

Kettleby Public School

e-Bulletin

September 11, 2020



From the Office

Welcome to a new school year! We hope you and your family have stayed healthy and safe during the past six months. We also hope that everyone is as excited as we are to begin the school year. Our sincere thanks to Mr. Heighton and Mrs. Wilson, our Caretaking Team, for all of their hard work over the summer months ensuring the school is in top shape for the start of the year and that all the new protocols and operating procedures have been put in place. A big thank you to Mrs. Sutton and Mrs. Di-Febo who have prepared everything in the Office so we are ready to go. The staff at Kettleby have been learning how to ensure the safety, health and well-being of our students. They have completed many training modules and have been working hard to ensure a smooth beginning to the school year and the classrooms are ready for learning.

This week we welcomed students in Year 2 Kindergarten (SK) and Grades 1-8 back to school and next week we look forward to welcoming our **Year 1 Kindergarten students (JK)**. *Year 1 students with the last name A-L will attend school on Monday and Wednesday and students Year 1 students with the last name M-Z will attend Tuesday and Thursday.*

A reminder for students in **Grades 1-8** that *students with the last name A-K will attend school on Monday and Wednesday to Friday and students with the last name L-Z will attend Tuesday to Friday.*

Staffing Update:

We would like to welcome Ms. Jennifer Nguyen to Kettleby PS. Ms. Nguyen is a Long Term Occasional teacher who is teaching Mrs. Penny's Grade 3 class. We would also like to extend a warm welcome to a familiar face at Kettleby, Mrs. Nikki Safa. Mrs. Safa is covering for Mrs. Derr while she is on a leave of absence. The Kettleby staff and community wish Mrs. Penny and Mrs. Derr all the best and we look forward to having them back with us in the future.

I would also like to introduce Ms. Dina Winter to our community. Ms. Winter is an experienced teacher who will join our York Hills team. Welcome Ms. Winter!

Welcome to Mr. Chase who has joined our caretaking team for the school year. Mr. Chase comes to us from Aurora High School and will join Mr. Heighton and Mrs. Wilson.

Mr. Signer, our Music Teacher, will be working in the Elementary Virtual School this year. We wish him all the best and hope to see him back next year.

Kettleby PS

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Principal

Jennifer Anderson
jennifer.anderson@yrdsb.ca

Administrative Assistants

Barb Sutton
Marianne Di Febo (Th/F)

Superintendent of Schools

Neil Gunathunge
(905) 884-4477

Transportation

www.schoolbuscity.com

School Hours

8:40 a.m.	Open Entry
8:55	Morning Bell
8:55-9:55	Period 1
9:55-10:35	Period 2
10:35-11:05	Recess
11:05-12:05	Period 3
12:05-12:45	Period 4
12:45-1:45	Lunch
1:45-2:45	Period 5
2:45-3:25	Period 6
3:25 p.m.	Dismissal

Safety

We ask families to remember that, as a result of health and safety guidelines:

- On a daily basis, parents/guardians of students under 18 and students over 18 are responsible to review and adhere to the [checklist from York Region Public Health](#). Any student experiencing COVID-19 symptoms **is required** to remain home.
- Where possible, students must maintain a physical distance at all times, as they enter, move through and exit the building.
- Students in Grades 4-12 will wear face coverings or non-medical masks while in school. Students in Kindergarten to Grade 3 are strongly encouraged to wear masks while in school. Please send your child to school with a minimum of three masks each day.
- Until further notice, visitor(s) are not to enter the school during hours of operation unless identified through a prearranged exception.
- We are doing what we can to minimize class sizes. Students will remain with their class throughout the day, including for lunch and recess.
- Floor decals and classroom set-up are designed to minimize close contact.
- Hand sanitizers will be placed at the entrance to the school and in all classrooms and students will wash or sanitize their hands throughout the day, including when entering or leaving the classroom, before and after eating, after using the washroom and after touching shared objects. Please do not bring personal hand sanitizer to school.

Important Links

Reopening Section of the Board Website:

<http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/school-reopening/Pages/default.aspx>

Return to School Plan

<http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/school-reopening/Documents/YRDSB-Return-to-School-Plan.pdf>

Frequently Asked Questions

<http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/school-reopening/Pages/FAQs.aspx>

Managing COVID Cases in Schools

We encourage you to visit the Ministry link here to get information on the plan for schools in managing COVID cases:

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/operational-guidance-covid-19-management-schools#section-1>

Supporting Transitions

We want to assure you that our caring, skilled and professional staff members are well prepared to support student learning and well-being in this transition back to school. We know that closure affected families differently, and that some students may not have been able to access learning as regularly, or experienced disruptions in their routines. We will work with you and your child to support your child's mental health, well-being and academics during the transition back to school and to our new school routines.

We have a dedicated staff with a strong commitment to student well-being and achievement, and to promoting positive, inclusive and supportive relationships with students, families, and community members. We are committed to providing a learning environment where everyone feels safe, welcome and respected.

Message from our Trustee: Bob McRoberts

As we begin a rather different start to the school year, I want to take this opportunity to welcome all new and returning students and families. Whether you are returning to school in person or participating in remote, online learning, we look forward to welcoming you into safe, inclusive and engaging learning spaces.

Staff members have been working hard over the summer months with the Ministry of Education and public health experts to develop a [reopening plan](#) that prioritizes the health, safety and well-being of our students and ensures that important [health and safety measures](#) are in place.

Please know that whatever learning model you chose, we will continue to provide your children with high quality education, and to support their learning, achievement and well-being. Our school staff are prepared to help your child transition back into our learning environments, and we will continue to partner with families to support your child's success.

We know that families have many questions about what to expect as their children return to school. You can find information about what to expect at the start of the school year on the Board website, including frequently asked questions that you may find helpful at www.yrdsb.ca/school-reopening.

As your school board trustee, it is my role to advocate for quality public education in York Region, and to ensure that our students remain at the centre of all of our decision making. The [Board of Trustees](#) makes [policy](#) and [budget](#) decisions, and communicates with the public, among other [responsibilities](#).

We are also responsible for setting direction for the school board, through our [Multi-Year Strategic Plan](#). This plan sets out four priorities: Foster Well-Being and Mental Health, Build Collaborative Relationships, Champion Equity and Inclusivity, and Empower Ethical Leadership.

The relationship that we have with families is important, and I will continue to keep you informed of our work and priorities. You can also find the [message from the Chair of the Board](#) on the Board's website. You are welcome to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

I hope you have a great start to the school year and wish you a happy, healthy and successful year ahead.

Return to School Elementary Daily Checklist

All families received the YRDSB Return to School Elementary Daily Checklist last week. Please be sure you are referring to and using this checklist every day.



The image shows a red and white checklist titled "Return to School Elementary Daily Checklist". At the top, it says "This year, we have new health and safety measures in place to help keep students and staff safe from the spread of COVID-19. Therefore, please a critical role in supporting health and safety in our school community." Below this, it says "Every day, please" and "Screen your child for symptoms of COVID-19 and keep them home if they:" followed by a list of items with checkboxes:

- Feel sick or have symptoms of COVID-19
- Have been in close contact with someone who is sick or has confirmed COVID-19 in the past 14 days
- Have returned from travel outside of Canada in the past 14 days
- Provide multiple soap and water hand washes (at least 2) for your child so they have had soap ready. (It suggests soap on legs to clean shoes and strong marks and a pouch or bag to hold them. Wash with warm soap.)
- Review and practice proper hand-washing techniques of home, especially before and after eating, sneezing, coughing, and adjusting a mask or cloth face covering.
- Pack a full water bottle and/or water providing a [hydration/rehydration](#) bottle and ensure daily. Drinking of fluids not allowed and garbage will be sent home to help keep our schools clean. Please remember that lunch [serves](#) be dropped off at school.
- If you need [external supplies](#), such as soap and wet wipes, please store them in a labelled parent use and return your child to school after.
- Dress your child in [weather appropriate clothing](#) they may be spending more time outdoors.
- Make sure your information is current at school including [emergency contacts](#) and individuals authorized to pick up your child from school. When they are sick, pick up your child promptly.
- Follow your school's [lateral protocols](#), including drop off and pick-up protocols and using the designated entry doors.
- Remind your child of [physical distancing](#) and following the flow of traffic and other measures to [reduce](#) at school.
- Limit [personal belongings](#) being brought to school - students/parents to assess their backpacks for unnecessary items daily.
- Please be [patient](#) and [flexible](#) as we adjust to these new measures to help keep everyone safe.