



Highland Heights Public School

October 2020



Principal's Message

Principal

Mr. Drew Beaton

Drew_beaton@kprdsb.ca

Superintendent of Student Achievement

Ms. Anne Marie Duncan

Anne_duncan@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

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Time flies every September, but with everything going on this year, it has flown by more quickly than ever! I am pleased to report that despite the significant challenges we have faced recently, we are still off to a good start in our "new normal".

As we establish our new norms together, we continue to be very grateful for the dedicated and caring partnerships between families, staff and students in this community. Together we will continue co-create a culture of high expectation and positive well-being, and we thank you for your continued support in everything we do. Please remember that as always, we take the well-being and progress of your children very seriously, so if you should ever have any questions, comments or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us here at the school.

Finally, we would like to thank all parents who attended our first School Council meeting. Our new School Council Executive members for the 2020-2021 school year are Angela Bolton (Chair), Laurie Marshall (Treasurer) and Angela Caban (Secretary). Agendas will be posted on our website at least 48 hours before each scheduled meeting – and if you ever have any feedback on any of the matters under consideration, please don't hesitate to reach out to our Chairperson at angela_bolton@live.ca. Once again, we look forward to a successful year working together! Although these formal positions have been filled for this year, we would still love to see new parents out to our School Council meetings! The next meeting is Monday, October 26th at 6:30 pm at this link: <https://kprdsb.webex.com/meet/dbeaton>. New voices and perspectives are always welcome!

Upcoming Events

October 12th:
Thanksgiving Monday

October 14th : School
Photo Day

October 17th: KPR's
Parent Conference

From Our Families to Yours,
Happy Autumn and Happy Thanksgiving!

Sincerely,

Drew Beaton

Character Trait for October: Fairness

To demonstrate fairness, we need to be sensitive to the needs of individuals. We need to include others, value their uniqueness, and celebrate our differences. We need to treat people with the consideration with which we would like to be treated.

"Live so that when your children think of fairness and integrity, they think of you."
- Jackson Brown Jr.

Safe Arrivals and Departures

Yard Supervision in the morning begins at 8:50 a.m. Please do not have your children arrive before this supervision begins as they will be left unattended, and we cannot ensure their safety.

To assure maximum teaching time and optimum learning, please remember that students need to be present and on time every day. If your child is going to be **absent** or **late**, please call the **Safe Arrival Number – 1-844-434-8119** and follow the automated prompts. If a child has been marked absent and there is no message from a parent/guardian, a phone call will be made from the Safe Arrival automated system.

Parents and guardians are asked to buzz the office and remain outside when picking up children early from school due to illness, appointments, etc. Mrs. Peltenburg will buzz the classroom and have your child meet you at the office. Unfortunately, we cannot have them waiting for you outside the office due to safety protocols. We also ask parents and guardians to make arrangements to meet children at a designated spot outside the school at the end of the day.

Please also note that our phone lines are extremely busy much of the time. Our secretary, Mrs. Peltenburg, is determined to respond to each call as quickly as she can, but your support is required to help things run smoothly. Please make sure that all plans are made with your children prior to the school day so that only urgent calls are made to the school. Please do not leave urgent messages at the end of the day as the phone lines are occupied and your message may get missed.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding!

Safe Welcome Program

As we work to ensure the safety of all our students, we are continuing to lock all our doors just before school starts. If your child is late arriving in the morning after 8:50, please come to the front doors so that your child can sign in at the office and we can mark our attendance appropriately. Just a reminder that our school has a front door security system which includes a camera and intercom connected to the school office. Students will be buzzed in by office staff who will release the door lock from the inside. Please be patient if you are not buzzed in immediately!

Anaphylactic Allergies

Again this year, we have students who have severe anaphylactic reactions to peanuts or nut products. Currently, we are still asking everyone to not send peanut butter or other 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 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.

Picking and Dropping Off Your Child



For the safety of all students, please notify the school if anyone other than a parent or guardian will be picking up your child or children. Without notification, students must follow the regular arrangements made for travelling home. Also for student safety, please use the back parking lot off of Highland Court, not the front area of the school.

School Council



School Council is an advisory body that works together to provide ideas and opinions to help the Principal make the school a better place for learning. Parents are encouraged to be involved in the school council. We all work together to improve student achievement and success. Our next meeting is October 26th @ 6:30. All parents are welcome. Please join us virtually at: <https://kprdsb.webex.com/meet/dbeaton>.

KPR Personal Electronic Device Policy

Our school follows the Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board's policy on use of personal electronic devices (PEDs) - such as cell phones and MP3 players - in schools. The policy states PEDs may be used only during designated non-instructional times, and in areas designated by principals. At Highland Heights, our designated time and place to access PED's is during the indoor portion of Nutrition Breaks only. More precisely, students will have access to their PED's between 11:05 and 11:25 in the morning, and between 1:25 and 1:45 in the afternoon. Cell phones and other PEDs must be turned off and stored out of sight at all other times. PEDs may never, under any circumstances, be used in washrooms. Please note that this policy was approved after extensive consultation with students, parents, school councils, teachers, principals, support staff and community members. Parents are also reminded that we strongly discourage the use of electronic games or other toys at school. These items can be a huge distraction to learning and the school cannot be responsible for these items when they are lost or stolen. Your assistance to ensure that students do not bring these items to school is greatly appreciated!

Mental Health Corner



Research tells us that those who practise gratitude have more positive emotions, a greater sense of belonging and a lower incidence of depression and stress. Positivity can also help enhance one's well-being and the effects can be long-lasting. Here is one idea you can practise as a family.

By expressing gratitude, we seek out and focus on the positives while encouraging others to do the same. A simple thank you is a way to promote positivity at home, school and in the community. Just by saying "thank you" to someone who is doing a good job, can make their day and may even open up a positive conversation.

(Taken from the Not Myself Today Toolkit Resource Guide)

KPR's Parent Conference goes Virtual

For the past 19 years, KPR's annual Parent Conference has given parents and guardians free, direct access to expert advice on supporting their children's learning and on raising healthy, resilient families. This year, we are hoping even more people will be able to participate in the event as it goes virtual.

We encourage all interested parents, guardians, staff and community members to join us online for this year's Virtual Parent Conference, which will be held:

Saturday, October 17
9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.
Theme: Drop the Worry Ball
Featuring Dr. Alex Russell

Dr. Russell is a clinical psychologist, a well-known and engaging speaker, and co-author of the book *Drop the Worry Ball: How to Parent in the Age of Entitlement*.

Online registration for his presentation will begin next week. All registrants will receive a link to watch the presentation live, and to ask Dr. Russell questions. Watch for more information soon.