE 6pm	22 Deadline for Spirit Wear Forms	23
24	25	26	27 National Tree Day	28 We Day Terry Fox Run	29 PD Day - No Classes	30

School Staff

Below is a listing of staff and their voice mail extensions:

KA	Mrs. Phelan/Mrs. Law Mrs. Kelly E.C.E	#302
KB	Mrs. Cameron Ms. Pettitt E.C.E.	#304
KC	Mrs. Fulton Mrs. McMeekin E.C.E	#332
KD	Miss Hayes Mrs. Byers E.C.E	#345
1B	Mrs. Collins	#321
1/2A	Ms. Bechtel	#430
2/3B	Mrs. Bowden	#343
2/3C	Mrs. Di Ilio	#305
3A	Mr Ackroyd	#306
4A	Mrs. Farrow	#337
4B	Mr. Keunen	#323
5A	Mrs. Moreau	#412
5/6B	Mrs. Dykstra	#303
6A	Mrs. Snell	#301
7A	Mrs. Jones	#346
7B	Mr. Minogue	#425
7/8C	Ms. Andrews	#312
8A	Ms. Brindle	#327
8B	Mrs. Mason	#339
Music, Geo, History	Mr. Cade	#308
Phys. Education	Mrs. Petersen	#311
Resource	Mrs. Jameson	#345
Resource	Mrs. Zanyk	#336
Junior Core French	Ms. Mcleod	#300
Int. Core French	Mrs. Jones	#346
Teacher Librarian/Planning	Mrs. Morgan	#340
Planning	Mr. Hemsley Mrs. Zanyk	#322
Custodian	Mrs. Astins Mr. Beaumont Mr. Carbone	#331
Child & Youth Counsellor	Mrs. Beddard	#227
E.A.	Mrs. Jackson Mrs. Bradley Mrs. Donnelly Mrs. Randall Mrs. Luccisano Mr. Grieg Mrs. McCreight	
Office Co-ordinator	Ms. Broderick	#221
Office Assistant	Mrs. Davis	#222
Vice Principal	Mrs. Morris	#224
Principal	Mr. Hussain	#223



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!



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 (including asthma) are asked to inform the school.** Thank you for your co-operation.

Guelph Police Reminder

Parents/guardians are reminded that the Guelph Police Service will be patrolling all school zones in the City of Guelph on a consistent basis and will levy fines to motorists not obeying traffic rules. Please note that there are reduced speed limits in the school zone.



Notifying the School of a Student Absence - Safe Arrival

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 office staff will continue to try to contact parents until one is reached; we sometimes make four or five calls for one child. This takes an inordinate amount of time and often stretches the office staffs' ability to carry out other duties. Please assist us in speeding this process up and calling when you know if your child(ren) is/are going to be late or absent. Messages can be left by phoning the school (519 827-1601) and choosing extension 200. Please send any notes or information about absences to the office as well as the teacher.



Late Arrivals

The curriculum is so packed now that teachers need to use every period they have to complete it. Lessons need to start on time. Late students disturb the lesson flow, because teachers have to re-teach to ensure the late student is brought up-to-date. The consequence to the class increases when students are repeatedly late for class. The policy for students arriving late for class is that the student must report to the office for a late slip.



Taking Students from School

To ensure student safety, if you are taking your child from school during the school day (appointments, etc.) parents are asked to come to the office and sign your child(ren) out. If you would like your child to leave school on their own and travel to an appointment, please call the school in advance to let us know or leave a message in the morning on the attendance line.



Home Safe

After being dismissed from class, either at lunch or at the end of the day, students are requested to go directly home or to a caregiver before proceeding to other activities. This includes playing after school on the playground. Please reinforce this message with your child.

Spirit Wear

Order Forms will be going home on the first week of school. Don't miss out; make sure you have your forms back before September 22.



Electronics

It is strongly suggested that parents/students make a cooperative decision about their child bringing personal technology to school. We are happy for students to use these devices to support student learning in the classroom as directed by their teachers. It is important to note that as a school, we cannot be responsible for the safe keeping of these devices.



Bus Behaviour

Students are expected to follow the rules of the bus, listen to the driver, remain in their seats, refrain from eating or drinking anything while on the bus, and follow the directions of the bus patrols when entering or exiting the bus.



Bus Reminder

Bus transportation is provided to students based on the distance their home is from the school. Such students are placed on a regularly scheduled bus route and **must** travel on this route and no other. Bus students may not switch buses for any reason. In addition, students who walk to school may **not** travel on a regularly scheduled bus route.



Interested in Volunteering?

There are many volunteer opportunities within the school...helping in the library, reading with students, preparing materials, helping in many ways in the classroom. If you would like to volunteer, please contact your child's teacher or call the office.

Also, if you are available to assist as a volunteer on a school field trip, your help as a supervisor would be greatly appreciated. Occasionally, when a class trip is planned, an insufficient number of parent volunteers are available to help supervise the trip. If you would be interested in offering your services as a volunteer on a class trip, beyond your child's class, should the need arise, please contact the office and let them know your availability.



Reminder for parents/guardians: Accidents happen - be prepared with Student Accident Insurance

Parents/guardians are responsible for expenses related to student injuries on school premises during school activities. Accidents can and do happen and the costs involved might not be fully covered by Provincial Health Care or employer group insurance plans.

The Upper Grand District School Board is empowered under The Education Act to offer Accident and Life Insurance for students.

Information will be sent home with respect to Student Accident Insurance offered by Old Republic Insurance Company of Canada. You should receive:

1. The Director's letter and an Acknowledgment to be signed by parents/guardians and returned to school. Attached to the Director's letter is a translation sheet for your reference.
2. An InsureMyKids application form

Old Republic offers a variety of options, including family rates and multi-year plans, at affordable prices. The cost must be paid by parents/guardians.

Subscription is directly through Old Republic by mail or online. Questions should be directed to Old Republic at 1-800-463-5437 or www.insuremykids.com.

For today's active children, especially those who participate in field trips, co-curricular and other school activities outside the school day, Student Accident Insurance is valuable.



Forms

Student Verification forms will be going home this week. **Please review any changes, sign and return them to school by Friday, September 15, 2017.**

Terry Fox Run

Please stay tuned for more information on the Terry Fox Run.

Newsletters & Special Notices



Monthly school newsletters and special notices will be posted on our school website. Our newsletters will be posted at the end of every month. www.ugdsb.on.ca/kortright.home.htm



Dropping Off Items for your Child

Students are expected to come to school with their materials for the day. If you are dropping off something your child has forgotten, please leave it at the office, and we will ensure that your child receives this item during the next break.

Asthma Friendly Schools Policy

Asthma is a very common chronic lung disease that can make it hard to breathe. The Upper Grand District School Board has a policy to provide support for students with Asthma. If your child has asthma, the policy requires an Asthma Management Plan (AMP) to be completed by parents, a child's doctor and the principal of the school. A copy of this plan is available on the Board's website under Policy 516. Parents are requested to complete the AMP and return it to the school as soon as possible at the beginning of the school year.

Smoke-Free Environment

The Upper Grand DSB provides a smoke-free environment for its students, staff and others while on school Board property, in accordance with the Smoke-Free Ontario Act. This policy refers to all forms of tobacco, and any processed form of tobacco that may be smoked, inhaled or chewed, including e-cigarettes.

Smudging is the tradition of using sacred smoke from sacred medicines (e.g., tobacco and sage) that forms part of the indigenous culture and spirituality. Smudging is allowed in schools under the Smoke-Free Ontario Act. Parents will be informed using the school's usual forms of communication when smudging is going to occur in our school. Participation by staff and students is optional in a smudging ceremony.

Life-Threatening Allergies

We have children in our school with potential life-threatening allergies to various foods and other materials called anaphylaxis. This is a medical condition that causes a severe reaction to food or other materials, and can cause death within minutes. In recent years, anaphylaxis has increased dramatically among students.

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.

ONLINE PAYMENTS!

Benefits:

- Convenient:** Make payments anytime...Online!
- Easy to Use:** Fill a shopping cart and check out.
- Safe:** No need to send cash or cheques to school.
- Secure:** Our website is protected and PCI compliant.
- Save Time:** It takes less than 5 minutes to register.



For safety and efficiency reasons, we want to reduce the amount of cash and cheques coming into our school. School related expenses such as pizza days, field trips, spirit wear, yearbooks, etc. will be available for online purchase. More information will be available soon.

School Organizations

Schools have built class lists based on their tentative organizations. Changes may be necessary at your child(ren)'s school in order that our Board remain compliant with Ministry parameters (see below) Any changes would be implemented by Monday, September 18th. Principals do not have the option of changing the school organization that is set by the District Staffing Committee of the Board. If changes affect your child(ren), you will be informed by the school.

- Full Day Kindergarten Class Size Average for the Board is 26 students.
- 90% of the Board's primary classes with 20 or fewer students
- 10% of the Board's primary classes up to a maximum of 23 students
- Grade ¾ classes have a cap of 23 students
- Junior/Intermediate Class Size Average for the Board is 24.85 students to 1 teacher

Transitions to School in the Fall

Returning to school is both an exciting time as well as one that can be challenging for some of our students. As our students get ready for new September routines, **here are some tips for parents to consider when the new school year begins:**

- If you are new to the school community, make an appointment to meet your child's school team so that you can develop a relationship with the school and learn the school based routines alongside your child.
- Connect your child with neighbourhood friends that are in their class to help them get to and from school with a peer to make the transitions more fun.
- Consider adapting your child's bedtime routine by returning to an earlier 'school day' schedule before school starts, aiming for 10 hours of sleep a night.
- Sit and plan what your child would enjoy eating as part of a healthy lunch while at school. Including your child in these routines helps them build their independence in packing a well-balanced lunch and snacks.
- Sometimes when kids are older and have more things to remember like locker combinations and schedules for classes, they can get worried about remembering it all. Talk through their concerns and make some plans for how they can remember these items during a busy day.
- Walk with your child to school to remind them of the safety rules and routines. The summer is a long time and this needs to be refreshed from time to time.
- Spend time each night checking in on how the first few weeks of school have gone. If your child is facing some concerns that do not seem to be ironing out, connect with the school to see if together something can be done to support your child to be happy in their new school year.

-Adapted from KidsHealth.org



Monthly Environmental Activities to help celebrate our planet

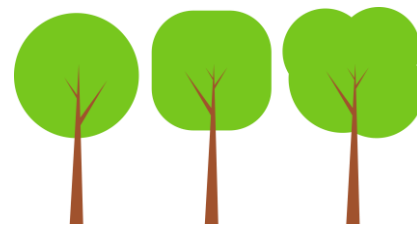
SEPTEMBER 27TH IS NATIONAL TREE DAY!

"Let nature be your teacher." William Wordsworth

Celebrate National Tree Day on September 27st 2017!

"National Tree Day will serve as a celebration for all Canadians to appreciate the great benefits that trees provide us - clean air, wildlife habitat, reducing energy demand and connecting with nature."

<http://www.nationaltreeday.ca/>



"Children today spend less time outdoors than any generation in human history." <http://getbackoutside.ca/>

"For children, studies show that time outdoors, especially unstructured time in more natural settings, can increase curiosity, creativity and problem solving ability. It also improves their physical fitness and coordination."

<http://30x30.davidsuzuki.org/>

Some great activities for your family to do on Tree Day, or any day!

- Read a book on trees: *The Lorax*, by Dr. Seuss; *The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein; *What Good Is a Tree* by Larry Dane Brimner; *The Great Kapok Tree* by Lynne Cherry
- Learn the names of the trees in your backyard or neighbourhood
- Do tree art – e.g., a leaf collage, or leaf/bark pencil rubbing art, or tree photography
- Create a tree book: "adopt" a favourite tree, name it and throughout the year record and examine its characteristics and the changes that it goes through.
- Organize a Tree Walk game - Look for trees that are: the tallest, oldest, has the widest trunk, has the largest leaf, is the most prickly, etc.
- Download a bird app and start to help your child learn to identify the colours and songs of birds in your neighbourhood
- Research all the great forest hiking trails in your area and pick one to try out
- Hold a Tree Day birthday party with your family, friends, neighbours or community! Serve tree-shaped foods! (*Find lots of ideas on Pinterest.*)

For more ideas:

- ✓ Join the **30x30 Nature Challenge**: If you want to feel healthier, happier and more focused - add a daily dose of nature to your routine! Find out more at <http://30x30.davidsuzuki.org/>
- ✓ Do a Google search: "What to do on a nature walk" or "Arbour Day activities"

miStAkEs
are proof
that you are
TRYING

The Benefits of Making Mistakes

As the new school year begins, there is one quote that educators wish that all students would consider as they enter their new classrooms, **"making mistakes is part of life—and a really big part of growing up. It's how you learn who you want to be."**

(<http://talkingtreebooks.com/quotes/quote-making-mistakes.html>). As adults, we understand that making mistakes is an important part of life; however, students sometimes struggle to see the benefits of their errors.

One of the ways that we, the adults in children's lives, can support youngsters is to be open about the mistakes that we make and share with students how we take responsibility for our errors. It is important that children see that everyone makes mistakes and that mistakes are a valuable part of our lives due to the fact that they encourage brain development. Researcher, Jo Boaler, states in her book *Mathematical Mindsets* (p. 12) when the brain is challenged and mistakes are made, that is the time when "the brain grows the most."

When students are taught about the importance of mistakes, it can have a positive impact on their lives. New York Times author, Peter Sims, identified the following habits of successful people:

1. They feel comfortable being wrong.
2. They try new ideas.
3. They are open to different experiences.
4. They try out ideas without judging them.
5. They are willing to go against the crowd.
6. They do not give up when things get hard.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if all of our students followed these ideas?

It would be wonderful if students believed that every time they entered school they were going to a place where they were going to make mistakes that will help them grow and learn. It is vital that we understand that learning means not being afraid to examine the mistakes that we all make. It would be great if children remember this quote from former President of the United States, Bill Clinton, ***"[everyone] will make mistakes. But if you learn from them, you'll be a better person. It's how you handle adversity, not how it affects you. The main thing is never quit, never quit, never quit..."***

-UGDSB Program Department