



# Queen Elizabeth Public School

December 2023



## Principal

Mr. Drew Beaton

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## Superintendent of Student Achievement

Mr. John Ford

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## Trustees

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## Administrative Assistant

Mrs. Heather Minion

[Heather\\_minion@kprdsb.ca](mailto:Heather_minion@kprdsb.ca)

## Head Custodian

Mr. Jamie Munro

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Peterborough, Ontario.

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Safe Arrival: 1-844-434-8119

School Website:

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

Transportation Information:

[www.stsco.ca](http://www.stsco.ca)

## Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Guardians,



Wow. It is December already – and we will all soon be on Winter Break and celebrating the holidays. We recognize that some families in our school community will soon be celebrating Hanukkah, Christmas, and Kwanzaa. Most importantly, we recognize that all faith groups share the common values of goodwill toward others and the importance of family. Certainly, we all know how important it is to share this very precious time with our loved ones.

Holidays have often been a focal point of curriculum because of their wide appeal to both children and teachers. Through looking at holiday celebrations around the world, teachers have a great opportunity to promote the appreciation of diverse cultures, lifestyles, and beliefs, as well as promoting awareness of the larger society and positive social interactions among children. Holidays also offer high interest vehicles for teaching skills in all academic areas. It is a time when we all try to express our gratitude for living in a wonderful country like Canada, where almost all of us have access to food, clean water, and shelter.

As the holidays approach, many of us are also getting into the spirit of giving and sharing. This is a particularly special time of year when we think about loved ones, reflect carefully on how we can show goodwill towards others and work towards a more peaceful world. Through the examples we set as adults, we hope that students will discover the real meaning of peace and goodwill towards others, not just in our own community but all over the world. After all, we really are just one global village on this planet and, now more than ever, we must learn to live together in harmony.

Please remember in your thoughts those who are less fortunate and encourage your older children to volunteer during this season and support others in the community. As you know, this time of year is often very difficult for some families, even at the best of times. We encourage everyone to keep an eye out for those of our neighbours who may be finding this a lonely and difficult time. If we could all take a few moments to reflect on how fortunate we are in so many ways, perhaps we would see a lot more mutual respect around us!

On behalf of the staff at Queen Elizabeth, we would like to wish you all the very best for the upcoming holiday season! Please stay safe and warm, enjoy the time with your family, and treasure these special moments together!

Sincerely,

Drew Beaton

## Upcoming Events

### Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>:

In-person School Council Meeting @6:30pm in School Library – Virtual Meeting Link: [https://kprdsb.webex.com/meet/drew\\_beaton](https://kprdsb.webex.com/meet/drew_beaton)

### Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> – Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup>: SPIRIT WEEK

Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>: Toque Day

Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>: Camo/Green Day

Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>: Holiday Headwear Day

Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>: Holiday Sweater Day

Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup>: PJ Day

## December is “Little Spirit Moon” - Mnidoo-Giisoons (Anishinaabe First Nation)



Little Spirit Moon is the twelfth moon of Creation, a very spiritual time. At this time all Creation is being reminded of their journey set out by the Creator. During this time, the Little Spirit Moon journeys to Turtle Island as a healer and a seer in the hearts of all Creation. This is to ensure that the strength and power of the purest of Creation can flourish with the identity and diversity to make the journey from this world to the next.

### Character Attribute for December is: R E S P E C T

I am polite, courteous and caring. I value myself and others. I treat all people with dignity and uphold their rights. I protect property and our environment.



### Cold Weather Has Arrived!!

The cold weather has arrived! It is very important that students come to school wearing warm clothing. Sending an extra pair of socks, mitts and pants is a good idea. It can get very cold at recess time, so students really should be dressed appropriately.

### Winter Blizzards & Busses

It's that time of year when the weather changes, the snow starts to fall, and the driving conditions become a little more dangerous. The bus companies monitor the roads 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](http://www.stsco.ca) and click on the Delay & Cancellation Information Icon on the right-hand side. Cancellations will also be announced on local radio stations.

### 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.

### 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!

## Plans of Care



Every year, we re-establish Individual Plans of Care for everyone in our building who has a medical condition that could potentially be life-threatening. It is our belief that collaboratively creating a Plan of Care is vital to promoting the safety of everyone who suffers from a life-threatening condition.

Essentially, these plans are a set of directions and cautionary advice to help our staff through a potential emergency medical situation that an individual might face. The plan includes all the information that a first responder would require, as well as step-by-step instructions on how to respond to the medical crisis. All our staff members are familiarized with the plans, and they are posted in central locations for administration to refer to in the event of an emergency. If you are a parent / guardian of a child with a potentially life-threatening illness or a medical condition, please ensure that you:

1. Inform the school of your child's medical needs.
2. Schedule a meeting with your child's teacher to review the medical needs of your child.
3. Working with our Administrative Assistant, Mrs. Minion, complete a Plan of Care for your child. If this has already been established, please make necessary changes to the form, and send back to the school as soon as possible.
4. Complete the Administration of Medication form which details the request and authorizes the administration of prescription medication.
5. Provide the school with up-to-date epinephrine auto injectors (preferably a minimum of two), and any other prescribed medication, and keep them current.
6. Teach your child to take as much responsibility as possible for his/her safety.
7. Provide your child with a medic alert bracelet.

If you have any concerns or questions, please contact the office - and thank you for your full cooperation in keeping all our students and staff safe!

## 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



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 generally 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 School Council meeting is on Monday, December 4th at 6:30 in our School Library. If you are unable to join in-person, you can join us virtually as well by clicking on this WebEx link: [https://kprdsb.webex.com/meet/drew\\_beaton](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 at [drew\\_beaton@kprdsb.ca](mailto:drew_beaton@kprdsb.ca) or to your School Council Chair, Matt Riley at [mattriley33@hotmail.com](mailto:mattriley33@hotmail.com).

Thanks, and hope to see you soon!

## Pancake Breakfast



On Friday, December 22nd Queen Elizabeth School Council invites you and your family to join us for a FREE PANCAKE BREAKFAST!!!

Families are welcome in the school gym beginning at 8am.  
Students without guardians are welcome after 8:30am.

Please consider bringing a donation for Kawartha Food Share (Non-perishable food or cash donations accepted).

Additional details will be emailed out once we get closer to the event.

We look forward to seeing everyone on the last day of school before the holidays!