

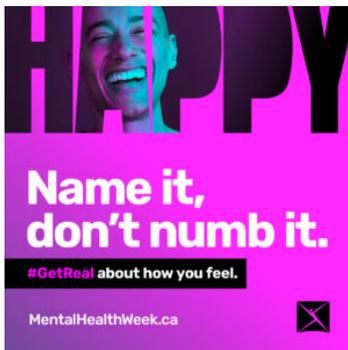
NEWSLETTER

Northumberland Hills Public School Special Edition #12: *May 10th, 2021*



To our Northumberland Hills Community,

We have now come to the end of our third week of virtually learning. The reality of how difficult this emergency situation is for families does not go unnoticed. Our staff continue to offer their online programs and they are adapting to the changing needs of students and their unique home situations.



The focus this week was on Mental Health. KPRDSB and CAMH partnered together to focus on #GetReal: Noticing, naming and talking about the real emotions we are experiencing. When we acknowledge and talk about our feelings, we are better able to cope and build resilience through the support of others.

I'm interested in hearing your thoughts. If you have a moment, please fill out this [Parent Voice Survey](#). The information you provide will give us insights into what is working well and how we can reflect on practices that may serve our community better. We will continue to be responsive, while adhering to the restrictions placed on us by the emergency shut-down measures that limit in-person connections.

PARENT/CAREGIVER VOICES & EMPOWERMENT

This past week, all grade 4 to 8 students participated in a workshop on social networking and online safety with expert speaker, PAUL DAVIS. Some of the highlights of his conversation with students included:

- NO social media before turning 13
- NO devices in your bedroom - this is where bad decisions are made
- Report and shutdown online harassment when you see it

This same message was shared with parents in the parent workshop that evening. We had 30 parents participate in the evening workshop and the feedback was positive. There is still a lot to learn as we support our kids with social media, cyberbullying and online harassment. PAUL DAVIS will be providing an additional opportunity for parents/caregivers to work with him in late JUNE. An email and link will be sent as soon as a date is set.

VOICE YOUR OPINION
 TAKE OUR SURVEY!

Online Learning and Families:

Please take 5 minutes to fill out the ONLINE SURVEY:

[Parent Voice Survey](#).

Thank You KING'S PLATE CATERING!!

Please join me in thanking Darren Lawn and members of the School Council for organizing the Food Truck Fundraiser. The folks at King's Plate Catering were able to serve almost 160 meals in 2 hours and raised \$1000.00 for school council priorities.

COVID-19 CHILD BENEFIT

Under this new round of funding from the Ontario Government, payments of \$400 per child (aged 0 to Grade 12) and \$500 for a child with special needs (aged 0-21yrs) will be provided to help offset additional learning costs.

Who Can Apply?

- Parents who did not apply for or receive the Support for Learners program can apply for the new funding at the COVID-19 Child Benefit link below starting May 3 with a deadline of May 17.
- Only one parent or guardian may apply for each child. The parent or guardian should have custody of the child. This could include a parent or guardian with shared custody.
- It is up to the child's parents or guardians to determine who will apply. We are not involved in these decisions and we will not accept more than one application per child.

What Info Do You Need To Apply?

When applying, you will need the following information for each child or youth:

- the name of their school and school board (if applicable)
- date of birth
- a valid email address (e-transfer) or your banking information (bank name, branch or transit number and account number)

How and When to Apply?

Parents who did not apply for or receive the Support for Learners program can apply for the new funding at the COVID-19 Child Benefit link below starting May 3 with a deadline of May 17.

[Apply for COVID-19 Child Benefit](#)

Questions?

For more information please visit ontario.ca/covidchildbenefit. For assistance or questions regarding this application, please contact the Ontario COVID-19 Child Benefit helpline at 1-888-444-3770. TTY (for the hearing impaired): 1-800-268-7095.

ONLINE PROGRAM DELIVERY @TheHillsPS

The following is a breakdown of divisional program delivery at Northumberland Hills PS:

KINDERGARTEN

In Kindergarten, educator teams have learned a lot over the past several months about how students and families approach learning during school closures. Although synchronous learning opportunities such as full class Google Meets, immediate feedback through EDSBY and email/phone conversations continue to be the cornerstone of our online portions of learning, families have said that they prefer the flexibility of working with their children on activities and experiences that are provided by the classroom team.

Our Kindergarten educators are working hard to keep students engaged, but want to be responsive to the individual needs of each family. If you need additional support during this time, continue to reach out. Our educators are available to support and are monitoring their programming to ensure it continues to meet the needs of the students and families in the coming weeks.

PRIMARY & EARLY JUNIOR (Gr. 1-4)

In the Primary and Early Junior years, there are a variety of approaches that classes take to engage in the learning while schools are closed. These differences occur because teachers are being responsive to the needs of their unique community of learners. Teachers have used their learning from past experiences and the feedback from families to identify how to best meet the learning goals of students during school closures.

We recognize that primary virtual learning adds additional pressure on families. Independence is still being developed at this stage and staying focused in front of a screen for extended periods of time can become problematic – particularly for working families. To minimize the impact on parents/caregivers, large group online meets will be used in combination with small group instruction, email/EDSBY conversations and one-on-one instruction. The number and length of each session are dependent on the needs and availability of the students. Teachers establish consistent meeting schedules that allow time for peer connection, direct instruction, and review of tasks/assignments.

Our primary team responds to emails and messages throughout the day and are open to making themselves available for one-on-one support when the need arises. They have indicated clear “office hours”. Office hours are the times you can expect to receive a response within a reasonable time frame (i.e., 10-20 minutes). They have also indicated when they are not available and this is to facilitate lunch breaks and planning time for future lessons.

UPPER JUNIOR & INTERMEDIATE (Gr. 5-8)

In our Upper Junior and Intermediate divisions, students have greater independence, so the structure of the day may include more time in front of computers. Teachers have established a structured timetable that aligns very closely to the regular face-to-face learning experience. Educators and families have observed that (in general) students at this age can communicate more effectively without a parent sitting beside them. Students have developed stronger organizational skills, making them more independent than those in the early years. These students can focus in front of a screen for longer periods of time.

Throughout the day, there is a combination of full group meets, online student break-out rooms (monitored by the teacher), one-on-one teacher-to-student conferences, and direct student-to-student interactions. Teachers continue to provide timely feedback on assigned work and planning time teachers (i.e., French and Library) continue to interact with students daily.

Teachers have established clear times that they are available to answer questions when they are not online and will respond to messages within a reasonable timeframe. Students know when lunch and body-breaks occur, giving time throughout the day when everyone moves away from the virtual world.



TOGETHERNESS & PRIDE

Students, parents, caregivers, and educators have been forced into a less than ideal situation. Everyone is working hard to keep the learning experiences as meaningful for students as possible without overburdening families who must continue to work themselves. Patience and understanding are essential during this time so that we can monitor, adjust, and curate learning experiences that are right for each age and stage. Even though the model of delivery in each division is different, all students have access to their educators for direct learning opportunities that

align with the Ministry of Education PPM 164.

If you are still unclear about how your child's program is structured or how to connect with the teacher in a reasonable timeframe, please let them know directly. Northumberland Hills Public School has an outstanding team of educators that we should be proud of. They are working around the clock to ensure your child gets as much out of this challenging situation as possible. Stress is exceptionally high, but their care and commitment to student success remains intact.

Thank you for being there for your children and providing the feedback needed to support the ongoing learning at our school. #STORMProud #NHPStrong

IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE - 905-344-7361

Please note that the office remains open during school closures to assist you.
We are available 9am - 4pm, Monday to Friday.

Phone 905-344-7361

email: stephen_koshurba@kprdsb.ca; wanda_lansley@kprdsb.ca



You can also reach out through private EDSBY messaging.

ADDITIONAL STUDENT SUPPORT??

If your child needs additional support to continue the learning at home, please let your child's teacher, and/or the office know. We have access to Educational Assistants who can support with additional online tutoring and coaching as needed. Call: 905-344-7361

TECHNOLOGY REQUESTS

IF YOU NEED TECHNOLOGY, please use this link for all requests - <https://forms.gle/1Gp3Vz4pojr4UugN9>
This is the most efficient way for our tech department to process these requests centrally.

If students/families have any issues with the Google Form, please email KPR_Technology@kprdsb.ca

Families without access to technology can call 1-877-741-4577, ext. 3003; you will be asked to leave a parent/caregiver name, phone number, student name, home school, Ontario Education Number, and technology need. The OEN number can be found on the top of any student Report Card