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**October 2020
Newsletter**



Thursday, October 9, 2020

Dear families,

We wish everyone best wishes for this Thanksgiving long weekend.

Picture Day is on Tuesday October 13th. Students will be getting their picture taken individually in the gym, then the area will be sanitized after each student. There are no group pictures this year, but **Edge Imaging** will be making composites of the class group.

Please review below a few key messages from our Director of Education, Dr. Jennifer Leclerc.

Important: please self-screen daily!

We remind families that it is extremely important to self-screen for possible symptoms of COVID-19 every morning, before heading to school. Please use the Ontario government's updated, online self-screening tool for this purpose. It will help you make an informed decision about whether you should attend school or child care, consult a health care provider, or get tested for COVID-19.

The new self-screening tool can be completed online at <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>. A printable version also can be downloaded from <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/covid19-cms-assets/2020-10/Screening%20Children%20v1.0%202020-10-01%20FINAL%20EN%20AODA.pdf>

In addition, we have attached a copy of the self-screening tool for you to print if you choose. Please self-screen every day.

The KPR website has a wealth of information on COVID, including our illness protocol, mental health resources to help support families at this time, details on wearing masks properly, posters in eight languages, and a COVID-19 Reporting page that provides an update on numbers of confirmed cases at schools throughout KPR. All of this information can be accessed from <http://www.kprschools.ca/en/COVID-19.html>

KPR Virtual Elementary School (VES)

With 4,300 students now attending the VES, an intake process has been created to support a successful transition for students and their families. VES students will be able to move from in-person to online learning at the end of each month. This will allow sufficient time for principals and teachers to make the transition as smooth as possible for students.

Parents who would like to move their children from in-school to online learning need to start the process by speaking with the principal of their home school. Families will need to register **by October 23** if they wish their children to make the change on the **next available start date of Monday, November 2.**

Similarly, families who wish their children to switch to online classes on Monday, November 30 will need to register between November 2-20. Please note that this process will not occur in December.

In other words:

To start VES classes on:	Register Between:
Monday, November 2	October 9-23
Monday, November 30	November 2-20

Watch for more information on the transition and registration dates for January.

After registering for the VES and while waiting for their online classes to start, students will be supported by their home school until they transition to the virtual school. They will have two choices during this waiting period: either attend class in person at their home school until the VES start date, or complete work assigned by their child's teacher at home.

KPR Parent Conference: one click away

You are just one click away from receiving free, expert advice at KPR's Virtual Parent Conference next week.

KPR's 19th annual conference - the first one to be held virtually - will take place:

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

All KPR employees are welcome to join us at the Virtual Conference. To make participating in the Virtual Parent Conference as easy as possible, we are not requiring pre-registration this year. You will be able to "tune in" directly to the Parent Conference on the morning of the event, by simply clicking on the following link:

<https://kprdsb.webex.com/kprdsb/onstage/g.php?MTID=ec88524730938f91cc940009914595b06>

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

If you need assistance, have questions or if there are accommodations that would make the conference more accessible for you, please email kpr_info@kprdsb.ca or call 705-742-9773 or toll-free 1-877-741-4577, ext. 2018.

Sign up for Text Message Alerts

And, finally, we are encouraging families to sign up for KPR's Text Message Alerts to get quick updates on school news, attendance, any possible confirmed cases of COVID in their child's school, and more. They can opt into this service now, by sending a text message to **978338** with the message of "Y" or "Yes".

Families can opt out of these messages at any time by simply replying to one of the Text Message Alerts with "Stop". Those choosing not to opt in to text messaging can still receive school information via email. Parents also can decide which types of communications they receive, and how, through the School Messenger App under Preferences, or by logging into

<https://go.schoolmessenger.ca/#/account/login>

We wish all of our staff a healthy, relaxing, well-deserved and enjoyable Thanksgiving weekend. Thank you so much for everything you are doing to support students, families and one another during these challenging times.

In partnership,
Sanaa Soussan