

James Strath Public School News

Focus on Success



KAWARTHA PINE RIDGE
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

September 25th, 2020

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From the Office...

We certainly want to welcome all our students and staff back for the 2020 - 2021 school year and extend a warm welcome to students and families who are new to the James Strath Public School community.

We also welcome new staff members to JSPS: Mary Reynolds (Secretary), Jody Smith (Secretary), Roberta Peever (ECE-FDK), Carol Ann Macneil (LTO FDK), Andrea Morgan (LTO -Grade 3/4), Jason Wang (LTO - French), Lana Lafrance (EA), Ryan Staunton, Carolyn Copson (Custodian), Jennifer Johnston (Vice Principal).

Thank you to our custodial team for doing such a fantastic job cleaning the school this summer. Thanks to Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Reynolds for their hard work in the office preparing for the school year. Thank you

On behalf of the staff at James Strath, we extend best wishes for an exciting and successful school year.

Glen Payne - Principal
Jennifer Johnston - Vice Principal

#WEARESTRATH

2020-2021 School Day Schedule

7:45 a.m.	Office opens
8:00 a.m.	Yard Supervision begins
8:15 – 9:55 a.m.	First Block
9:55 - 10:35 a.m.	Recreation/Nutrition Break
10:35 – 12:15	Second Block
12:15 - 12:55 p.m.	Recreation/Nutrition Break
12:55 – 2:35 p.m.	Third Block
2:45 p.m.	Buses leave
3:45 p.m.	Office closes



Safe School Initiatives

As per COVID-19 procedures parents are reminded to drop off their children at the playground entry/exit doors between 8:00-8:15 a.m. at the beginning of the school day and to meet their child(ren) at a prearranged location at the front of the school or at the appropriate exit doors at the 2:35 p.m. bell to support the Safe School initiatives.

Parents/guardians are required to wear masks while on school property. . Please do not enter the building without an appointment or enter the yard to drop-off or pick up your child.

We thank you for your support of these initiatives to further ensure the safety of your child(ren).

Mask Protocol

All students in Grades 4-8 are required to wear non-medical face masks indoors in school, including hallways, during classes and transported in a school vehicle. Students in K – Grade 3 are strongly encouraged to wear masks.

Masks should be:

- Large enough to completely cover the nose and mouth without gaping
- Fit securely with ties or ear loops
- Made of at least 2 layers of tightly woven material (cotton/linen)
- Changed if wet, damaged, or soiled
- Cleaned with soap and water

While being worn, masks should not be touched, moved around or adjusted often. Hands should be sanitized before putting on a mask and after taking it off.

[Wearing masks at school information poster.](#)

Parents/guardians are required to wear masks on school property.

Safe Welcome Program Visitors and Volunteers

By appointment only

The Safe Welcome Program is in effect at JSPS. Our school has front door security systems and locked doors, which include a camera and intercom, connected with the school offices. Parents and visitors need to arrange meetings in advance and complete the COVID-19 pre-screening tool, prior to coming to the school. Parents/guardian and visitors are required to buzz the office and await a response prior to entering on the day and time of the pre-arranged appointment. Please wait to be “buzzed in” by office staff, who will release the door lock from inside. All other outside doors to the school will remain locked, as they have been in the past. We do understand that this procedure may cause some inconvenience; however, the safety of James Strath students is our highest priority. Volunteer assistance is not taking place in the school at this time.



Allergen Aware School

As we begin a new school year we would like to inform you that James Strath is an allergen aware school. There are students and staff in attendance who suffer from severe and life threatening allergies to certain foods, such as peanut and nut products. Exposure to the smallest quantities can cause severe life threatening reactions.

We would appreciate the co-operation of the entire school community by NOT sending any lunches or snacks that contain nuts, nut oils or derivatives (e.g. peanut butter, peanuts, or peanut oil) which could potentially harm someone.

Furthermore, bringing cologne and perfume to school is *not permitted*. A number of individuals are highly sensitive to scents which can result in severe headaches and asthma attacks. Aerosol deodorant is discouraged as students often spray it at their locker, creating a dangerous situation in our hallways.

Thank you for your attention to these important matters.



Student Verification Forms

KPRDSB will be sending Student Verification Forms via a student portal. An email will be sent with instructions to access the form and will require the student's OEN (Ontario Education Number) which can be found on the report card. Please update/complete all pages of the Verification Form as it is used to update our student data base. ***It is very important that we have accurate information, especially parent contact numbers for emergencies and current email addresses.***

Bus Safety

Please review the following rules for students riding the school bus, as this will help ensure student safety.

Students are required to:

- be at the bus stop at least 5 minutes before the pickup time
- listen to the driver when getting on or off the bus, especially when a road must be crossed
- go directly to their seat and stay seated until they are let off the bus
- follow all instructions from the bus driver especially where they put their belongings
- not eat or drink, fight, swear or engage in other types of poor behavior
- not open or close windows unless the driver permits
- keep all belongings inside the bus
- keep arms, hands, heads etc. inside the bus
- not damage the bus seats (students will be held responsible)
- respect private property

Every effort must be made to maintain a high standard of discipline and safety in the operation of the school buses. On the **FIRST** occasion of improper behavior, the Principal will speak to the student. On the **SECOND** occasion, a letter or phone call will be made to the parents.

For any inquiries regarding bussing, including cancellation and delays, please contact Student Transportation Services of Central Ontario at 705-748-5500 or visit their website at www.stsco.ca



Violence Threat Risk Assessment

The KPR Board is committed to providing safe learning environments for all. When students behave inappropriately, principals use progressive discipline to change behaviour. When student behaviours pose a potential threat to safety or serious harm, KPR's Violence Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA) protocol helps principals take immediate steps to protect student well-being. While such incidents are rare, the VTRA outlines how we work with local police, mental health providers and community agencies to keep students safe.

[Read more about the protocol](#), including notification requirements, in the Safe, Caring and Restorative Schools section of kprschools.ca

As always, student safety is our first priority. Should you have any questions, please contact the office.



Parking Lot and Driveway

The school parking lot and driveway have been updated to try and meet the busy times prior to the start of school and at the end of the school day. While driving on school property, please drive slowly, with caution, and in a courteous manner. Please be prepared to stop around the crosswalk area in front of the school. Please also note that we have had added two Kiss and Ride areas in the right lane (we are using these as drop off areas only and should not have anyone parking). Should you need parking there are spots available for short term parking in the front lot. Students and guests are reminded to use the crosswalk area when walking to and from vehicles. Also, thank you for not parking in our accessible parking spots unless you have proper identification/visible permit. We thank you for working together with our staff on duty, and other Strath community members, in a safe and respectful manner.

School Council Update

Welcome back to another school year and a big welcome to all new students and families!

School Council elections occur in September. Nomination forms for Parent Representatives and information on the election process are available by contacting the school office. In order to be a voting Parent Representative on the James Strath School Council you need to submit one of these Nomination forms.

There are limited positions available. The deadline for nomination forms to be returned to the school office, is Wednesday, September 30, 2020 at 8:15am. If an election is required, the ballots will be emailed on October 2, 2020 for returned by email by Tuesday, October 6 at 8:15 am.

Remember, you don't have to be a voting member to attend School Council. **At our first meeting on October 7, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.,** we will be electing our new Executive from the elected Parent Representatives. This will be a virtual meeting. A link will be sent to interested parents/guardians on Tuesday, October 6. Join our meetings, and learn about what is going on at your child's school. We hope to see you there!



Dates to Remember

Orange shirt day – September 30
School Council Meeting – October 7
October 6 – World Cerebral Palsy Awareness Day
October 12 – Thanksgiving Monday



Classes for 2020/2021

This is the current organization for James Strath for the 2020-2021 school year. As we continue to account for enrolment changes that have occurred over the summer, there may be some revision to these classroom assignments.

<u>Grade:</u>	<u>Teacher/ECE:</u>
JK/SK	F. Lasenby/R. Peever
JK/SK	C. MacNeil/A. Turkington (Lehman)
JK/SK	A. McLean/K. Bailey
JK/SK	L. Lawrence/S. Wannamaker
Grade 1	L. Wright
Grade 1/2	A. Palmer
Grade 2	E. Healey
Grade 2	D. Kristensen
Grade 3	S. Helleman
Grade 3	D. Istead
Grade 3/4	S. Peers
Grade 4	B. Armstrong
Grade 4	B. Kelly
Grade 4/5	J. Haacke
Grade 5	L. Brown
Grade 5	K. McNamara
Grade 6	D. Ginter
Grade 6	M. Adams
Grade 6/7	K. Killen
Grade 7	L. Martin
Grade 7/8	M. Brisson
Grade 8	B. Oakley
Grade 8	G. Soligo
Grade 8	K. Schubert
Grade 8	M. Shadgett
LLS	E. Salac
Library	M. Mann
Music	J. Mackay
SERT	T. Bolton, M. Robinson-Fisher and J. Johnston
Core French	A. Nabigon-Froese, J. Wang, and J. Oltean
Planning	J. Madill and H. McBride
Support Staff	C. van Beek, M. Hanes, L. Lafrance, J. Edgerton, J. Slavik, P. Brown, S. Little, K. Young, K. Pasveer, T. Pink, N. Pollack, B. Carter, T. Forsythe

Plans of Care and Medication at School

If your child has a life-threatening allergy, or serious medical condition, **please notify the office immediately**. We need to know this information so that we can create a *Plan of Care* for your child. The forms for *Plan of Care* can be found on the school website. To access the form, please download it directly to your computer and open from the folder you've saved the form to. If you have any further questions, please contact Ms. Johnston in the office.

Please be advised that for safety reasons, no child should bring any form of medication to school without prior approval from the office. The school will store necessary medication if an Administration of Medication Form has been filled out and **signed by the doctor**. Forms are available in the office.



James Strath Nutrition Program

The Student Nutrition Program at James Strath supports the healthy development of children and helps children attend school ready to learn. Research shows many benefits including improved academic performance, higher rates of school attendance, fewer classroom disruptions, and improved student behaviour.

Students may come to school hungry for a number of reasons such as hurried morning routines, long bus rides to school, not feeling hungry before leaving for school, insufficient food in the home, or early morning practices and rehearsals.

This is a universal program, free for all students. Each day, students have access to fresh produce, whole grains and dairy products. The program looks different this year as measures have been taken to ensure student safety. Snacks are available at the office.

School Cash Online

Fast, simple, and secure, no need to send cash with your child or write cheques. James Strath Public School is pleased to announce that all school fees, field trips, team fees and items can be paid for online from the comfort of your own home.

Pay ONLINE! Register now at <https://kprdsb.schoolcashionline.com>. It takes less than 5 minutes.



Edsby and Our School Website

Our school website can be found at:

<http://jamesstrath.kprdsb.ca/>

We are working to update the information on the website, so please check regularly for information regarding about the school and upcoming events.

Also, you will be able to access information through your Edsby account for your students here at James Strath. Please contact the office with any questions regarding Edsby. If you require assistance accessing your Edsby account, please contact Mrs. Smith in the office jody_smith@kprdsb.ca

Police Record Checks

Although volunteers are currently not permitted in the schools, as per KPR Board policy, all volunteers must have a current police record check filed at the school before working with any students. Please contact the school office to learn how you can obtain an application should volunteers be possible at a later date.

Student Absence Reporting System

Please inform the school of your child's upcoming absences at one of the following:

- studentabsence.kprdsb.ca
- 1-844-434-8119
- the **SchoolMessenger** mobile app on your device

You are able to report all of your children's upcoming absences at a time that's convenient for you - 24 hours a day, seven days a week.



Parents and Guardians

You can take advantage of our Text Messaging Service

KPRDSB utilizes the SchoolMessenger system to deliver text messages, straight to your mobile phone with important information about events, school closings, safety alerts and more.

You can opt into this free service* now just by sending a text message to 978338 with the message of "Y" or "Yes". You will receive a text confirming your registration.

You can opt out of these messages at any time by simply replying to one of our messages with "Stop".



SchoolMessenger is compliant with the Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act, so you can rest assured that your information is safe and will never be given or sold to anyone.

Opt-In from your mobile now! Just send "Y" or "Yes" to now 978338.

*Terms and Conditions – Message frequency varies. Standard message and data rates may apply. Reply HELP for help. Text STOP to cancel. Mobile carriers are not liable for delayed or undelivered messages. See schoolmessenger.com/txt for more info.

Morning Routine

Students and staff are required to complete a daily COVID self-screening prior to entering schools or any KPR place of work. The document below can be used for self-screening purposes or you can complete screening online here:

<https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>

MORNING CHECKLIST

School morning routines might look a little different this year, so we have put together a checklist to help!

In addition to getting dressed, eating breakfast, brushing hair and teeth, families also need to think about the following items:

- Daily COVID self-assessment**
 - Review the self-screening checklist each day with your children before sending them to school. If they answer 'yes' to any of the questions, keep your child home and contact your health care provider or a COVID Assessment Centre for direction. The Ontario government also has an online screening tool for schools: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>
- Masks**
 - Send students with at least two masks per day in case one gets dirty.
 - Remind children about how to wear and handle masks properly.
 - Send a paper bag for storing masks in back packs.
- Wash or sanitize hands**
 - Before and after bus transportation, and
 - Upon arrival at school.
 - Students will be reminded to wash or sanitize hands frequently during the school day.

Help Stop the Spread
www.kprschools.ca

Student Belongings from 2019-2020

There are a number of belongings that were not retrieved at the end of the school year. If your child is missing belongings from lockers or shoes from classrooms, please email the office at jamesstrathps@kprdsb.ca

Unclaimed items will be donated after October 9, 2020.

