



Highland Heights Public School

April 2019



Principal

Mr. Drew Beaton

Drew_beaton@kprdsb.ca

Superintendent of Student Achievement

Mr. Steve Girardi

Steve_girardi@kprdsb.ca

Trustees

Ms. Rose Kitney

Rose_kitney@kprdsb.ca

Mr. Steve Russell

Steve_russell@kprdsb.ca

Administrative Assistant

Ms. Dawna Peltenburg

Head Custodian

Mr. R. Killen

430 Highland Road,
Peterborough, Ontario.

Tel: (705) 742-8321

Fax: (705) 742-7340

Safe Arrival: 1-866-740-2902

www.highlandheights.kprdsb.ca

Transportation Information:

www.stsco.ca

Twitter: @HighlandHtsPS

Principal's Message

Spring greetings to all Highland Heights families!



It is hard to believe that April is here already and that we are heading down the

home stretch towards the end of the academic year.

As the Spring unfolds, we are looking forward to a lot of exciting activities and learning opportunities for students at Highland Heights. There are so many things going on that I can't list them all here – but details are included toward the end of this newsletter. In addition to everything happening in individual classes and clubs, we are also planning a number of other events as a whole school. Among those already planned, we are thrilled to be heading off for healthy active days of swimming at the YMCA on May 1st, and June 5th.

Finally, we are currently watching our Kindergarten registrations very closely, so if you know anyone who is waiting to register their young children, please encourage them to do so as soon as possible.

Thanks for all your ongoing support – and have a great month!

Sincerely,

Drew Beaton
Principal

Upcoming Events

April 5th – PA Day

April 10th – Day of Pink

April 15th – School Council Meeting @ 6:30 p.m.

April 16th – Hep B/HPV Vaccines

April 19th – Good Friday

April 22nd – Easter Monday

April 22nd – Earth Day

May 1st & June 5th – Swimming at the YMCA

Lunchbox Days

April 3rd – Pita Pit

April 10th – Subway

April 12th – Boston Pizza

April 15th – Yo Yo's

April 17th – Pita Pit

April 24th – Subway

April 26th – Boston Pizza

May 1st – Pita Pit

April is “Sucker Moon” - Namebine-Giizis (Anishinaabe First Nation)



Sucker Moon is the fourth moon of Creation. This is a time when the sucker journeys from Creation to the spirit world. At this time, Nookomis prepares the sucker with teachings to return with the medicines to purify the water beings and the guidance needed to make this spiritual journey. Nookomis leaves the sucker with purification medicine teachings that cleanse the path of the spirits and purify the spirits of the water beings of Turtle Island.

Character Trait for April: Responsibility

“I am only one; but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something. I will not refuse to do the something I can do.” - Helen Keller

Safe Arrival & Student Absences



If your child is going to be **absent** or **late**, please call our **Safe Arrival Line at 1-844-434-8119**. It is very important that we know when your child is going to be absent or late. If you have not called the Safe Arrival Line, the program will continue attempting to reach families. Thank you to those families that continue to call the Safe Arrival Line.

Safe Welcome Reminder

Please begin your visit into our building at the main office. It is important that we preserve our instructional time for our students - we remind you to please check in at the office if you have a message or something to drop off for your child or his/her teacher. In our continued effort to maintain safety for all our students at Highland Heights, we require all visitors in our building, at any time of day, to be wearing a visitor pass or some other type of authorized identification. Thank you for your support with this.

The Importance of Punctuality and School Attendance



Arriving at school on time helps your child to start the day positively. When your child arrives at school on time, they have the time to be warmly greeted by their teacher, review the plans for the day and have an opportunity to socialize with peers before lessons begin. Working together to arrive on time for class sends the message that school is important, and helps your child develop strategies that will help them have lifelong patterns for success.

Recurring late arrival is a serious issue that affects academic achievement and the harmony of the classroom environment. Every day your child is absent or late they miss learning opportunities and developing new skills, both academic and social.

When your child starts school late, they may be confused about the learning that has started in the class. Arriving late to class also disrupts the important rhythm and flow of the day and disrupts the learning of others.

Educators work hard every day to plan for fun and engaging learning opportunities for students each and every day. Please help us to maintain a warm, welcoming and positive learning environment for all.

Kindergarten Registration for the 2019/2020 School Year



You may register your child to start school in September 2019 if:

Junior Kindergarten – your child is four years of age by December 31, 2019

Senior Kindergarten – your child is five years of age by December 31, 2019

Online registration - Click here [Registration Form](#) and register TODAY!

Online registration allows parents to sign up for Kindergarten using any device connected to the Internet, any day of the week, and any time of day. It's easy, fast and convenient.

First, create an account using your email address. Then, complete the fillable fields, providing all of the information requested. Once complete, the form is sent to the school for review. The school secretary receives the registration form and checks for completeness and accuracy. The form may be sent back and forth between the parent/guardian and school until the form is complete.

As a final step, once the form is complete, parents/guardians will need to visit the school to provide the following information:

- Birth certificate, Proof of address, citizen validation, custody documents (if applicable)

Parents will receive a Kindergarten Registration Package when they visit the school, containing a welcome letter, a book, information about busing, and strategies to support a successful start to school.

If you do not wish to register online, please print and complete the following form.

[PDF Version of our Registration Form](#) - Please print, then bring the completed form to your school.

It is time to register your child for full-day, every-day Junior or Senior Kindergarten starting in September 2019.

It is now time to register your child for full-day, every-day Junior or Senior Kindergarten starting in September 2019. You may register your child to start school in September 2019 if:

Junior Kindergarten – your child is four years of age by December 31, 2019

Senior Kindergarten – your child is five years of age by December 31, 2019

To register your child, the school will need proof of address and your child's birth certificate. If you have any questions, please contact the school office at 705-742-8321. We also ask that you share this information with friends, relatives or neighbours.

Spring Water Awareness

Another reminder that with the warmer conditions of spring, we have fast flowing creeks and rivers with very cold water in them. Please remind your children to stay away from areas where spring water conditions exist.

Spring Has Sprung!



It is that time of year when the snow has melted, but, the ground is mucky and wet. We encourage parents to send extra clothing in backpacks (especially for younger children), just in case a child has slipped and fallen in a puddle or muddy area of the school yard. We will not be calling home every

time a child gets wet on the yard. Although, we encourage students to stay out of the puddles and the mud, accidents do happen. Thank you.

Anaphylactic Allergies

Thank you to all of the parents who have been diligent in checking lunches for items that contain any nut product. We appreciate your efforts to ensure a safe school community for everyone in our building.

Bullying Prevention @ Highland Heights



At Highland Heights, we are all working hard to make our school community safe for everyone. In fact, our safe schools policy is built around the idea that we all have the right to be safe and feel safe in our school environment. Students who make poor choices that negatively affect others are given consequences such as restricted recess times or community service and they are suspended for more serious infractions. Research indicates, however, that sometimes children don't report when they are being bullied. Please call the school (705-742-8321) if you think your child is being bullied or is bullying others. Thank you so much for your support!

School Council



Hello Parents and Caregivers!

Our next meeting is Monday, April 15th @ 6:30 p.m. in the School Library. Please email Lorraine Brown at lorrob@cogeco.ca if you have any questions regarding School Council meetings or if you have ideas or suggestions about a new fundraiser. Minutes from previous meetings can be found on the community board on the school website at <http://highlandheights.kprdsb.ca>.

Earth Day



April 22nd is Earth Day and once again we'll be recognizing this day at Highland Heights. We believe that environmental issues should be a concern to all of us and that it is very important for our students to learn about them, and learn how to act according to their values. Our children will certainly become the caretakers of our planet, and that is a role that is more important now than ever.

Literacy Lens



Getting the Most Out of Picture Books

By Reading Is Fundamental

www.getreadytoread.org

Picture books represent a unique literary form that blends stories with art. In a picture book, the illustrations are as important as the text, and both work together to tell the story. When you share picture books with children, be sure to pay attention to the illustrations-reading picture books means

exploring the art as well. This article can help you get more out of picture books by showing you how to use the illustrations to engage children and enhance their reading experience.

Hook Kids in with Illustrations

We are told, "Don't judge a book by its cover." Well, children do it all the time. A child's first impression of a book is usually shaped by the pictures. So involve children in choosing books with wonderful, eye-catching illustrations that beg to be explored. Conduct "picture walks" through books by leafing through the pages to look at the images and discussing what you see before you read. That way, the illustrations will draw in even the most reluctant reader.

Illustrations can do even more than draw a child into a book; they can hook children into a lifelong love of reading. For our youngest children, pictures are an introduction into the world of books. Long before they can read, children respond to images in an effort to place themselves and the others in their lives into the world around them.

Bring Books to Life

Pictures enable children to explore the world within their own imagination and make connections to characters and events they see depicted in books. When you help children connect with characters and events, you make the book more real to them. Here are some ways that illustrations bring picture books to life:

- Illustrators usually tell stories with pictures.
- Authors use illustrations to depict specific scenes of high emotion or action.
- Illustrators often use a variety of techniques to convey mood and tone as well as character and plot.
- When illustrations reflect people, objects, and situations familiar to children, the images help validate their emotions and experiences.

The process of making an emotional connection can help a child learn empathy and compassion for others.

See the World

Illustrations convey meaning and carry information, especially in non-fiction books where pages are often filled with commentary that is not in the text. Be sure to "read" your way around the pages-read and discuss the captions, tables, charts, and the information conveyed by the illustrations themselves. Storybooks, although fictional, can also convey a great deal of information. A story about a trip to a farm or to the moon may have illustrations that can teach kids a lot about these places. Realize that it takes time to explore picture books when you are using them to learn about the world.

Expose children to pictures of the unfamiliar, or use images in books to confirm and expand upon what they already know. Illustrations in children's non-fiction books can expose children to new ideas, different people, and places they've never seen. Or careful exploration of the illustrations may uncover new facts about familiar objects. Whether fiction or non-fiction, a picture book can help children gain knowledge and move them to ask new questions about history, inventions, nature, other cultures, and more!

Build Reading Skills

Picture books help young children understand that words convey meaning, well before they are aware of the text. Pictures can help increase vocabulary, an important building block for reading. Books can help young children to identify:

- Colors, shapes, numbers, and letters.
- Names of people, places, animals, and everyday objects.

Picture books can also help build background knowledge that is essential to successful reading. A child who has never been to the zoo, a farm, or a beach can still learn all about these places by exploring picture books. Select books with simple or realistic images so that kids can point to objects and learn names.

School Activities



Junior Boys Floor Hockey Team is practicing for their upcoming tournament. Thank you to Mr. Conlin for coaching.



Mental Health Awareness Week is May 13th to 19th.



Healthy Living Activity Days at the Peterborough YMCA

On Wednesday May 1st, and Wednesday June 5th, staff and students will take part in healthy activity days swimming at the YMCA. Thank you to Ms. Calderwood for planning this day.



Gymnastics and Dance

Gymnastics club for grades 4-8 have continue to meet in the gym to learn their routines. They are getting ready for their solos and group routines at the Wellness center end of April. Thank you to Ms. Pavilonis, Ms. Mongraw and several support staff who are volunteering their time.



Book Club

Two Forest of Reading book clubs are presently running. The Blue Spruce for primary students and Silver Birch for Junior and Intermediate. Thank you to Mr. McBride who is running these for the students.



Amigos Club

The Amigos Club continues to run every Wednesday during first nutrition break. We are inviting any grade 4-8 students to join. The amigos program brings students with and without disabilities together for the purpose of building relationships, enhancing communication and social skills, and having fun. Teachers and support staff will run activities for LLS classes and other grade 4-8 students who want to join. For further information feel free to contact Deb Chapman at the school or the Amigos Program Co-ordinator Tiffany Christie at 705-876-0383.



Drama Club

Many Highland Heights students from Grades 4-8 continue their rehearsals for a school play, "The Wizard of Oz". Watch for information on our upcoming production dates. For more information please contact Ms. Tees.

United Way's Backpacks for Kids: Helping to Support Student Success

Although it may seem too early to start thinking about Back to School – Backpacks for Kids is already hard at work preparing for the 2018-2019 school year. The Backpacks for Kids program ensures that all students in grades K-12 can start the school year off with the right tools for success.

Back to school in September can be both an expensive and stressful time of year. If your family could benefit from assistance through Backpacks for Kids, please contact the school to sign up for this program. Your information will be kept private and confidential and you will not be asked to prove your income. Please be advised that we may not be able to provide backpacks for all children.

Backpacks for Kids, is a special project of The United Way Peterborough & District and relies on community support and donations and 100% of donated funds are spent on backpacks. Donations are accepted at United Way Peterborough & District on behalf of Backpacks for Kids. Tax receipts are available for donations of \$20 or more. Call Stephanie Levesque, Labour Programs & Services Development Officer, at United Way for more information 705-742-8839 ext. 32.

Pathways to Stewardship and Kinship - School Newsletter Tidbits

Spring is a time of outdoor miracles! Here are some ideas for family outdoor fun:

Clay Medallions

Kids of all ages love to work with clay or playdough. As the snow melts, many treasures appear on the ground – seeds, leaves, rocks, bits of bark. These can all be used to press into small pieces of clay or playdough to make beautiful medallions.

Bring a small container to hold treasures, and go exploring together. Pick up small things of different colours and textures to bring home for your nature art. Here's a sample of what a medallion might look like: [photo here]

You can pick up some self-hardening clay at a craft store (Michael's or Crayola store in Peterborough), or make your own play-dough at home:

Play Dough Recipe

- 1/2 cup salt
- 2 T cream of tartar
- 1 cup flour
- 1 cup water
- 1 T vegetable oil

Mix ingredients in a saucepan, and cook over medium heat, stirring constantly as it thickens. Once it hardens into a solid mass, remove from heat and knead gently on a board or countertop to mix thoroughly. Store in the fridge in a plastic bag or covered container.

Family Listening Walk

April and May are the best times for listening outdoors, as thousands of birds arrive here to breed, after wintering far to the south. Go for a walk together and see how many different bird songs you can hear. Can you see the birds you hear? They're easier to see before the leaves unfold on the trees in May. Visit a variety of places to hear different bird songs (parks, wetlands, forests, your family home, grandma's place...).

You'll hear different songs at different times of day. Early morning is the best time of all! Try cupping your hands behind your ears to hear even better. Happy listening!

For more ideas for various ages, check out the Pathway to Stewardship and Kinship website at www.pathwayproject.ca.