



HIGHLAND HEIGHTS HURRICANE HOWLER SEPTEMBER 2024

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<https://highlandheights.kprdsb.ca/>

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Highland Heights Families,

Welcome back to a fun-filled year at Highland Heights! It is my pleasure to work alongside our esteemed teachers, support staff, custodians and secretaries. Our staff looks forward to partnering with our families and caregivers to provide the optimal conditions for success for our students. The dedication and care of our staff is evident, and I am eager to be a part of this community.

We continue to focus on who we are as a learning community and explore the many ways we can be inclusive to serve the diverse needs of all students. The Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board continues to implement a new School Improvement Planning approach that aligns with our School Board Action Plan and with Ontario Ministry of Education curricula. We continue to use the new Language Arts curriculum and will continue to advance our instruction of Math. If you are interested in knowing more about the provincial curricula, please explore <https://www.dcp.edu.gov.on.ca/en/>

As you may have already heard, new provincial government legislation has resulted in changes to the use of mobile devices in schools. A mobile device is any personal electronic device that can be used to communicate or access the Internet, such as a laptop, cellphone, tablet or smart watch.

In order to ensure a focused and engaging learning environment in our classrooms, we will require all personal mobile devices be stored out of view during the school day (elementary) or during instructional time (secondary). As always, students who may need to use their phones are asked to speak directly with an educator so that we can work together to find an appropriate solution. Please know that while we certainly understand that these changes may be difficult for some students, creating and maintaining a protected space for learning in our classrooms remains our priority.

I look forward to meeting you at our Open House September 26 from 3:30 -5:00 p.m. Please mark this on your calendar and be sure to see your child's teacher if you can. Volunteer forms will be available for pick up at this time.

Parents are encouraged to partner with Highland Heights through involvement in the School Council. We meet in person, September 19th at 6:00 p.m. in the library. All are welcome. At the first meeting we will elect our Chair/Co-chair, Treasurer, Secretary and Regional Council Rep. All meetings to follow will be online.

As the Highland Heights Hurricanes, we are ready to take this year by storm! Welcome back, everyone!

Sincerely,

Madame Haley-Twiss



Meet the Staff

The staff of Highland Heights are extremely skilled and dedicated. Each one of them brings special talents and interests to their teaching, thus enabling us to offer strong academic and varied co-curricular programs.

English Division

| | | |
|-----------------------|------------|------------------------|
| Shelley Obbard-Lawson | JK/SK | RECE: Brianne Monaghan |
| Leah Swales | SK/1 | |
| Scott Perrin | Grades 2/3 | |
| Heather Snowball | Grades 2/3 | |
| David Ritchie | Grades 3/4 | |
| Jennifer Decarlo | Grades 4/5 | |
| Amanda Hipgrave | Grade 6 | |
| Courtney Corrigan | Grades 7/8 | |
| Lauren Yandt | Grades 7/8 | |
| Catherine Hill | LLSA | |
| Natalie Green | LLSB | |

Core French

| | |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Adam Brown | Grades 4-8 |
| Courtney Corrigan | Homeroom 7/8 |

Special Education Resource Teachers

Samantha Ramsay and Kathryn Wood

Planning Teachers

Andrea Crowe, Blake Leeder

Support Staff

Meagan Beaudoin (CYW), Kristine Hamilton (CYW), Ajil Almousa (EA), Avrey Caban (EA), Natasha Goffredo (EA), Joshua McKay (EA), Taylor Menezes (EA), Jen Ridley (EA), Madison Sargent (EA), Mathew Vermeiren (EA), Nicole Wilson (PCA)

Custodial Staff

| | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| Rob Killen | Head Custodian |
| Scott Spencer | Night Custodian |

Administrative Staff

| | |
|--------------------|----------------|
| Lorena Haley-Twiss | Principal |
| Dawna Peltenburg | Head Secretary |



Bell Times

| | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| 8:50 – 9:00 AM | Schoolyard Supervision |
| 9:00 | Entry bell |
| 9:05 AM – 10:45 AM | Instructional Time |
| 10:45 AM – 11:25 AM | First Nutrition Break |
| 11:25 AM – 1:05 PM | Instructional Time |
| 1:05 PM – 1:45 PM | Second Nutrition Break |
| 1:45 PM – 3:15 PM | Instructional Time |
| 3:25 PM | Dismissal from School |



EMERGENCY MEDICAL PLANS

If you have not already done so, please notify the office of any medical conditions your child may have or update the plan from last year. If your child requires the use of medications while at school, please visit the office ASAP to pick up the required medical info package.

Character in the School

September's Character Attribute

Initiative

I am eager to do what needs to be done without being prompted by others. I seize opportunities and willingly take the steps necessary towards achieving a goal.



School Council

The first council meeting will be held on Monday, September 16 at 6:00 p.m. in the library and the elections for council positions will be held at that time. All parents and guardians are welcome to attend.

PARENT COUNCIL WANTS YOU!!!

School Council is an advisory committee made up of parents who volunteer their time to help improve our school community. Their role is to support the school in a positive way. There are many different roles on council so your involvement can be as big or as small as you like. This year, we look forward to creating various committees to serve the needs of the council and our community.

Come check us out. Our first meeting is MONDAY SEPTEMBER 16th!

All meetings to follow will be online.

Open House

On, **September 19th 2024, from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.** we would like to welcome you to Highland Heights for our annual Open House. We are looking forward to meeting you and your child(ren). This is a great opportunity to visit the classroom and to talk with your child's teacher. Please note, that this is not an interview. We can't wait to see you!



School Nutrition Program

We will have our Student Nutrition Program running again this school year. We will have bags distributed to each classroom for easy access for our students in need of a snack. We can always use volunteers! **Prior to volunteering in any capacity within our school, you will need to have a valid police record check on file at the office.** Please drop by the office to pick up a letter which you will need, to apply for a police record check. Thank you for your consideration.

Volunteers

We are accepting volunteers once again in schools! Please contact the office if you are interested in volunteering and we will provide you with a letter for the police or OPP.

Volunteering in the school is always appreciated. Volunteers must have a valid police check on file and may be invited to assist with activities in the classroom or on school trips. Teachers will reach out when they are in need of volunteers. **Please use the sign in at the front door when you arrive and check in with the office to inform them of your arrival.** For newer parents to the school, please note that having a valid police check does not mean that you can stay in the classroom on a regular basis. Teachers are always eager to have an extra hand and will reach out to invite you to help with a particular need. We thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation.

Terry Fox

Highland Heights will once again be participating in the Terry Fox Walk/Run in 2023! The official day for this event is Friday, September 26th, weather permitting. We look forward to another year of fund-raising for this great cause! More information will be coming soon.



Entry and Dismissal

Parents are welcome to drop off students in the morning at the yard. We encourage parents and other members of the public to leave our yard during instructional time (between 9:05 a.m. and 3:25 p.m.) for safety reasons. If coming for pick up, please come no earlier than 3:15 p.m. **We thank you for your help with this to make our school grounds a safe place for staff and students alike.**

Late Policy

Under the provision of The Education Act, all children are required to regularly attend school punctually. If late arrivals become a significant problem, the school is obliged to inform the parent and to take any steps required to ensure that the child arrives at school on time for class. Late arrivals also create disruption to the learning environment of others. If students are persistently late arriving, parents are notified, and a plan is established in consultation with the Principal. **We therefore ask for your assistance to ensure your child arrives at school promptly and before the 9:05 a.m. bell.** We appreciate your cooperation in ensuring students are on time for school. If you are late for any reason, please drop your child off at the front door and the office will ensure that they are properly signed into the school. No late students should be entering by any other doorways of the school.

Crossing Guards

Students who walk to and from school are reminded of the importance of walking across the street with the crossing guard. They are present to keep us safe. It is essential that we continue to be kind and respectful to our crossing guards and we thank you for your cooperation.

Picture Day

This year's picture day will be Wednesday September 25th. Wear your best smiles. Retakes have been set for November 15th.



Nut Aware School

We have several students with allergies. Please help us to keep our students safe by checking the ingredient list of any food items that are brought to school and avoiding all products that contain nuts or have been processed in a facility with nuts. Thank you!



Website/School News

Be sure to check out our school website! Keep in the know with what's happening and stay in the loop. Our school website can be found at <https://highlandheights.kprdsb.ca/> and can be a point of access for our school community. If you need to email a staff member, please refer to the Staff Directory tab of our school website for all staff email addresses. We have discontinued our use of X (Twitter) since some school accounts have been hacked.

Edsby & School Messenger

Our primary tool for communication between parents and teachers will be EDSBY. Invitations will be sent from time to time to your email, if you have not yet activated your account. A handy parent sheet is attached to this newsletter with guidance about setting up your account. Bookmark the parent portal from the Board website for ease of access. <https://parents.kprdsb.ca/> Edsby will be used to providing ongoing communication with parents, including sports and special events. These will be posted as they arise to keep you up to date on a daily basis. A monthly newsletter will also be shared each month.

Likewise, School Messenger will be utilized to a great extent this year to forward newsletters and important communications from the office. It is therefore important that your email address is accurate on file. If you do not see emails from us, and they are not showing up in your junk/spam folder, please be sure to contact the office to confirm we have your current information. See the attached documentation regarding School Messenger Texting.

No Dogs Please

For the safety of our children please do not bring your dogs on school property during instructional time, especially during entrance and dismissal times. Of course, service or therapy dogs are permitted. Thank you for your support!



School Cash Online

To those of you new to our school, please be aware that most payments to the school are to be made through School Cash Online. The Board has directed that schools are to use School Cash Online as their primary source of fund collection. Please be sure to visit School Cash Online to register. There is a link on the school website to assist. Step by step instructions are also attached to this newsletter. Although we do not yet know how the school year is going to look as far as field trips or special treat days such as popcorn, etc., we use School Cash Online. If you have not registered, now would be a good time to do so in order that you are all set up. This year, payment has been extended to credit cards, Google Pay and Apple Pay!



Student Verification Forms/Other Office Documents

Student Verification Forms will be sent home along with the Information and Communications Release Forms, and Student Acceptable use of Technology Agreement. Permission for walks to Jackson Park will also be included, and any information regarding a Plan of Care was previously shared by Mrs. Peltenburg. Please make any corrections that you may have, sign, and return to the school with your child. We request that you return all documents by Friday, September 13th, 2024.

Absence Reporting

At Highland Heights, the safety of our students is first and foremost. Our Absence Reporting System allows you to report an absence 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at 1-844-434-8119 or register at studentabsence.kprdsb.ca or download the app (available through your app store). If late, please remind your child to report to the office on their way to class, so we can record that they have arrived safely. Thank you!



Instructions for School Cash Online are posted below.



SchoolCashOnline

For safety and efficiency reasons, *Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board* would like to reduce the amount of cash & checks coming into our school. Please join the thousands of parents who have already registered and are enjoying the convenience of paying ONLINE! It takes less than 5 minutes to register. Follow these step-by-step instructions to begin to receive email notifications regarding upcoming events involving your child(ren).

NOTE: If you require assistance, select the *SUPPORT* option in the top right hand corner of the screen.

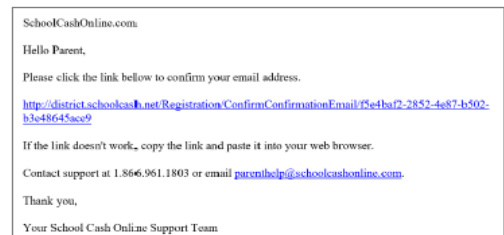
Step 1: Register

- If you have not registered, please go to the *School Cash Online* home page <https://kprdsb.schoolcashonline.com/> and select the "Get Started Today" option.
- Complete each of the three Registration Steps
**For Security Reasons your password, requires 8 characters, one uppercase letter, one lowercase letter and a number.*



Step 2: Confirmation Email

A registration confirmation email will be forwarded to you. Click on the link provided inside the email to confirm your email and *School Cash Online* account. The confirmation link will open the *School Cash Online* site prompting you to sign into your account. Use your email address and password just created with your account.



Step 3: Find Student

This step will connect your children to your account.

- Enter the School Board Name.
- Enter the School Name.
- Enter Your Child's First Name, Last Name and Birth Date.
- Select *Continue*.
- On the next page confirm that you are related to the child, check in the Agree box and select *Continue*.
- Your child has been added to your account.

Step 4: View Items or Add Another Student

If you have more children, select "Add Another Student" and repeat the steps above. 8 children can be added to one parent account. If you do not wish to add additional children, select "View Items For Students" option. A listing of available items for purchase will be displayed.

Edsby Parent Orientation and Sign-up

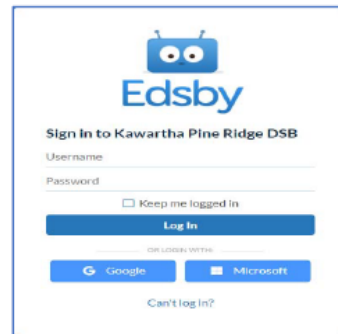
How to Register an Edsby Account

Upon receipt of your invitation from the school
Open an Internet Browser and navigate to kpr.edsby.com

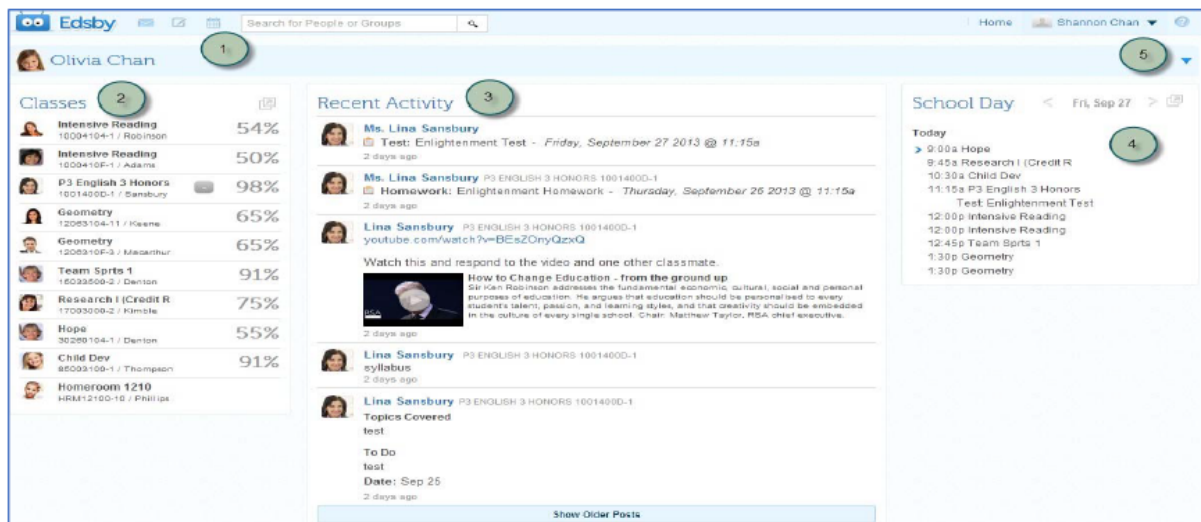
Username is your email account on file in office
Password is created first time you log-in

Forgot Your Password?

If you have an existing account and cannot remember your password
Click Can't log in and you will be able to re-set your password



Edsby Parent Homepage Tour

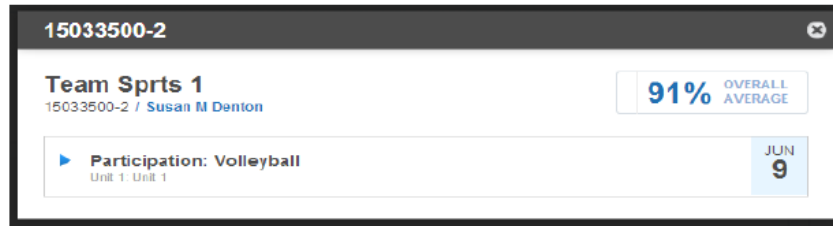
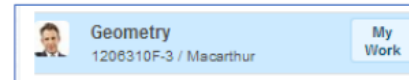


1. **Edsby Banner** - From here the message inbox, new message, and calendar can be accessed. Also, the "Edsby" logo will take you back to the parent homepage
2. **Classes** - Here you see a list of your child's classes. More details about specific assignments are also available here by clicking My Work
3. **Activity Feed** - The activity feed is a running list of everything going on in your child's classes. Assignments, Tests, Reminders, Video or Reading Links and other pertinent information will display here throughout the year
4. **School Day** - The School Day below the student name provides your child's schedule. Clicking the pop-out opens a larger calendar that displays all of their assignments, reminders and events
5. **Parent Dropdown** - By dropping down this menu, parents can change their profile information and log out of Edsby

O:\classsupport\Edsby\Parents\Parents intro.docx

How to Access Student Assignments

1. Left side of screen – student’s classes are listed
2. Click My Work button
List of assignments will display for selected class
More details for each assignment, such as teacher’s comments, can be found by clicking the blue triangle



How to Keep up with what is going on in each class

There are two places that provide information about what is going on in your child’s class.

Activity Feed The activity feed provides a running record of assignments, tests, events, and other important class information for your child’s classes. The feed stays in chronological order with the newest post at the top.

School Day / Calendar Pop-out The School day view provides a student schedule as well as any overdue assignments. By clicking the pop-out button on School Day, a larger calendar opens and displays events and assignments.

How to Message a Teacher

1. Click View My Messages icon
2. Click Compose Message icon
New Message Screen displays
3. Type the teacher(s) name(s) that you wish to message in the “To” field
4. In the box below “Message” type the message to the teacher
5. Click “Add File” to add attachments to the message
6. Click “Send” to send the message to the teacher(s).



Edsby App for Mobile

Server is 'kpr'.
<https://edsby.com/help/parents/navigating-the-edsby-app-2/>

Can't log in?
Please contact School Office to verify required information for log in to Edsby *(correct email MUST be on file at the office)
Visit <https://edsby.com/>



Parents and Guardians

You can take advantage of our Text Messaging Service

KPRDSB utilizes the SchoolMessenger system to deliver text messages, straight to your mobile phone with important information about events, school closings, safety alerts and more.

You can opt into this free service* now just by sending a text message to 978338 with the message of “Y” or “Yes”. You will receive a text confirming your registration.

You can opt out of these messages at any time by simply replying to one of our messages with “Stop”.





SchoolMessenger is compliant with the Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act, so you can rest assured that your information is safe and will never be given or sold to anyone.

Opt-In from your mobile now! Just send “Y” or “Yes” to now 978338.

*Terms and Conditions – Message frequency varies. Standard message and data rates may apply. Reply HELP for help. Text STOP to cancel. Mobile carriers are not liable for delayed or undelivered messages. See schoolmessenger.com/txt for more info.

September 2024

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesda | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|---|---|-----------------|--|--|----------|
| 1 | 2 | 3  | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 Verification forms due | 14 |
| 15 | 16 School Council @ 6:00 in Library | 17 | 18 | 19 Open House 3:30 to 5:00 pm | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 School Council 6:30 pm in Library | 24 Bus Safety Presentations | 25 Photo Day | 26  | 27 P.A. Day No school for students | 28 |
| 29 | 30 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Orange T-shirt | | | | | |