



Queen Elizabeth Public School

February 2025



KAWARTHA PINE RIDGE
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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

Mrs. Sydney Grice

sydney_grice@kprdsb.ca

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

Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Since the Winter Solstice, the days have been gradually getting longer, and the positive energy at Queen Elizabeth continues to grow as we wrap up our first term. Our students have been working diligently in their classrooms, engaging in a wide range of interesting and challenging academic tasks across all areas of the curriculum. As we begin the new term, we would like to take a moment to review a couple of important procedures to ensure the safe arrival and departure of our students.

Firstly, if your child is going to be absent for any reason, please assist our secretary by using your SchoolMessenger account to notify the school. If you haven't yet registered, simple instructions are provided in the article below this message. We truly appreciate your cooperation with this process.

Secondly, I would like to thank everyone for making safe choices and driving carefully as you enter and exit our parking lot, both in the morning and at dismissal. The safety of our students is paramount, and it's essential that we all work together to ensure students can safely navigate on and off school property. A reminder: please refrain from parking directly outside the front doors, as this area is designated for buses – and as a “Kiss and Ride” zone for quick drop-offs and pick-ups.

Additionally, we are excited to offer a wide range of extracurricular opportunities to our students. Alongside various sports, we are organizing a number of field trips and out-of-class learning experiences. Students continue to participate in extracurricular activities such as Dance Club, Drama Group, Games Club, Amigos, and more – all made possible by the outstanding leadership of our dedicated staff.

Lastly, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to all our parents and caregivers for your continued support and patience throughout the first term. As always, if you have any comments, concerns, or questions, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Warm regards,
Sincerely,
Drew Beaton
Principal

Upcoming Events

February – Black History Month

February 2nd – Groundhog Day

February 10th - School Council Meeting
@6:30pm – In-person in our Library
Hybrid Meeting Link:
https://kprdsb.webex.com/meet/drew_beaton

February 14th – Valentine's Day Dance

February 17th – Family Day

February 20th – Term 1 Report Cards go home

February 26th – Pink Shirt Day

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 keeping our students safe.

February is "Bear Moon" - Mkwa-Giizis (Anishinaabe First Nation)



Character Trait for February: Empathy

To show empathy - we need to respect the feelings of others. We must 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

Passport to Reconciliation

What is the Passport to Reconciliation?

In November 2021, the Indigenous Education Department at KPRDSB introduced the "Passport to Reconciliation." This initiative recognizes that everyone in KPR has a role to play in the process of Reconciliation. Each month, we share a new learning focus related to Indigenous Education, as outlined in the Passport.

For the month of February, our focus is on **Indigenous Art**.

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 17th

Monday, February 17th, 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 28th

On February 26th, 2025, we are encouraging everyone: staff, students, and families alike to wear something pink to symbolize that we as a school community do not tolerate bullying. 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 26th to show their support for this fantastic cause.

Pizza Lunch Orders

We are happy to share that **Domino's Pizza Lunch** is available at our school for the 2024/2025 school year. Orders are available for purchase until the end of the school year. Pizza lunches are every Thursday unless it is a PA Day or Holiday. Orders are due the Sunday before the pizza lunch and can be found on your **SchoolCash Online** items page.

How to Order:

1. Go to your child's SchoolCash Online account items page and click "ORDER NOW".
2. Confirm your child's account information including their teacher and grade for the current school year.
- **Please ensure the correct teacher and grade are selected to prevent errors on delivery days.
3. Proceed with ordering your child's pizza lunch.
4. All orders are submitted on the website and payment is processed online.



Things to Remember:

- The Pizza Lunch ordering deadline is by end of day Sunday for the upcoming week's deliveries.
- New orders will not be accepted after the Sunday deadline.
- If there is a school closure, lunches will be cancelled, and a credit will be issued to your account

Popcorn Orders



Kernels Popcorn is delivered every Tuesday at Queen Elizabeth! Orders are available for purchase until the end of the school year. Popcorn can be ordered through School Cash Online for \$2.50/bag.

There will be 7 flavours to choose from: Butter Salt, Dill Pickle, Ketchup, Salt & Vinegar, White Cheddar Cheese, Jalapeno Jack, Creamy Caramel, Say Cheese Cheese, Cheesy Dill, Thai Sweet Chili. Orders must be placed before the Friday the week of the order.

Cold Weather

It is very important that **students come to school wearing warm clothing**. Sending an extra pair of socks, mitts and pants is also a good idea. Extra mitts and hats are available at the school, if needed. This is a reminder that students do go outside, even when it is cold. Please make sure your student is 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 and click on the Delay & Cancellation Information Icon on the right-hand side. Cancellations will also be announced on local radio stations.

Anaphylactic Allergies

This year, we have students at Queen Elizabeth who have anaphylactic reactions to peanuts and nut products. Currently, we ask that all families refrain from sending peanut-based products in their children's lunches. However, we believe we can take additional steps to ensure the safety of these students.

In school, these students are not only exposed to their classmates but also to others on the yard. With this in mind, we ask that all parents continue to avoid sending peanut butter and other nut products to school. While we understand this request may cause some inconvenience, we ask that you consider the potential risks and agree that this is a reasonable measure to ensure the safety of all students.

While we cannot guarantee a completely nut-free school, we can certainly work toward this goal. Thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation in creating a safe environment for all of our students.

KPR Personal Electronic Device Policy

At Queen Elizabeth, we continue to follow the Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board's policy on the use of mobile devices in schools. A mobile device includes any personal electronic device (P.E.D.) that can be used for communication or accessing the Internet, such as a laptop, cellphone, tablet, or smart watch.

To maintain a focused and engaging learning environment, we ask that all personal mobile devices be turned off and stored out of sight during the school day. If a student needs to contact home, they may request to use the phone in the office. Should there be an urgent need for a student to access their phone during the day, they are encouraged to speak directly with their teacher to find an appropriate solution.

Additionally, we remind parents that electronic games and other toys should not be brought to school, as they can be a significant distraction to learning. The school is not responsible for these items if they are lost or stolen. Your support in helping ensure that students do not bring these items to school is greatly appreciated!

Plans of Care

Each year, we re-establish Individual Plans of Care for all students with medical conditions that could potentially be life-threatening. We believe that creating these plans collaboratively is essential for ensuring the safety of students with serious medical conditions.

These plans are detailed instructions and guidelines to help our staff respond effectively in the event of a medical emergency. They include all the critical information that first responders would need, along with step-by-step procedures



for handling the specific medical situation.

All staff members are familiarized with the Plans of Care, and they are posted in central locations for easy reference in case of an emergency. If you are the parent or guardian of a child with a potentially life-threatening condition, please ensure the following steps are taken:

1. **Inform the school** about your child's medical needs.
2. **Schedule a meeting** with your child's teacher to review their medical requirements.
3. Work with our Secretary, **Mrs. Grice**, to complete a **Plan of Care** for your child. If a plan has already been established, please review and update it, then return it to the school as soon as possible.
4. Complete the **Administration of Medication form**, which outlines your request and authorizes the school to administer prescribed medications.
5. Provide the school with **up-to-date epinephrine auto-injectors** (preferably two) and any other prescribed medications, ensuring they remain current.
6. **Teach your child** to take responsibility for their safety as much as possible.
7. Provide your child with a **medicalert bracelet**.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact the school office. We greatly appreciate your cooperation in helping us keep 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

Important Reminders for Parents and Guardians

First, a reminder that, for the safety of all students, parents and guardians must begin their visit to the school building by coming to the office – and are not permitted to visit classrooms during the day without permission. Also, we remind you that if anyone other than a parent or guardian will be picking up your child(ren), please notify the school in advance. Without prior notification, students must follow the regular arrangements made for their departure.

If you need to take your child out of school during school hours for an appointment or any other reason, please arrive at least 10 minutes before the scheduled pick-up time. Upon arrival, please use the front door to buzz the office. The secretary or principal will then contact the classroom, and your child(ren) will meet you at the office. For safety and logistical reasons, we are unable to have students waiting in the office, so please ensure you allow enough time for this process.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

School Council



Our next hybrid School Council meeting is February 10th at 6:30, and you can either join us in person in our Library or join by clicking 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

Thanks and hope to see you soon!

Community Activities and Resources for Families

School Council wants to inform the QE community to beat the winter blues by (re)discovering a few of the exciting public activities and resources available in Peterborough for young children and families to support their development.

- Check out the **Peterborough Public Library's** variety of free programs for families, kids and tweens including courses, clubs, reading challenges, performances, and more! Their complete schedule can be found on the library website: <https://www.ptbolibrary.ca/en/whats-happening/programs-at-the-library.aspx> and in print program guides available at the library.
- **Peterborough Child & Family Centres** offers free programs and services to expectant parents and families with children birth-6 years. These include drop-in play based programs, parent-child workshops, access to parenting support, and a Toy and Book Lending Library. Programs are offered at 5 different sites across Ptbo city and county. Their main site is on Antrim Street, a short 15 minute walk from Queen Elizabeth. Their programming can be found here: <https://ptbocfc.ca/>

And, if it's a bit more than the winter blues, remember there are many supports available to families in the city. (e.g. Programs that help subsidize dental cost, ensure your family has enough food to eat, assistance accessing mental health services, etc.) An overview of services available in the Peterborough area for parents and caregivers of young children, check out Peterborough Public Health's What's Available for Families website: <https://www.peterboroughpublichealth.ca/your-health/parenting/whats-available-for-families/>



Yearbook and Grad Sweaters Now Available

The 2024-2025 QE Yearbook is available for purchase for \$10 on School Cash Online. Please purchase before April 30, 2025. Yearbooks will be distributed to students in June.

2025 Grad Sweaters are available for purchase for \$25 on School Cash Online. All graduate student signatures are on the back. Please purchase by February 6th, 2025. Orders will hopefully be

made and ready to hand out by March Break.



Kindergarten Registration

Your child can begin Kindergarten in September 2025, as follows:

- **Junior Kindergarten** – your child is four years of age by December 31, 2025
- **Senior Kindergarten** – your child is five years of age by December 31, 2025

Registration for September 2025 is now open!

Online registration - Click here [Registration Form](#) and register TODAY!

Online registration allows parents to sign up for Kindergarten using any device connected to the Internet, any day of the week, and any time of day. It's easy, fast, and convenient.

First, create an account using your email address. Then, complete the fillable fields, providing all the information requested. Once complete, the form is sent to the school for review. The school secretary receives the registration form and checks for completeness and accuracy. The form may be sent back and forth between the parent/guardian and school until the form is complete.

As a final step, once the form is complete, parents/guardians will need to visit the school to provide the following information:

- Birth certificate
- Proof of address
- Citizen verification
- Custody documents (if applicable).

Parents will receive a Kindergarten Registration Package when they visit the school, containing a welcome letter, a book, information about busing, and strategies to support a successful start to school.

If you do not wish to register online, please print and complete the following form.

[PDF Version of our Registration Form](#) - Please print, then bring the completed form to your school.

Families, please contact your child's school directly if you have any questions regarding its Kindergarten programs, registration, and information nights.