



HIGHLAND HEIGHTS HURRICANE HOWLER DECEMBER 2024

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Highland Heights Families,

December is always a busy month, as you will see below. It is also a good time of year to pause and be grateful for the many blessings we have. I, for one, am very grateful for the opportunity to serve the Highland Heights community! I thank you for all for your kindness and grace.

Thank you for your support of Highland Heights through the purchase of donuts from **Krispy Kreme!** Donuts will be ready for pick up after school Wednesday December 4, 3:30 – 5:30 p.m. A big thank you goes out to the Tindale family for organizing this event with School Council.

We are contributing to **Kawartha Food Share** again this year to support the good work they do. Thank you to Mrs. Hipgrave for organizing this with the grade six class this season. The **Peterborough Youth Emergency Shelter (YES)** is also asking for hats, mitts, scarves and toiletries. We understand that everyone is at a different place at this time of year, especially considering the rising cost of living. We recognize that this might be a more difficult holiday for some than other years. We appreciate any and all offers.

The school will be hosting their Seasonal Celebration at Northview Church from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Classes will perform their work and will be followed by a local band, Fastlane, to entertain all. Some classes will also have their artwork on display for purchase through Silent Auction to raise funds for sports equipment. Northview Community Church is located at 1000 Fairbairn St., Peterborough.

At the concert on December 11, we will be asking for a goodwill donation to our custodian, Rob Killen and his family. In August, they suffered the loss of virtually everything in their home due to a robbery. All collectibles, furniture, motorbikes, guitars and his truck were stolen. All funds donated the night of the concert will go directly to Mr. Killen and his family to help them at this difficult time. We have kept it a secret so far... please help us to keep the surprise for December 11!

School Council is hosting the **Scholastic Book Fair** during the day December 12, 13 and 18. Families may come December 18 from 3:30 – 5:30 p.m. Come out and buy some books and give to your school at the same time! A selection of books will also be available for purchase at the Seasonal Celebration at Northview Church on December 11th!

Student Council is hosting a **Festive Dance** for all grades 1 – 8 students on December 12! We are ready to Jingle Bell Rock and Roll! We will also be **decorating our doors** for the season!

This season, we will enjoy our special **Spirit Week** the last week of school. See the information included in the newsletter for more specifics. **Jimmy Chapman** will be here for breakdancing December 16/17 (\$5.00 each – cash or School Cash Online) and we will finish our week off with a **Seasonal Sing-along** in the gym on Dec. 19 and 20th. This is the time of year to celebrate all the hard work that we have done in the good company of our Highland Heights friends!

On behalf of the staff of Highland Heights, we wish you all the best for a very Happy Holiday and Happy New Year!

Madame Haley-Twiss 



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 – 3:25 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



December's Character Attribute

Responsibility

I am responsible for my thoughts, words and actions. I am accountable for my choices. I admit my mistakes and work to correct them. People can depend on me to honour my commitments. I demonstrate active citizenship.

School Council

The next council meeting will be held on Monday, January 20th at 6:30 p.m. online.

Meeting link:

https://kprdsb.webex.com/meet/lorena_haleytwiss

All parents and guardians are welcome to attend. We are planning Rocks and Rings, fudge sales and Fun Fair for the spring! Come and join us!

Diwali

Every year around early November, “more than a billion people worldwide celebrate Diwali, the festival of lights, with warm family meals, bursting fireworks, glowing lamps and an ornate ancient Indian folk art known as rangoli. These geometric patterns, religious symbols and floral designs are drawn on the floor of one’s home, often using chalk and colorful powders, as a way to ward off evil spirits and welcome the good faith of gods and goddesses. The word “rangoli” is derived from the Sanskrit word “rangavalli” and roughly translates to “rows of colors,” a fitting image for Diwali’s message of light conquering darkness” (New York Times, 2021). Students at Highland Heights explored Diwali through art, music and writing.

Seasonal Celebration

All families are invited to come to Northview Community Church on December 11th at 5:45 p.m. for a 6:00 p.m. concert start. We will start with our youngest students and work our way to the oldest. Please respect all performers and the work they have done to prepare for the event. We encourage all to stay and enjoy the evening. Some have completed art for a Silent Auction and we will announce the winners following the event.

Fastlane is a local band out of Cavan that is volunteering their time to perform for our community and support Mr. Killen. We hope that you enjoy their performance that follows. This is an opportunity for us to come together and enjoy the season, as well as support Mr. Killen and his family.

A big thank you goes out to Courtney Corrigan and Lauren Yandt for spearheading this event! Of course all teachers who prepared art, music or dramatic presentations are greatly appreciated.

Kawartha Food Share Drive

Hello families!

Students in Mrs. Hipgrave’s class are organizing a food drive in support of Kawartha Food Share. The food drive will run from December 4th - December 17th at Highland Heights P.S. You can help by donating non-perishable food items or personal care items, such as: tuna, lunch snacks, soup, cranberries, stuffing, toothpaste, or mac and cheese to help people in need. Anything helps! Thank you for supporting our community.

Scholastic Book Fair December 12, 13 and 18

Students will have a chance to come to the book fair to buy books for family and friends. Please carefully coach your child on how to safely look after their money and how to spend it wisely. Unfortunately, will not be able to reimburse any misplaced funds. Books will also be available to see on the evening of our Seasonal Celebration at Northview Church on December 11th! A big thank you goes out to the Tindale family for helping to make this happen.

SPIRIT WEEK DEC. 16 – 20

Monday, Dec. 16: Holiday Colours Day

Dress in festive holiday colors like red, green, blue, silver, or gold to celebrate the season.

Tuesday, Dec. 17: Mismatched Pattern Day

Mix it up with clashing patterns—polka dots, stripes, plaid, or anything wild!

Wednesday, Dec. 18: Winter Gear & Cozy Socks Day

Bundle up in your favorite winter gear like hats, scarves, and gloves, and don't forget your coziest, comfiest socks to stay extra warm!

Thursday, Dec. 19: Head Accessories Day

Show off your creativity with fun headbands, hats, bows, or festive headwear.

Friday, Dec. 20: Cozy Pajama Day

Relax in your favorite pajamas or loungewear to end Spirit Week on a comfy note.

Progress Reports

Progress Reports went home on November 20th. If you have not yet looked at these, please celebrate your child's success and the next steps needed. Teachers have been interviewing parents. If you missed the chance and would like the opportunity to speak with your child's teacher, please reach out to them to talk about their progress.



Attendance and Late Arrivals

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! Prompt arrival to school means less disruption to the learning of all. Please plan to arrive on time to learn and respect the learning of others.



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. For example, donuts from Tim Hortons are not made in a nut-free facility, and therefore pose a risk. Please check with your child's teacher before sending in any food to share with the class. Remember that food must come from a facility approved by the health department that meets strict standards for food consumption. We thank you for recognizing the importance of these matters!



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. We do have students with allergies, and some are fearful of dogs. Thank you for your support!



Parking

Please avoid using the upper parking lot on Highland Road between 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. and 3:00 – 3:45 p.m. We have buses using the upper lot and it must be clear of cars to turn around efficiently. Thank you for observing this practice to have our students safely get on and off the buses.

Illness



If your child is ill, please help us to keep healthy by allowing your child to recuperate at home. There are many “bugs” going around right now, including Covid. As much as we adore your children, we do not want to share any illness 😊

Thank you for helping us to be as healthy as possible!

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. We use School Cash Online to pay for school trips, Spirit Wear, etc. 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!**

See instructions below:

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.

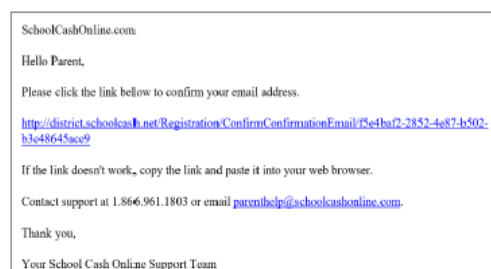
Step 1: Register

- 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

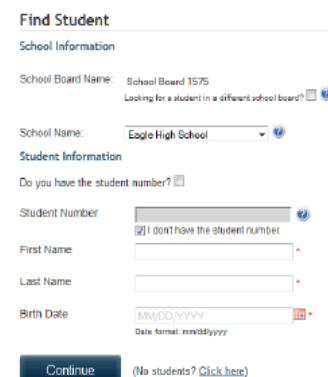
A registration confirmation email will be forwarded to you. Click on the link provided inside the email to confirm your email and *School Cash Online* account. The confirmation link will open the *School Cash Online* site prompting you to sign into your account. Use your email address and password just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

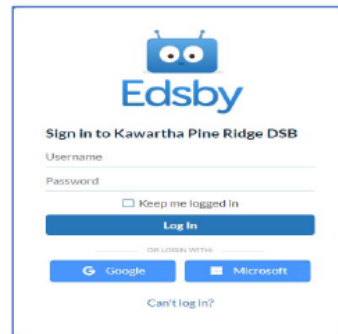
How to Register an Edsby Account

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

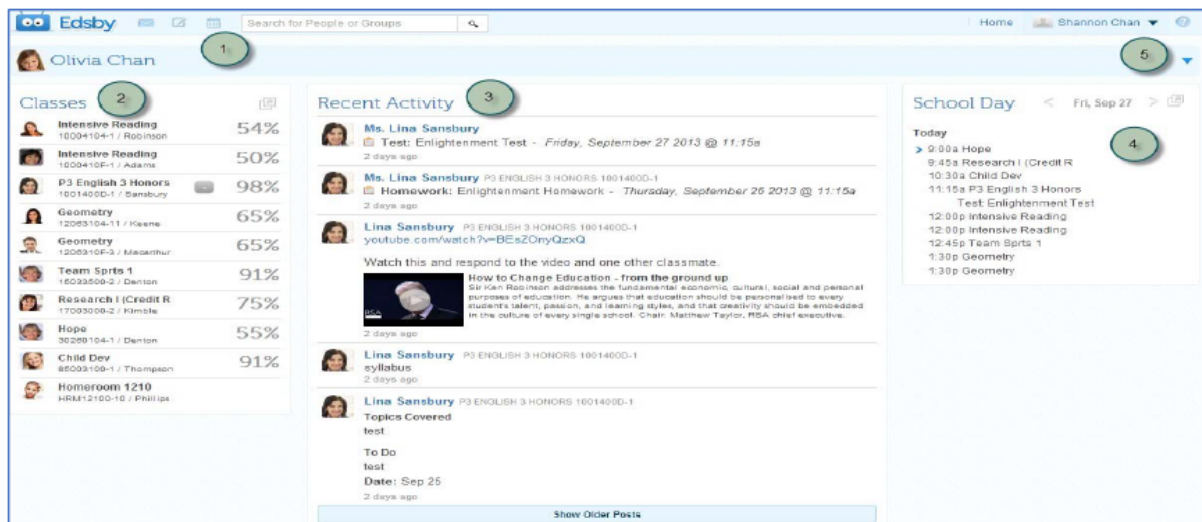
Username is your email account on file in office
Password is created first time you log-in

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

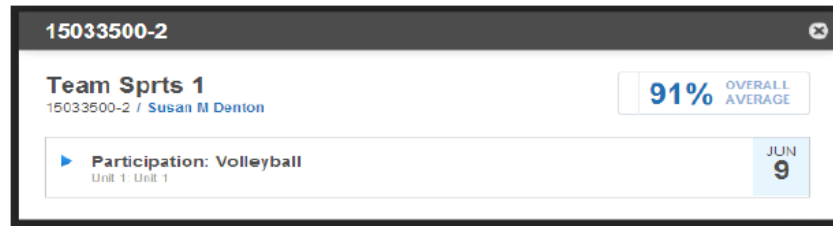
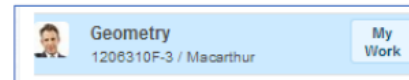


1. **Edsby Banner** - From here the message inbox, new message, and calendar can be accessed. Also, the “Edsby” logo will take you back to the parent homepage
2. **Classes** - Here you see a list of your child’s classes. More details about specific assignments are also available here by clicking My Work
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.

December 2024

For more info on [Holy Days, Holidays & Days of Significance](#)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4 Krispy Kreme Pick up 3:30 – 5:30 p.m.	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 Seasonal Celebration 6 - 8 p.m. Northview Church	12 Book Fair Festive Dance	13 Book Fair	14
15 Spirit Week 	16 Jimmy Chapman Holiday Colours Day	17 Jimmy Chapman Mismatched Pattern Day	18 Book Fair and 3:30 – 5:30 p.m. Winter Gear & Cozy Socks Day	19 Seasonal Sing-along Head Accessories	20 Seasonal Sing- along PJ Day	21
22 Winter Break	23	24	25 Christmas Day/Eve of Chanuka	26 Kwanzaa	27 Chanuka	28
29	30	31 	1 New Year's Day	2	3	4 Return to school Jan. 6, 2025