



Queen Elizabeth Public School

April 2023



Principal

Mr. Drew Beaton

Drew_beaton@kprdsb.ca

Superintendent of Student Achievement

Mr. John Ford

John_ford@kprdsb.ca

Trustees

Ms. Rose Kitney

Rose_kitney@kprdsb.ca

Mr. Steve Russell

Steve_russell@kprdsb.ca

Administrative Assistant

Ms. Jennifer Lee

Head Custodian

Mr. Jamie Munro

830 Barnardo Avenue,
Peterborough, Ontario.

Tel: (705) 742-6331

Fax: (705) 748-9782

Safe Arrival: 1-844-434-8119

School Website:

<https://queenelizabeth.kprdsb.ca/>

Transportation Information:

www.stsco.ca

Twitter: @QEagles

Principal's Message

Spring greetings to all Queen Elizabeth families!

It is hard to believe that April is here already and that we are now heading down the home stretch! As we fully settle into our second term, it almost goes without saying that we are all greatly looking forward to the change of seasons and the transition into warmer and sunnier days. Although it is hard to imagine at the moment, the change really is just around the corner.

On the theme of change, I want to take this opportunity to commend our teaching staff on their commitment, diligence and professionalism as they adapt so well to the many changes that they have faced over recent years. Over the relatively short time that I have been here, despite the many obstacles, I have been consistently impressed with their resiliency and determination to do the very best they can for the children in their care.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your support at home. We truly are partners in your child's education, and the work you do with your children at home makes an enormous impact on their academic success. Please keep up the great work!

And 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

Apr. 3rd – World Autism Awareness Day – Wear blue

- Grade 3 – Swim to Survive (in school)
- School Council Meeting @6:30pm – Meeting Link: https://kprdsb.webex.com/meet/drew_beaton

Apr. 5th – Grade 3 – Swim to Survive (pool session)

Apr. 7th – Good Friday – School Closed

Apr. 10th – Easter Monday – School Closed

Apr. 12th – Grade 4 – Trends in International Mathematics & Science Study – Assessment Day

- Grade 3 – Swim to Survive (pool session)
- Grade 6/7 (Room 111) – Family Information Night – Camp Kawartha Field Trip

Apr. 19th – Grade 3 – Swim to Survive (pool session)

Apr. 21st – Grade 2/3 Field Trip – OFAH
- Grade 5/6 – AGOP Workshop

Safe Arrival

If your child is going to be absent from school, for any reason, please use your SchoolMessenger account to notify the school of the absence. If we do not know why a student is absent, the safe arrival program will call you to notify you of the absence and to get clarification. If your child arrives to school late, please sign them in at the main office.

For those of you that have not already registered for SchoolMessenger to report your children's absences online, here are the instructions:

- To create your new account and register your children for the automated system, please visit www.studentabsence.kprdsb.ca
- If you use the mobile app, please search for SchoolMessenger (one word) on the Google Play Store or the Apple App Store.
- Once you have registered your child, you will be able to inform the school of your child's upcoming absences using any of the following methods:
 - www.studentabsence.kprdsb.ca
 - 1-844-434-8119
 - the **SchoolMessenger** mobile app on your cell phone or tablet.

Thank you so much for your collaboration in reducing our secretarial workload and keeping our students safe.

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

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 2023/2024 School Year



It is now time to register your child for full-day, every-day Junior or Senior Kindergarten starting in September 2023. You may register your child to start school in September 2023 if:

Junior Kindergarten – your child is four years of age by December 31, 2023
Senior Kindergarten – your child is five years of age by December 31, 2023

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

Again this year, we have 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.

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 Queen Elizabeth, 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 11:20 and 11:40 in the morning, and between 1:40 and 2:00 in the afternoon. Cell phones and other PEDs must be turned off and stored out of sight at all other times. PEDs are not allowed on the school yard at recess, and they 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!

Bullying Prevention Measures



At Queen Elizabeth, 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



First, another reminder that parents and guardians are not allowed to enter the school at this time. 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.

If you need to take your child out during school hours for an appointment, etc., please come at least 10 minutes early to the front doors and buzz the office. The secretary or the principal will then call in to the classroom to have your child or children meet you at the office. We will not be able to have students waiting for you at the office, so please make sure you leave yourself ample time.

School Council



Our next meeting is April 3rd at 6:30, and you can either join us in person or you can click on this WebEx link: https://kprdsb.webex.com/meet/drew_beaton. All parents and guardians are welcome to join us – and we greatly appreciate your involvement.

If you are interested in knowing what we will be discussing, please feel free to look for our agendas which will be posted to the School Council page of our school website at <https://queenelizabeth.kprdsb.ca/Community/School%20Council> by the weekend immediately before each meeting. And if you are really, really interested, you can also find past minutes and financial information on this page as well.

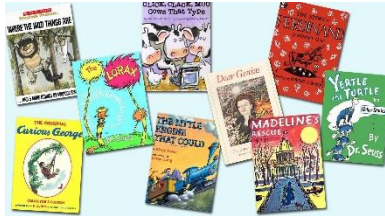
And finally, if you have any comments or questions about any aspect of School Council, please feel free to reach out to Mr. Beaton, the Principal @ drew_beaton@kprdsb.ca or to your School Council Chair, Matt Riley @ mattriley33@hotmail.ca.

Earth Day



April 22nd is Earth Day and once again we'll be recognizing this day at Queen Elizabeth. 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.