



# Queen Elizabeth Public School

February 2024



## Principal

Mr. Drew Beaton

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## Superintendent of Student Achievement

Mr. John Ford

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## Trustees

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## Head Custodian

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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,

Ever since Winter Solstice, the days have been getting steadily and noticeably longer, and we are all in excellent spirits at Queen Elizabeth 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.

As we begin a new term, we would like to briefly take this opportunity to review a couple of key procedures for the safe arrival and departure of our students. First of all, if your child is going to be absent from school, for any reason, please help our secretary by using your SchoolMessenger account to notify the school of the absence. If you have not yet registered, the instructions are fairly simple and included in the article below this message. We greatly appreciate your help with this,

Secondly, I want to thank everyone for slowing down and making safe choices as you drive into our parking lot in the morning and at the end of the day. It is critical to student safety that we all work together to ensure that students can make their way on and off school property safely. A reminder not to park directly outside the front doors, as this is a "Kiss and Ride" which is intended just for quickly dropping off and picking up students.

On another note, we are also very pleased to be offering a wide range of extracurricular opportunities to our students. In addition to a wide variety of sports, we are also engaging in all kinds of Field Trips, and out of class learning opportunities. Students also continue to meet regularly for Student Council, Green Team, Games Club, Mindfulness Club, and Amigos – all

thanks to the outstanding leadership of Queen Elizabeth staff.

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

**Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>** - Grade 7/8  
Field trip – Skiing at  
Nordic Ski Club

**Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>** - Groundhog  
Day

**Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>** – PA Day –  
School Closed

**Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>** - School  
Council Meeting  
@6:30pm – Meeting  
Link:  
[https://kprdsb.webex.com/meet/drew\\_beaton](https://kprdsb.webex.com/meet/drew_beaton)

**Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>** – Valentine's  
Day

**Feb. 19<sup>th</sup>** - Family Day -  
Schools Closed

**Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>** - Pink Shirt  
Day

**March 6<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>** -  
Peterborough Public  
Health Dental  
Screening

**March 7<sup>th</sup>** – Domino's  
Pizza Night from 5pm -  
9pm

## 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](http://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](http://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.

## February is "Bear Moon" - Mkwā-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 – February 19<sup>th</sup>

Monday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024, is Family Day. There will be no classes on that day, and all schools and Board offices will be closed.

## Pink Shirt Day - February 28<sup>th</sup>

On February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 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 25<sup>th</sup> to show their support for this fantastic cause.

## 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 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 school secretary, 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 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 February 5<sup>th</sup> 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](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](mailto:drew_beaton@kprdsb.ca) or to your School Council Chair, Matt Riley @ [mattriley33@hotmail.ca](mailto:mattriley33@hotmail.ca).