



Highland Heights Public School

February 2020



Principal

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Superintendent of Student Achievement

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[www.highlandheights.kprdsb](http://www.highlandheights.kprdsb.ca)

[.ca](http://www.highlandheights.kprdsb.ca)

Transportation Information:

www.stsco.ca

Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Even though the weather has been chilly lately, the days are definitely getting noticeably longer, and we are all in excellent spirits at Highland Heights as we wrap up our first term. Students have been working very hard in their classrooms and engaging in all kinds of interesting and challenging academic tasks in all areas of the curriculum.

We would like to thank everyone for remembering that in the morning and at the end of the day, all drop off and pick up of students needs to take place in the back parking lot off Highland Court. It is critical to student safety that we keep the front lot clear of moving vehicles so that students can safely make their way to the crossing guard. There will be pylons across the driveway during these times to prevent the entry of vehicles. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

Finally, we would like to extend a very warm thank you to all our parents and caregivers for your ongoing support and patience as we have moved through the first term. As always, if you have any comments, concerns, or questions, please don't hesitate to be in touch!

Sincerely,

Drew Beaton
Principal

Upcoming Events

January 31st - PA DAY- NO SCHOOL

February 3rd - Kernels Popcorn Fundraiser begins

February 17th
Family Day (No school)

February 24th
School Council Meeting @ 6:30 pm in the library

February 26th – Pink Shirt Day for Bullying Awareness

Lunchbox Schedule

Boston Pizza - Feb 7th & 21st

East Side Marios - Feb 14th & 28th

Pita Pit - Feb 5th & 19th

Subway - Feb 12th & 26th

Yo Yo's - Feb 3rd & 24th

February is “Bear Moon” - Mkwa-Giizis (Anishinaabe First Nation)



Bear Moon is the second moon of Creation. This sacred time is given to the bear to honour the spiritual journey that he will soon return from. During this time, he has journeyed with Nookomis in a vision quest of the spirit world. Nookomis takes the bear gradually through the spirit world to receive the spiritual power of the universe. He receives the ability to see

beyond the physical world and to communicate through energy rather than sound.

The foods required for such a quest are not taken by chance. The knowledge and wisdom passed through the hereditary line are needed for this long journey with Nookomis.

In the time of the Bear Moon, Nookomis awakens the bear to return to the physical world to complete his quest. At this time it is not wise to get near the bear because he is marking his territory and searching for nourishment, consisting of: different types of berries, roots and fish. All keep the mind sharp and the body strong and pure, the way the Creator intended from the beginning.

Character Trait for February: Empathy

To show empathy - we need to respect the feelings of others. We have to try to understand what others are thinking and feeling in order to appreciate their perspectives. We need to listen and consider the views of others, even though we may not agree. We need to always try to act with kindness and compassion.

“You never know when a moment and a few sincere words can have an impact on a life.” - Zig Ziglar

Black History Month

Once again, we celebrate Black History during the month of February. As a school community, we continue to embrace hope and renew our commitment to promoting diversity and ensuring equal opportunities for everyone here in our school community and beyond.

Family Day

Monday, February 17th, 2020 is Family Day. There will be no classes on that day, and all schools and Board offices will be closed.

Pink Shirt Day - February 26th

On February 26th, 2020 we are once again encouraging everyone: staff, students and families alike to wear something pink to symbolize that we as a school community will not tolerate bullying anywhere. The idea came from two incredible Nova Scotia high school students. Here is a snippet of the Globe & Mail article, which originally inspired the day:

“David Shepherd, Travis Price and their teenage friends organized a high-school protest to wear pink in sympathy with a Grade 9 boy who was being bullied...[They] took a stand against bullying when they protested against the harassment of a new Grade 9 student by distributing pink T-shirts to all the boys in their school. ‘I learned that two people can come up with an idea, run with it, and it can do wonders,’ says Mr. Price, 17, who organized the pink protest. ‘Finally, someone stood up for a weaker kid.’ So Mr. Shepherd and some other headed off to a discount store and bought 50 pink tank tops. They sent out a message to

schoolmates that night, and the next morning they hauled the shirts to school in a plastic bag. As they stood in the foyer handing out the shirts, the bullied boy walked in. His face spoke volumes. 'It looked like a huge weight was lifted off his shoulders,' Mr. Price recalled. The bullies were never heard from again."

Once again, students are encouraged to wear a pink shirt, a pink bracelet, shoelaces, etc. on February 26th to show their support for this fantastic cause.

March Break

This year's March Break begins Friday, March 13th and extends through to Friday, March 20th, 2020.

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.

Blizzards & Buses

It is that time of year again where the bus companies monitor the roads on a daily basis and determine whether there will be bus cancellations. If your child/children take the bus to school, please visit the STSCO Website to review which bus routes are cancelled or delayed at www.stsco.ca. Cancellations will also be announced on local radio stations. **If busses are cancelled, we ask that parents of children who WALK to school to please call the SAFE ARRIVAL LINE 1-844-434-8119 if your child(ren) will not be attending school that day.**

Kindergarten Registration for the 2020/2021 School Year

Your child can begin Kindergarten in September 2020, as follows:

Junior Kindergarten – your child is four years of age by December 31st, 2020

Senior Kindergarten – your child is five years of age by December 31st, 2020

Registration for September 2020 is now open!

Regional Kindergarten Information Sessions are taking place in January and February for parents interested in learning more about the Kindergarten program, and discussing strategies to help your child get ready for school!

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.

Once the form is complete, parents/guardians will need to visit the school to provide the following information:

- Birth certificate
- Proof of address
- Citizen verification
- 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.

Families, please contact your child's school directly if you have any questions regarding its Kindergarten programs, registration and information nights.

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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.

Anaphylactic Allergies

Again this year, we have several students who have severe anaphylactic reactions to peanuts or nut products. Currently, we ask everyone not to send peanut products in their children's lunches. However, we believe we can continue to do more. In school, these students are not only exposed to their classmates, but to others on the yard. Taking this into consideration, we ask that all parents continue to avoid sending peanut butter and other nut products to school. Although this request will cause some inconvenience, if you reflect upon the potential tragedy that could occur, we believe you will agree that this is a reasonable request. Although we cannot guarantee a Nut Free school, we can certainly aim toward this goal. Thank you in advance for your cooperation in helping to keep a safe environment for all our students.

Bullying Prevention Measures



At Highland Heights, we take the issue of bullying extremely seriously. We believe that everyone has the absolute right to be safe and feel safe at our school, and we consistently strive to make our school environment a secure place for everyone. Students are given consequences such as restricted recess times or community service for smaller issues, and they are suspended for more serious infractions. Research indicates, however, that sometimes children don't report when they are being bullied, so we rely on you for information. Please call Mr. Beaton at the school if you ever think your child is either being bullied or is bullying others.

School Council



If you are looking to join School Council, we would love to see you at our next meeting on February 24th at 6:30 p.m. in the School Library. If you cannot attend the meeting, I will gladly hear your questions or ideas and present them on your behalf at the meeting. Please feel free to contact me through email at angela_bolton@live.ca or speak with me in person. We will be starting our Kernels popcorn fundraiser soon so watch for information coming home with your child. Lunchbox Orders from Boston Pizza, Subway, Pita Pit, East Side Mario's and YoYo's provide good lunches and have raised over \$900.00 for the school so far. Please check out the website and take a break from making your children's lunch <https://www.lunchboxorders.net/eng/Login.aspx> Remember that your support with these fundraisers will provide more funding for student activities.

School Activities



There are many activities occurring in the school to help beat the winter blues.

Junior Girls and Boys Basketball



Junior Girls and Boys have been playing inter mural league games in lieu of tournaments. Students are sharpening their skills and becoming better ball handlers and play makers. Ms. Swales and Mr. McBride are impressed with their skills, improvement and team play.

Winter Nature Club



The winter nature club spent time in January to learn about how animals survive the winter. Ms. Snowball and the club members had fun making bird feeders and hanging them around the school yard.

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.

Car Free Wednesday



Car Free Wednesday is now in full swing at Highland. This program is run by the Highland Eco team in partnership with Green Up and Active and Safe Routes to School. Each Wednesday staff and students are encouraged to walk, bike, take the bus, or 'park and stride' (park a few blocks from the school and walk the rest of the way). Each month the class with the highest percent of participants receives the 'Golden Shoe Award'. Earlier this year our school got a visit from Jaime at Green Up and Cool Captain Climate to help launch the program. The Eco team has been working hard to keep this momentum going with regular announcements and class visits.

Literacy Lens – An ABC for Parents

- A**ct out a story with your child.
- B**abies enjoy looking at pictures with bright colours and faces.
- C**onnect what happens in the book to your child's life.
- D**ecide to make time to share a book with your child every day.
- E**ncourage your child to tell you about their drawings.
- F**ind comfortable places to read.
- G**o for a walk and talk about the signs along the way.
- H**elp your child build language by singing, rhyming and talking every day.
- I**nclude everyone in sharing family stories.
- J**ump in and play with your child.
- K**eep TV time to no more than one hour a day.
- L**et your child see you reading and writing.

Make a batch of cookies and count how many there are.
Newborns benefit from reading too.
Open a book and make up a story using just the pictures.
Play a game together.
Questions your child asks help her learn.
Recognize and reward your child's early attempts at reading and writing.
Scribbles are the first step in becoming a writer.
Tell your child stories about your day.
Use events that happen every day to teach your child about the world.
Visit your local library and let your child choose a book.
Write a letter or a shopping list together.
Xpect your child to be active. Count how many times they can hop or jump.
Your child loves to hear you talk, sing and read with him.
Zzz – a good time to read can be just before bed.

Developed by the Centre for Family Literacy with support from the Parent-Child Literacy Strategy, Community Programs, and Alberta Government.

Mathify

Mathify is a free math resource that connects students in grades 7 – 10 with Ontario certified math teachers. This interactive, online support is available after school from 5:30 pm–9:30 pm, Sunday to Thursday. Tutoring is live and provides 1:1 support using digital tools such as a shared white board, audio chat, text chat, and offers an image upload.

Registering students for this additional support is easy and we encourage all Grade 7-10 mathematics teachers to register students for Mathify.

Setting up a student account

Using their school board email and Ontario Education Number, students can create an account in [TVO Mathify](#).

The following is a short tutorial on how to register students and an overview of Mathify: <http://bit.ly/KPRMathify>

Live online tutoring

What students can expect:

- Ontario-certified math tutors available 5:30 pm–9:30 pm ET, Sunday to Thursday
- Voice and text chat options
- Anonymous & secure online learning space
- Compatible on all devices

If you have any questions, or would like help registering, please contact Marsha Hanak by email at marsha_hanak@kprdsb.ca.