

NEWSLETTER

Northumberland Hills Public School
Edition #14: June 4th, 2021



To our Northumberland Hills Community,

This week, our government confirmed that schools will be closed to in-person learning for the remainder of the school year. We are still in consultation with the province and the school board to determine how graduation ceremonies will take place. I assure you that our teachers and School Council have been working hard for several months to create a meaningful graduation ceremony for all students. We will continue down this path unless otherwise instructed.

We are aware of the anxiety that this announcement places on families and caregivers. This is not the outcome we were hoping for, but online learning will continue until the end of the term, June 29th. We are determining a plan for the pick-up of student belongings over the coming weeks and will provide you with an update as soon as those details are available.

For the next few weeks, continue to make well-being a priority. An immense pressure has been placed on education this past year and families have had to deal with a lot. Continue to let your child's teacher know if there is anything that you need before the end of the school year.



PLANNING WITH INTENTION

Last Friday, May 28th, all educators met for the day to reflect on the priorities around student success in the coming year. Like you, our staff acknowledge that there are concerns around the loss of learning that has occurred since last March. Here are some of the priorities we identified for the coming weeks and into the new year:

SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL CONNECTIONS:

- Focus on building student relationships and a school community through assemblies, events, and activities either virtual or face-to-face
- Teachers will use innovative ways of connecting classes and divisions both virtually and in-person while adhering to health protocols.

ACADEMIC SUCCESS: Literacy & Mathematics

- Immediately understand what students know and don't know through individual assessments of reading, writing and mathematics.
- Form intervention groups that target specific skill building using resource teachers, classroom instructors and other teaching staff in the building
- Evaluate resources that we use to ensure they target the learning needs of our students in each division, particularly in the area of mathematics.
- When appropriate, bring in volunteers and community agencies to support student learning

NATIONAL INDIGENOUS HISTORY MONTH:

The month of June is National Indigenous History month. Throughout the month, students and staff work together to continue the learning and unlearning that generations before them didn't have the opportunity to explore. Learning and understanding supports the development of empathy and drives action for positive change with Indigenous Peoples across Canada.



WHY WE WEAR AN ORANGE SHIRT:

This month, the orange shirt, traditionally a symbol that the person wearing it believes that every child matters, has taken on greater meaning. The orange shirt also symbolizes that the person wearing it is committing to learning about and acknowledges the damage that has been done. It is worn to acknowledge the ongoing healing Indigenous communities undergo as the dark legacy of the residential school system in Canada continues to unfold.

We can all agree that children are our future and deserve the rights and freedoms gifted to all humanity. It is with great reflection that we acknowledge the deep sorrow that is sweeping across Canada as the truth of the atrocities that occurred at residential schools come to life. The discovery in BC is just one example of the sad truths that are out there. Right now, Indigenous communities deserve the right to mourn and heal.

There is a need for action from all of us - students, teachers, staff, and families - in addressing the ongoing pain that has been inflicted and learn about the truths that lie within Canada's history with Indigenous peoples.

Yes, the orange shirt represents our belief that Every Child Matters, but more importantly, it represents a commitment to learning and doing better. As we learn, we are challenged to take intentional steps towards making Canada a better place through reconciliation and change.

WEAR AN ORANGE SHIRT EVERY MONDAY THROUGH JUNE:

I will be wearing my orange shirt each Monday for the remainder of the school year to encourage reflection and action. I encourage many of you to do the same. When someone asks you, "why are you wearing an orange shirt today?" you can share your growing understanding of what you are beginning to learn about. You can continue to spread the truth and help develop understanding - show how you truly believe that Every Child Matters.

JUNE IS PRIDE MONTH:

Like all schools in our board, Northumberland Hills flies the rainbow flag as a symbol of inclusion and equity. Northumberland Hills is a safe space for all identities and PRIDE month is an opportunity for all LGBTQ2+ individuals to celebrate.

It is unfortunate that many people are judged by the type of love felt and how they express their identities. I want to be clear with you that Northumberland Hills is a safe space and we will always hold space for everyone. It can be difficult for people to come to terms with who they truly are and our school is a space that will support and listen. We have many teachers, students, and families that are fierce allies and will continue to be a support within the community for generations.



NEW KINDERGARTEN WEBSITE: **Check it out!**

Welcome to Kindergarten at Northumberland Hills PS! We're looking forward to welcoming new Kindergarten students to our school this September. Check out the [WELCOME TO KINDERGARTEN AT NHPS](#) website for information on registration and what to expect. Meet the educator team and see the program in action!

To register, visit www.kprschools.ca/kindergarten to register online for the 2021-22 school year or call our office at 905-344-7361 and we would be happy to support.

GRADE 8 GRADUATION **Thursday, June 24th**

Our grade 8 team is working hard to make this year's graduation ceremony a memorable one. We are planning a hybrid virtual/drive-by graduation ceremony.

In preparation for the big send off, grade 8 students will be getting their grad photos taken this Sunday, May 30th. Highlights of our ceremony include:

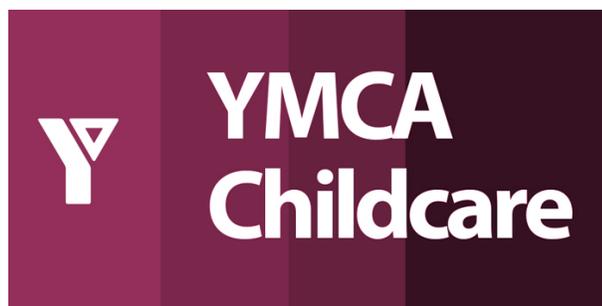


- Lawn sign keepsakes for each graduate
- Handing out of diplomas
- Virtual Awards Ceremony - broadcast over FM Radio
- Valedictorian Address
- Sweatshirt keepsakes with Gr. 8 logo design

Our students have worked hard and the grade 8 leaving ceremony is a right of passage that COVID-19 will not take away. This will be a fun event for the community to send our very own graduates off with style. Thank-you to our NHPS School Council for their generous donations of time and financial support.

YMCA Before and After School Programs **@TheHillsPS**

Northumberland Hills PS is fortunate to have a strong partnership with YMCA Northumberland to provide before and after school programs for students. **LIMITED SPACES ARE AVAILABLE.** Please contact the YMCA daycare directly - they will be happy to share information and availability with you. Email them at Childcare.Info@ymca.ca



IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE - **905-344-7361**

Please note that the office remains open during school closures to assist you. We are available 9am - 3pm, Monday to Friday. Phone 905-344-7361; email: stephen_koshurba@kprdsb.ca; wanda_lansley@kprdsb.ca

TECHNOLOGY REQUESTS

IF YOU NEED TECHNOLOGY, please use this link for all requests - <https://forms.gle/1Gp3Vz4pajr4UugN9>
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