



# Queen Elizabeth Public School

September 2024



## Principal

Mr. Drew Beaton

[Drew\\_beaton@kprdsb.ca](mailto:Drew_beaton@kprdsb.ca)

## Superintendent of Student Achievement

Mr. John Ford

[John\\_ford@kprdsb.ca](mailto:John_ford@kprdsb.ca)

## Trustees

Ms. Rose Kitney

[Rose\\_kitney@kprdsb.ca](mailto:Rose_kitney@kprdsb.ca)

Mr. Steve Russell

[Steve\\_russell@kprdsb.ca](mailto:Steve_russell@kprdsb.ca)

## Administrative Assistant

Ms. Sydney Grice

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

Twitter: @QEagles

## Principal's Message

Greetings Queen Elizabeth families!

From my family to yours, I sincerely hope that you had a safe and enjoyable summer. As the heat begins to drop at this busy and exciting time, I also hope that your family is beginning to settle comfortably into September routines once again.

As we begin the 2024/2025 school year, we encourage everyone in the Queen Elizabeth school community to embrace the opportunity to actively contribute to making this a fantastic and memorable school year. As a school, we focus on the character trait of optimism throughout the month of September. As Helen Keller famously stated, "Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence."

Our custodial team has once again done a fabulous job with the upkeep of the school – and it looks fantastic! In the office, we have been focusing on all the organizational details to make our start-up as smooth as possible; and teaching staff have taken great care to set up their rooms and programs to meet the individual needs of all our students. We appreciate and recognize that it is the hard work and dedication of everyone, including our families and volunteers that makes Queen Elizabeth the warm, inviting, positive school community it is.

As we work together to plan engaging opportunities for your children, please pay close attention to the information that your child brings home, complete and sign all forms, and promptly return them to the school. Of course, getting back into school routines is always a little challenging, but like you, we know that by

working together, we maintain and improve the positive learning environment of Queen Elizabeth. One of the ways we can effectively accomplish this is through working together on our School Council. It's a fantastic way to get to know other parents and hear first-hand about some of the school priorities. Our first meeting is **Monday, September 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.** in the Library, or if you would prefer, you can also join us virtually in my Webex Room, by clicking on this link as the meeting is getting started on Monday:

[https://kprdsb.webex.com/meet/drew\\_beaton](https://kprdsb.webex.com/meet/drew_beaton).

Sincerely,  
Drew Beaton  
Principal

## Upcoming Events

Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> – School Council Meeting @ 6:30 p.m.

Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> – School Picture Day (Retakes on Nov. 15)

Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> – Grade 7/8 Vaccinations

Sept. 26<sup>th</sup> – School Council BBQ – 5:00-6:00  
Open House – 6:00-7:00

Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> – National Day for Truth and Reconciliation – wear an orange shirt.

Sept. 27<sup>th</sup> – PA Day

## School Organization for 2024/2025

Over the summer, two of our veteran teachers, Stephanie Palmer and Tara Loucks, have been reassigned to leadership positions for KPR. Please join us in wishing them all the very best in their new roles!



**Principal:** Drew Beaton  
**Head Custodian:** Jamie Munro  
**Evening Custodian:** Taylor Black

### Teaching Staff:

R. Henderson	JK/SK	S. Mason	Special Education Resource Teacher
W. Booth (ECE)	JK/SK	B. Shaw	Special Education - LLS
A. Keller	SK/1	TBA	Special Education - LLS
J. Lockett (ECE)	SK/1	D. Weatherdon	Teacher-Librarian
TBA	1/2	C. Phillips	Core French
A. Nowicki	1/2	M. Williams	Planning
B. Volgyi	3/4		
I. Reid	4/5		
J. Biederman	5/6		
T. Kerr	7/8		
L. Hall	7/8		

### Support Staff:

A. White	C. Dewitt
A. Walsh	J. Vogt
J. Greatbanks	M. Waterworth
B. Barks	G. Thornley
E. Young	K. Golden
S. Harte-Maxwell	

## Student Absence Reporting

At KPR, student safety is our highest priority, and we thank families for adopting the automated Safe Arrival system to help ensure students arrive safely at school each day. If your child is going to be **absent** or **late**, please call the **Student Absence – 1-844-434-8119** or go to **[studentabsence.kprdsb.ca](https://studentabsence.kprdsb.ca)** and set up your account. For new texting option see details below.

## Safe Welcome Program

As we work to ensure the safety of all our students, we are continuing to lock all our doors and gates at 9:00 am. If your child is late arriving in the morning, please have them 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. A reminder that parents, guardians, and visitors are currently required to wait outside. We understand that this may cause inconvenience, but the safety of our students remains our highest priority. Please be patient if you are not buzzed in immediately!

Please also note that our phone lines are extremely busy much of the time. Our secretary 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.

## KPR Personal Electronic Device Policy

Our school continues to follow the Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board's policy on use of mobile devices in schools. As you may have already heard, new provincial government legislation has resulted in changes to the use of mobile devices in schools. A mobile device is any personal electronic device (P.E.D.) that can be used to communicate or access the Internet, such as a laptop, cellphone, tablet or smart watch.

In order to ensure a focused and engaging learning environment in our classrooms, we require all personal mobile devices be stored out of view during the school day. As always, students who may need to use their phones are asked to speak directly with their teacher so that we can work together to find an appropriate solution. Please know that while we certainly understand that these changes may be difficult for some students, creating and maintaining a protected space for learning in our classrooms remains our priority.

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!

## Anaphylactic Allergies

As we begin a new school year, please remember that we do have students in our school with life-threatening nut allergies. For students with food allergies, it is crucial that a safe environment be created for them which requires concerted cooperation from students, parents and staff. Together, a nut-free environment is possible. Remember that the best way to avoid bringing unsafe products into school is to read labels. We kindly ask that you do not send any products containing nuts to school in lunches or snacks. Thank you for your understanding.

## 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 each individual 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, 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.

## Police Record Checks

Criminal Record Checks are required for all volunteers, including members of School Council and our Breakfast Program Volunteers. If you are planning to go on a class trip, volunteer in a classroom, volunteer for a school function, you **MUST** have a valid criminal record check on file at the school. Police Record Checks are valid for 1 year. You can pick up the proper paperwork from the school to take to the Police Station or you can apply online at [www.prc.ca](#). Please note that it may take a couple of weeks to get your Police Record Check back from the Police Station, so plan ahead. ***Don't leave it to the last minute.***

## September Barbecue & Open House - Thursday, September 26<sup>th</sup>

Barbecue - 5:00-6:00 p.m.

Open House – 6:00-7:00 p.m.



Please join us this week as Queen Elizabeth will be hosting our School Council Barbecue and Open House on Thursday, September 26<sup>th</sup> starting at 5:00 p.m. This is a wonderful opportunity to come out a visit with friends and neighbours and have a quick chat with your child's teacher.

## Picture Day – Monday, September 24<sup>th</sup>

Picture Day is September 24<sup>th</sup>, so mark your calendars and get ready to say CHEESE!

## Students Leaving School Property

At Queen Elizabeth, we prefer to have our students remain at school for the entire day, as this generally tends to be better for socialization, and also ensures that all students are on time after breaks, ready for instruction.

Some families may also choose to have their child come home on a nutrition break on a regular basis, and these arrangements can be made with your child's teacher and the office.

Other than that, students require written permission to leave school property for any reason during the school day. They may not call to seek permission during the day. Students who only leave the school property periodically need to bring a written note from a parent/guardian to the secretary's office first thing in the morning on the day that they are making special arrangements. With that said, we strongly discourage allowing students to try to go to the Chemong Plaza during their Nutrition Break, as the breaks are only 40 minutes long, and students are often late coming back, which is disruptive to their classes.

## 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.

We also ask parents or guardians to make standard arrangements to meet your child or children at a designated spot outside the school at the end of the day. If you need to sign your child or children out during the school hours for an appointment, etc., please come to the front doors and we will have your child or children meet you there.

## Walking and Riding



Please review the basic safety rules with your children. We will be stressing safety at school and, hopefully between us, we can get the message across. All children should use the sidewalk where possible and cross in front of the school with our crossing guard. Bicycle riders are reminded that they are considered vehicles and are required by law to wear helmets and obey traffic rules. Parents are asked to make sure their children have and wear their helmets. Bikes are never to be ridden on school property during school hours. Students riding bicycles are expected to dismount at the property's edge, walk their bikes to the racks provided, and lock them there for the day. Please note that we cannot be responsible for any damage that may occur to bikes.

## Student Verification Forms

Please return the Student Registration Verification Form to the school as soon as possible. These forms help the school update important information pertaining to your child. New phone numbers, adult contacts for emergencies and medical alerts are very important!! Thank you!

## Sun Savvy

Although the heat of summer is fading, the sun can still be dangerous for our health. Damage to eyes and skin from too much sunshine is easily prevented with the few simple steps below:

- Limit time in the sun between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.
- Look for shaded areas or create shaded areas to do outdoor activities.
- Wear clothing to protect as much skin as possible.
- Wear a hat with a wide brim or a back flap.
- Put on UV protection sunglasses.
- Use sunscreen with SPF 15 or higher that gives protection from both UVA and UVB rays.

## School Council



### **What is School Council?**

The purpose of school council, through the active participation of parents, is to improve student achievement and enhance the accountability of the education system to parents. School councils play a vital role in the education system in Ontario. They provide a forum through which parents and other members of the school community can contribute to improving student achievement and school performance.

“Partnering to Make Our Schools Strong”... Education is a partnership involving parents, students, teachers, principals, school boards, government and the community. By being a part of the school council team, we work together to ensure a high quality of education for our children.

### **Why be involved?**

Parents play the first and most important role in their children’s education and are key partners in building a quality education system. One purpose of the school council is to promote and support the involvement of all parents in their child / children’s learning. This involvement contributes both to the child / children’s success in school and to the quality of the school environment. Participating on a school council is a rewarding experience for all those who value the opportunity to make a difference in their child / children’s education. Membership on a school council benefits the individuals involved by providing the following personal advantages:

- being an important partner in the education system, whose views are valued;
- contributing to the shared goal of improving student achievement;
- having a vehicle through which to express opinions;
- being able to keep informed about what’s happening at the school, the board and at the provincial level of education.

### **When & Where are the School Council Meetings Held?**

School Council meets once per month in the School Library in the evening. Please check the school newsletter for specific details.

### **Who attends School Council Meetings?**

If you have a child / children enrolled at Queen Elizabeth P.S., you are eligible to attend meetings. No experience is required! Just bring your ideas and your enthusiasm... everyone has a voice at the table.

The membership of the School Council reflects the diversity of the school community. Parents and guardians form the majority of members on the School Council.

### **What is discussed at School Council Meetings?**

“To consult” means to seek advice, to confer, to discuss or to deliberate on the views and opinions held by others. In the spirit of the regulations regarding School Councils, there are clear expectations that all partners be consulted:

- School boards and principals are to seek advice from their School Councils.
- School Councils are to seek input from the parents of their school community about matters under their consideration.

#### **Topics of discussion at the Council table include:**

- Current Events
- Bullying Prevention

- School Culture
- School Spirit
- Student Recognition
- EQAO Results
- Code of Conduct
- School Improvement Plan
- Literacy and Math Initiatives
- Improving Communication
- Parental Engagement Activities

### **Elected Positions on School Council**

Along with parent membership, the School Council is comprised of elected positions, including Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, Secretary and Regional Representative. Any parent representative may be nominated to one these positions. If you are interested in participating on School Council or would just like to attend a meeting, School Council will host its first meeting of the 2024/2025 school year on **Monday, September 9<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 pm and at [https://kprdsb.webex.com/meet/drew\\_beaton](https://kprdsb.webex.com/meet/drew_beaton)**. Agendas and minutes from monthly meetings can also be found on the school website – <https://queenelizabeth.kprdsb.ca/>