

Otonabee Valley Public School Newsletter



January 27th, 2022

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From the Office...

Happy New Year! We are excited to be back for in-person learning here at Otonabee Valley! Thank you, students, parents, guardians, and staff for your hard work and perseverance during remote learning and for such a successful transition back to class at school.

Families are reminded that all students at Otonabee Valley are required to wear masks inside the school and outdoors while on school property when they are not able to physically distance by 2 metres. This includes during recess and outdoor physical education classes, as well as upon arrival and dismissal from school.

Supervision begins on the school yard at 8:55 a.m. Students are encouraged to arrive at or after this time and are to head to their class lines where they can stay safely distanced. Our school day begins at 9:10 a.m. and ends at 3:30 p.m. Classes are dismissed at the end of the day in a manner that allows for distancing in our hallways and on the school grounds. Thank you for your patience with this process.

Prior to each school day, parents and guardians are required to use the Ministry of Health screening tool, which can be found at the following link:

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

For everyone's safety, you must take the steps that are identified in the screening tool based on the symptoms experienced.

If a child begins to experience symptoms of illness while attending school, parents, guardians, or emergency contacts will be contacted for pick up.

With reduced access to testing, schools and school boards often will not have information about positive COVID cases in schools and are no longer publicly reporting cases. As part of our Board's commitment to support student and staff safety and open communication, when we are informed of possible COVID exposures as a result of positive Rapid Antigen Tests or PCR tests, we will share that information with affected classes, staff, and/or buses.

School absence reports will also be shared daily with local public health units and the province. When levels of absenteeism are 30 per cent higher than average daily absence rates, public health units will communicate with families and staff to ensure they are aware of the absence levels and may provide recommendations to the school or for families. Schools will also monitor attendance for sudden increases in absences or unusually high absence rates in a particular class.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact the office by phone at 705-745-0651 or email at matthew_gennings@kprdsb.ca

Stay safe and take care,

Matt Gennings - Principal

Please Wear Masks at Pick-Up/Drop-Off

Parents, guardians, and family members are asked to please wear masks during pick-up and drop-off times and to keep as distanced as possible while on school property.

Also, the snow hills in the parking lot are out of bounds for students – please do not allow your children to play on these hills as our parking lot is quite busy. Thank you for your co-operation.

Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten Registration is now open for the 2022-23 school year! Please visit www.kprschools.ca/kindergarten for registration information and to learn more about our inclusive and engaging Kindergarten classrooms where students learn through play with our awesome teachers and early childhood educators.

Term One Report Cards and Interviews

Report cards for our first term are scheduled to be sent home on Tuesday, February 22nd and will be available for families through Edsby. Additional information will be sent home by classroom teachers regarding interviews closer to the report card date. Interviews will take place by phone or video conference to ensure the safety of all community members. We will not be holding in-person interviews at this time.

Inclement Weather Procedures

When bus transportation is cancelled due to inclement weather, the school **will remain open** for in-person learning. Supervision begins on the school yards at 8:55 a.m. each morning as per any other school day.

All bus cancellation notifications will be posted on STSCO's website, www.stsco.ca, by 6:15 a.m. Radio stations and STSCO's social media accounts will also be updated at the same time.

If your child does not ride a bus to school, you will still need to call the school if they are absent on an inclement weather day. Families with students who ride the bus are not required to call in and report the absence.

P.A. Day and Family Day

Monday, January 31st is a P.A. Day for all schools in KPR. There is no school for students on this day.

The Family Day holiday this year takes place on Monday, February 21st and schools will be closed on this day.

Nut Safe and Scent Sensitive School

Otonabee Valley Public School is a nut safe and scent sensitive environment. Please avoid sending **any food containing or that may contain nut products** with your child to school. Also, we ask that you and your child(ren) please do not bring or wear perfumes, colognes, or strong fragrances to school. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Masks and Water Bottles

Please send your child(ren) with two or more masks per day in case one gets dirty. Masks must be cleaned prior to being worn again and this can be done in the laundry or with soap and water. Masks must fit the child's face, be worn over the nose and mouth, and **must have ear loops to keep them securely in place**. Please do not send your child with gaiters, as these do not provide a snug fit. Additional masks are available at the office as well.

Please also have your child(ren) bring their water bottle to school each day for filling at our filling stations as needed throughout the day.

O.V.P.S. School Council

Parents, guardians, and community members are invited to take part in the Otonabee Valley School Council. New members are always encouraged and welcome. We will be confirming the dates and times of our upcoming meetings shortly.

O.V.P.S. School Council Executive:

Chair: Chrystal Woodcock

Secretary/Vice Chair: Wendy Thompson

Treasurer: Laura Warren

Parent Representative: Amber Webber