



## September 2024 Newsletter

### Administrative Team Message

Welcome back to all our returning students and a special Captain's welcome to all our new students and families. We are looking forward to an outstanding 2024-25 school year! Over the summer our custodial staff have worked very hard to get the school clean and shiny. A huge thank you for all their work and care for our building. The building is humming with energy because everyone is so excited to be learning together again. One change to note: all students will eat at the same time (the first half of each nutrition break) and all students will go out for recess at the same time (the second half of each nutrition break). The yard has been divided into areas by grade/division. The primary students love the new 'outdoor kitchen' play structure generously provided by our Home & School Council.

A few key dates to note are our Meet the Family BBQ on October 3rd (5-7 pm), and National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (Orange Shirt Day) on September 30<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to seeing our students participating in many special days this year. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher or contact the school. We are looking forward to working together with all our families. It's going to be a GREAT year of learning!

Ms. Holborn & Mrs. Ivins

## Our Spectacular Staff for 2024/25

FDK - Laura Mahovlich/ Patti Simon  
FDK – Alana Howie/ Jeanna Oegema  
SK/1 – Justine Hayslip  
Grade 1 - Michelle Latta  
Grade 2 – Jenniefer Johnson  
Grade 2 - Angela Smith  
Grade 3 - Tiffany Ambrose  
Grade 3 - Janet Ewaskiw  
Grade 3/4 - Mallory McEachen  
Grade 4 - Karen Doupe  
Grade 4/5 – Temma Robbins  
Grade 5/6 -Jeff Keays  
Grade 5/6 – Jenna Kelders  
Grade 6/7 - Jeff Christian  
Grade 7/8 - Kevin McCurdy  
Grade 7/8 - Jayna Basson  
Grade 8 - Jeff Anderson  
Primary Prep – Sherri Moyes  
Primary Prep – Ashleigh Steele  
Music/Prep - Kevin Murray  
French/Prep- Mitch Roy  
LST - Drew Jamieson  
EA - Sarah Williams  
EA - Opal Male  
EA (PM) - Brit MacCuaig  
Elementary Admin. Secretary - Karyn Noble  
Elementary School Assistant (PM) – Mary Philbin  
Principal - Connie Holborn  
Vice-Principal – Hanna Ivins  
Custodial Staff: Codie Allen, Tim Hume, and Paul Wright

## Class Organization

The school team has invested much time and effort to ensure that classes are well balanced, and that we are providing our students with optimal opportunities for ongoing learning. Unfortunately, sometimes students may be disappointed or unhappy with their new class assignments. We would ask that as parents, you use this as an opportunity to teach your child(ren) some strategies to help navigate these types of situations.

- They will make more friends and new friends.
- They will continue to see their ‘old’ friends at recess and during various school activities.
- The school staff have the students’ best interests in mind and at heart

Thank you so much for your help with this important work!! We know that while it is difficult to have a child who seems unhappy, these struggles can often be the best learning opportunities for all of us to demonstrate growth and resilience.

## ATHLETICS

A big thank you to all the coaches that help to provide our extra curricular sporting opportunities. Upcoming athletic opportunities include senior boys’ and girls’ soccer, and Cross Country (grade 3-8). More information will be provided as dates are determined.

## Kettle Creek P.S. IS NUT FREE

Due to students with allergies, we are a “Nut Free” school. To look for safe lunch ideas that do not contain nuts, please check out this website: [www.snacksafely.com](http://www.snacksafely.com) . Please do not send any nut products (or may contain) to school with your child. Please note that items from bulk food locations often come into contact with nuts. Please check their safety before sending them to school. Per Thames Valley’s Policy, please do not send Wow Butter or any items made with Wow Butter to school. Thank you for helping us to ensure the safety of each of our students.

## Student Information & Attendance

Please ensure that you have signed up for School Cash Online, School Messenger and are able to access your Parent Portal.

Have you moved? New cell number? Landline is gone? Safe contacts to pick up your student have changed? Ensure your Student Information is up to date!

Contact the school office for assistance with these programs at [kettlecreek@tvdsb.ca](mailto:kettlecreek@tvdsb.ca)

## CELL PHONE POLICY

All devices should be “off and away” during the school day. It is school policy that these devices are not used during school hours unless directly supervised by school staff.

We also request that you do not text your child. If you need to contact them, please call the school office and speak with office staff. They will be more than happy to pass on your message or page your child down to the office to speak with you on the school phone. Limiting the use of electronic devices ensures the safety of all students and prevents distractions from their schoolwork.

## Kettle Creek Home and School

Our Home and School Council usually meets the first Thursday of each month. All are welcome to attend. Our first meeting will be September 26th, 2024, at 6:30 PM in the school library. We are able to provide childcare if requested. Please find the recent newsletter on the Home and School Facebook page, the school Facebook Page and on our website under “Parents” and “Home and School”.

A September newsletter will be coming soon.

We are always looking for extra helping hands, so if anyone is interested in being part of this great organization, we can be contacted at [kettlecreekhomeandschool@gmail.com](mailto:kettlecreekhomeandschool@gmail.com)

## Medical Information

If your child has medical concern such as allergies, asthma or other medical conditions, please go online to fill out the Individual Plan of Care (IPOC) information through the parent portal. Please contact Mrs. Noble in the office if you are unsure of where to find this form.

### Supporting Students with Prevalent Medical / Health Conditions in Schools

To ensure children with **potentially life-threatening medical conditions** remain safe while attending school, TVDSB requests Parents/Guardians update the necessary medical information on the Parent Portal so that an Individual Plan of Care (IPOC) for the student can be reviewed by the school’s administration. Medical conditions considered potentially life-threatening may include:

1. Asthma
2. Anaphylaxis
3. Epilepsy
4. Type 1 Diabetes
5. Any other potentially life-threatening condition that could result in a medical incident\* (discuss with your school administrator)

Parents/Guardians can provide important information about their child’s life-threatening or prevalent medical condition by logging into the TVDSB Parent Portal and clicking on the following tab: **Student Medical Information**. Once an Individual Plan of Care is submitted, the school administrator will then review the information. Parents/Guardians may be contacted for further information, if required.

Parents/Guardians who cannot access the Parent Portal on the Internet should contact the school office. Please note that Parents/Guardians are expected to be active participants in supporting the management of the student’s prevalent medical condition(s) while the student is in school. **It is the responsibility of Parents/Guardians to inform the school of such conditions to ensure the student’s safety at school.**

*\*A medical incident is a circumstance that requires an immediate response and monitoring, since the incident may progress to an emergency requiring contact with Emergency Medical Services—911.*

## Colour Houses

We are continuing with our Colour Houses this year, although students may be in a different colour house than last year. This program is designed to help our school community, build citizenship, and give students a sense of belonging and ownership. This is how it works: each student is assigned to a 'house colour', identified by one of six colors: Red, Yellow, Purple, Orange, Green or Blue. Within their house colour designation, students participate in special events, assemblies, and other cross grade activities throughout the year. Each colour house is made up of students from grades kindergarten to grade eight and provides opportunities for positive interaction among the grade levels. By mixing the students from across the grade levels in a house, it provides opportunities for students to meet peers with whom they may not otherwise interact. It also allows our older students to build skills related to citizenship, responsibility, and mentorship. All staff members are also part of the house colour teams. The house color system is meant to get all students and staff involved in school activities and build school community and a sense of belonging. Students earn points for their house by participating in school activities and demonstrating positive behaviours. All staff can award points to any student, both in class and on the yard. The winning house each month earns a reward and celebrates together.

## Drop Off and Pick Up

If your child is not taking a school bus to school, please drop them off between 9-9:15 AT THE ARENA parking lot. Our "Kiss and Ride" program has staff who will welcome and direct your child to the back playground area using their designated pathways. (Junior/Intermediate students will use the arena walkway and Kindergarten and Primary students will use the front sidewalk.) If you are picking your child up at the end of the day, please write a note in your child's planner, or use the school attendance system so the teacher can remind your child at the end of the day. All NON-BUS students will walk with to the pick-up area by the arena parking lot to meet their parent/guardians. School is dismissed at 3:45 PM. If your child has permission to bike or walk home, please send a note to the school and we will keep that on file in the office.

## IMPORTANT DATES!

September 30th – Orange Shirt Day

September 26th - Home and School Council Meeting @ 6:30 PM

October 3rd– Meet the Family BBQ (5-7 pm)

October 10<sup>th</sup> – School Photo Day