



Knoxdale Public School

170 Greenbank Road
Nepean, Ontario, K2H 5V2

Tel: (613) 828-0010 FAX: (613) 828-2973

SEPTEMBER 2016



OTTAWA-CARLETON
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Principal: Andrea Williams
Vice Principal: Charles Powers
Office Administrator: Susan Read
Administrator Assistant: Colette Dewey

Superintendent: Frank Wiley
Trustee: Donna Blackburn
Chief Custodian: Chris Rippstein
School Council Chair: Heather Gordon

<http://www.knoxdaleps.ocdsb.ca>

Mission Statement

Educating for success - inspiring learning and building citizenship

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Welcome back to parents/guardians of students who are returning and to the families of students who are new to our school. We are looking ahead to a great year!

We are into our third week of the new school year and we look forward to working in partnership with you in providing a quality educational program for your children.

Introducing the Knoxdale 2016-2017 Team

Andrea Williams Principal
Charles Powers Vice-Principal
Susan Read Office Administrator
Colette Dewey Administrator Assistant
Chris Rippstein Chief Custodian

The Kindergarten Teams

Kathryn Vander Pluym (ECE), Megan Skentelbery (Teacher), Margaret Ketchum (Teacher), Judi Marinoff (ECE)
Leah Day (ECE), Darlene Reade (Teacher), Risa Wine (ECE)
Shelby Ewing (ECE), Laura King (Teacher), Casandra Williams (ECE)
Jessica Braks (ECE), Tracy Davis (Teacher), Kayleigh Stepanian (ECE)
Krystal Kirkwood (ECE), Jennifer Martin (Teacher), Heather Kerr-Gauthier (ECE)

Primary and Junior EFI/MFI

Catherine Archambault Grade 1 EFI
Karl Herbert Grade 1 EFI
Julie Trudel Grade 1 EFI

Sarah Chay Grade 1 EFI
Malika Bennani Grade 2 EFI
Margaret Ketchum Grade 2 EFI
Gladys Zarecki Grade 2 EFI
Lyne Proulx Grades 2 EFI
Beverley Charron Grade 3 EFI
Francis Guay-Montserrat Grade 3 EFI
Julie Boudreau Grade 3/4 EFI
Stephanie Chambers Grade 4 EFI
Amanda Foote Grade 4 EFI (Jamie Michaud LTO)
Barbara Müller Grade 4 MFI
Paul Cameron Grades 4/5 MFI
Brenda Highmore Grade 5 EFI
Emilie Desjardins Grades 5/6 EFI
Melissa MacIntyre Grades 5/6 MFI
Ben Shepherd Specialized 5/6 Gifted
Aaron Corbett Grade 6 EFI
Jean-Guy Charette Grade 6 MFI
Corey Dawson Early French Immersion

English to French Immersion

Joanna Jackson-Kelly
Catherine Nel
Caroline Heslop
Maggie Ziade
Vicki Moles- Harding
Cynthia Jaz

Linda Arena-Glenn

Learning Support
Teacher

Shannon Lewis

Educational Assistant

Lauren Brown

Educational Assistant

Joanne Larocque



Library Technician

Please find below some important updates from school! In the last year we have moved away from more formal newsletters to more frequent updates from school through email. Generally, you can expect an update from school every three weeks.

Opening Assemblies- Our start up is always a busy time and one that is filled with excitement. In the first week of school, we held two assemblies- one for the primary students and one for the junior students. The focus of each was building our character along with building our academic skills. A video was used to generate a conversation around when we do something, what do we get in return? For example, is a reward always necessary or does the intrinsic reward far outweigh the extrinsic reward. At both assemblies, we talked about and showed videos about "Growth Mindset" and the "Power of Yet". You will see evidence of this as you walk through our halls and in the

10 Growth Mindset Statements

What can I say to myself?

FIXED MINDSET	INSTEAD OF:	TRY THINKING:	GROWTH MINDSET
	I'm not good at this. I'm awesome at this. I give up. This is too hard. I can't make this any better. I just can't do Math. I made a mistake.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1 What am I missing?2 I'm on the right track.3 I'll use some of the strategies we've learned.4 This may take some time and effort.5 I can always improve so I'll keep trying.6 I'm going to train my brain in Math.7 Mistakes help me to learn better.8 I'm going to figure out how she does it.9 Is it really my best work?10 Good thing the alphabet has 25 more letters!	
	She's so smart. I will never be that smart. It's good enough. Plan "A" didn't work.		

(Original source unknown)

@sylviaaduckworth

If you say "I can't" -
you must add the
word "yet"

PurposefulPrincipals.com

classrooms. The primary assembly focused on how to be kind ; how kind words and actions can fill others' buckets and also our own. We look at the many ways we can work together to keep all of our buckets full all of the time. The junior assembly focused on the question of "What will we do to make a positive impact?". Students had the opportunity to collaborate in their colour houses on this question. They will then use this with their full colour house (k-6) at our official Colour House Launch which will be held in October. Each student and staff has been assigned to

a Colour House and they will stay in their house throughout their time at Knoxdale. We think this is an excellent team and community building opportunity, as well as, providing leadership options for some of our older Eagles. We look forward to providing you with more information with respect to our launch in the near future.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!

Our Meet the Teacher is scheduled for Thursday, September 29th and this year is going to be a little different as we turn this night into a community event for the whole family! Not only is it Meet the Teacher night, but it is also Food Truck night at Knoxdale. Come meet your children's teacher, re-connect with friends and enjoy some dinner and dessert from the food trucks that will be on-site. While you are enjoying dinner, you'll be helping support the Eagle's Nest Playground Project. A portion of all food truck sales will be going directly to the renewal of our front yard.

The Food Trucks (Wraps n' Stuff, Flapjacks and The Merry Dairy) will be operating throughout the evening (5:00 to 7:30). Please note that the trucks will be **CASH only**.

Also, please keep an eye out for the Eagles' Nest table as you leave the event. Pick up a few flyers to deliver on your street and help spread the word about the project in the broader school community. Let's see how much of our community we can cover when everyone pitches in!

The schedule for the evening is as follows:

5:00-7:30- Dinner available at the food trucks

5:00-6:00- Junior class visits (grades 4-6 *including grade 3/4)

6:30-7:30- Primary class visits

We look forward to seeing you there!

Safety

Safety is our number one priority. Thank you for sending in your verification forms. As your contact numbers, emails etc. change, please keep the office updated with these changes (email to knoxstudentabsence@ocdsb.ca). As part of our review of safety procedures at school, we will be holding three practice fire drills and a practice lockdown in the near future.



Attendance and Safe Arrival

If your child is going to be absent or late arriving, please call our Safe Arrival Line at 613-828-0010, Ext. 500. Also, you may e-mail the school at knoxstudentabsence@ocdsb.ca. Please remember if the busses are cancelled and your child(ren) is/are walkers, we still require you to call to advise us that your child will be staying home. You can also use these contacts to advise the office in advance of upcoming holidays or time away from school.



Terry Fox Walk

Last week you received a letter regarding our Terry Fox Walk and a permission form. Our walk is taking place on Thursday, September 29th. All students in grades 1-6 must have the field trip form returned in order to participate as our walk takes us off school property. I have included the form as an attachment should you need an additional copy. We encourage all students to wear red and white - our Knoxdale colours!

Allergy Alert and Information

A friendly reminder that some of our students have life-threatening allergies. As such, we ask for your assistance in not sending nuts and/or nut products to school. In the past years, we have designated certain classrooms as nut-free, however, with a significant number of students with nut allergies, the growing size of our school and the possibility of cross contamination with class changes etc., we have moved towards making Knoxdale nut-free. We appreciate the cooperation of all parents who refrain from sending certain products to school that could possibly endanger some of our students.

Medication at School

If you want the school office staff to store and administer long-term prescription medications, it is mandatory to get your doctor to complete and sign the form available from the school office and our website. These forms go into a medical log which must be updated annually at the start of every school year. This applies as well for students who have severe allergies and must use an Epi-pen. Medication will be administered to the students upon receipt of the completed form, signed by the doctor. This also applies to short-term prescription and over the counter medications.

More Important Information Regarding Your Child's Safety

Student safety is our number one priority, and we appreciate your cooperation. With this in mind, please note: Drawstrings on jackets, sweatshirts, clothing items pose a danger to your child, as well as scarves. They can become snagged on school bus handrails or doors, on playground equipment or other mechanical equipment and cause injury or death. We recommend removing drawstrings from clothing and using neck warmers in the winter instead of scarves.

Yard Supervision, School Hours and Office Information

Our school hours are from 8:00am until 2:30pm. Supervision on the school yard in the morning begins at 7:45am. Therefore, please ensure that your child does not arrive at school earlier than 7:45am. Office hours are from 7:30am until 3:30pm. While we do attempt to answer all telephone calls as they come in, from time to time you will have a message picked up by voice mail. We will return your call as soon as possible, but please do not leave any urgent calls on our voice mail. Last minute messages may not be transferred on time, and we request that if you want a change of routine, such as picking up your child before regular dismissal, to please send a note to the homeroom teacher.

Thank you for signing in!

All visitors and parents to the school or portables are required to report to the office upon entering the building. You will be asked to sign our Visitor's Register and receive an identification tag to wear while you are in the school building. When we see your Visitor Tag we know you have signed in at the office.

Parents are requested not to go to their child(ren)'s classroom or portable or to wait for them in the hall during the school day or at dismissal time. Parents who wish to meet their children at dismissal time are asked to do so at their children's normal exit door or make arrangements to meet

them at the front of the school. In addition, parents should not approach children on the yard at recess time without first checking in at the office and then notifying the teacher on yard duty.

Empty Seat Policy and Allocation

If your child is not entitled to transportation and you are interested in applying for an empty (unallocated) seat on one of our school buses, copies of the Empty Seat Application form are available for pick-up beginning Monday, September 19th. The deadline for consideration is Friday, September 30th. If you know the stop you are requesting, please add this information to the bottom of the form. The school board has a policy for assigning empty seats to students and suggested criteria for consideration. Empty seats are in effect for only one school year, and should entitled students be added to the bus during the school year, some students may lose their seats.



Student Photographs

Individual and class photos will be taken at the school on Thursday, October 6th. Due to the background colour used, students are asked not to wear green.



Student Accident Insurance

Creating a caring and safe environment for our students is our top priority. Unfortunately, despite all reasonable precautions being taken, accidents can still happen. Some injuries may result in medical, dental or other expenses that are not covered by provincial health care or employer group plans. As a parent/guardian, you become responsible for these expenses.

Student accident insurance is available for purchase, on a voluntary basis, through Reliable Life Insurance Company. Forms can either be picked up from the school office or downloaded at www.binks.ca, or you may apply online at www.insuremykids.com.

Multi-Year Plan for Student Learning and Accommodation Planning (From the School Council Newsletter)

Over the next 5 years the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB) will be conducting student learning and pupil accommodation reviews that will cover most geographic areas across Ottawa. This means we are reviewing our schools, programs and student enrolment to ensure we have sustainable and vibrant learning environments. There will be recommendations for change; this may include changes in grade structure at a particular school (eg. K-5 school becomes K-6), changes in program offerings (eg. adding or removing Middle or Early French Immersion), changes in school boundaries, and in some cases school closure.

The Ministry of Education funds schools on a per-student basis. And in some areas of Ottawa, our OCDSB schools are operating at less than 60% capacity where others are operating at more than 100% capacity. Therefore to help keep education funds focused on student needs, we must manage the costs associated with empty space in schools. These reviews are the process that school districts must use in order to make decisions about school accommodation planning including school closures.

This month, the first two reviews will begin; the Western Area review and the Eastern Secondary review. The Western Area review, includes Bell, Merivale, Sir Robert Borden and Woodroffe Secondary Schools and the 22 elementary schools which feed into those high schools; and the Eastern Secondary Review, which includes Gloucester, Colonel By and Rideau High Schools. These areas were chosen due to the accommodation pressures and school utilization rates and the opportunities to enhance student learning and consolidate excess pupil space by September 2017.

Two weeks ago, staff presented a report on each review area. That report included a recommended plan for change. Parents, students, staff and community members will have an opportunity to learn more about the recommended plan and to provide feedback. There will be an advisory committee made up of school council representatives in each of the review areas and two large public meetings in each review area which anyone can attend. There will be opportunities to provide feedback electronically as well. The Board of Trustees will consider all input and make a final decision in February/March 2017.

Last week, the Board of Trustees formally approved the start of the Western Area and Eastern Secondary accommodation reviews. Now, we begin the consultation process - a critical element of the review process. We are seeking feedback from parents, staff, students, community partners, and the general public. There are a number of ways to get involved.

Online Community Engagement and Discussion

The district is using the online insight Platform Thoughtexchange for this consultation. This gives participants the opportunity to provide input about what is important to them, anytime of day, from any location. Yesterday, an email was sent to all parents and guardians in the schools involved in the review area inviting them to share their thoughts. (If you are a parent in a school involved in the Western or Eastern Secondary review and you did not receive an email, please check your spam filter for a message from shareyourthoughts@ocdsb.ca and/or check that the school has your current email address). A few things to note about the online consultation process - to keep the conversation focused on the issues directly relevant to each review area/family of schools; there are separate forums for each area. You are welcome to participate in any or all of the forums that interest you.

Public Meetings

There will be two public meetings in each of the review areas. You may want to note the dates on your calendar if you plan to attend.

Western Area Public Meetings

October 27, 2016 - 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Sir Robert Borden High School
January 10, 2017 - 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Woodroffe High School

Proposed Changes for Knoxdale PS:

Grade and Program Configuration:

Currently a Grade JK-6 EFI/MFI/G. EFI Immersion Centre and will remain unchanged.

Student Impact:

Future MFI students that live in the current boundary area north of Baseline Road will be redirected to D. Roy Kennedy PS for MFI.

Future Grade 6 students will advance to Sir Robert Borden for Grade 7-12.

Special Education:

The congregated gifted remains at Knoxdale pending the decisions of the gifted program review taking place this year.

Facility / Capital Requirements:

Currently Knoxdale PS occupies a portion of Greenbank MS which would continue, as required per future projections.

Implementation:

Changes proposed to come into effect for September, 2017.

Proposed Changes for Greenbank PS:

Grade and Program Configuration:

Currently a Grade 7-8 ENG/EFI/MFI/G. EFI school and is proposed to be closed.

Student Impact:

Grade 7-8 ENG/EFI/MFI students from Greenbank MS are relocated to Sir Robert Borden HS (new 7-12 program).

Note: New MFI Grade 7-8 MFI students *living north of Baseline Road* will be redirected to D. Roy Kennedy PS.

Special Education:

The Gifted program will also relocate at Sir Robert Borden HS.

Facility / Capital Requirements:

School closure proposed.

Implementation:

Changes proposed to come into effect for September, 2017.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Ottawa Safety Council

The Ottawa Safety Council is recruiting for Crossing Guard positions in our school's area. Please see the attached PDF advertisement for more information.

Knoxdale Community School Council (KCSC)

Welcome!

Welcome to a new and exciting school year! Our first KCSC meeting was held on Tuesday, September 20th. We had a wonderful turn out, thank you to all those who attended! A warm welcome to both returning parents and those new to Knoxdale! An election was held for the new KCSC executive. I am *very* pleased to Chair the KCSC again this year. We will post the new slate and update the School Council page on the KPS website very shortly.

All are welcome at our monthly meetings and you may contact the Council anytime at knoxdalecouncil@gmail.com. We look forward to bringing you some exciting family events this year and supporting our children, school, and community!

Sincerely,
Heather Gordon,
Chair, KCSC



32nd Annual Knoxdale Public School Craft and Bake Sale

Calling all bakers! It's that time of the year again. Time to make all of our sweet dreams come true! Please come out and join us on **Saturday October 22nd from 9:30am-3pm** for the 32nd Annual Knoxdale Public School Craft and Bake Sale!

We will have prizes for the Most Creative Baked Goods, Most Appealing Baked Goods, Best Parent/Child Joint Effort, Best Holiday Creation as well as other prizes.

Once again we will be selling a fabulous lunch of soup, chili, hotdogs and sandwiches. Get started on some holiday shopping at the same time by visiting the craft fair put on by the Creative Hands (Professional Craft Guild). If you have some time to volunteer or have any questions, please send an email to kcscraftbake@gmail.com. More information to come, please stay tuned!

Lunch Programs ~ Important Information

The time has finally arrived! Lunch programs start on Monday September 26th. There is still time to sign up for Mommy's Yummies (Tuesday and Thursdays) as well as regular menu days for Lunch Lady (Friday). These programs can be ordered as you like - you don't need to sign up for the whole year at once and can order only a few meals or set up a regular weekly order and can place an order a week in advance. Pizza Mondays are a year-long program with one order and payment only. If you missed the deadline but still want to order you can call Lunch Lady to discuss. Hot Dog Wednesdays are also run by Lunch Lady and run on a block of months order.

All food is delivered during the second nutrition break. Please help us make sure that everyone is fed and prepare your child so that they know to speak to someone if they think that they should have a lunch program delivery and do not. No one should go hungry and the lunch program providers will help find a swift resolution, if they know about it. All orders, questions, changes, payments etc.

should be directed to Mommy's Yummies or The Lunch Lady. Please see the bottom of the School Council page on the school website for contact details. <https://knoxdaleps.ocdsb.ca/School%20Council/Pages/default.aspx>

If you have questions or feedback about the lunch programs in general you can email knoxdalecouncil@gmail.com to reach the coordinator.

Our lunch programs are offered as a fun meal alternative for our children, a timesaver for parents, and are a great fundraiser in support of our children's educational experience at Knoxdale. Thank you for your support!



KCSC October Meeting

When: Tuesday, October 4th, 2016

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Where: Knoxdale Public School Library, 2nd Floor

All are welcome! Please come out to hear what is happening in your school. We will have reports from the Chair, Principal and Vice Principal. If there is anything you would like to discuss at the meeting, please email us in advance so that we may add it to the agenda. Thank you! knoxdalecouncil@gmail.com. Monthly meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month with the exception of September and January (no meeting).

Eagles' Nest Primary Playground Renewal Project

It's a new school year and the Eagle's Nest Playground project is back at it. The committee is hitting the ground running this year as we continue to raise funds towards the renewal of the primary playground at the front of the school. Keep an eye on this space for updates and announcements about upcoming events and ways you can help throughout the year. Our first event of the year will be at the Meet the Teacher night on September 29th with a great food-based fundraiser. You'll be able to purchase dinner at one of 3 food trucks that will be on site that evening. While you are enjoying dinner, you'll be helping support the Eagle's Nest Playground Project with a portion of all food truck sales going directly to the project. Thank you for your support!



KCSC Needs

Please consider joining our Executive or signing up to volunteer for an event if you have not already. Thanks to all who completed the Volunteer Survey (blue sheet) to indicate your interest in helping with an event this year. We will be in touch with you shortly!

We are currently looking for leadership in the positions of Vice Chair and Fundraising Coordinator (new) and in addition, volunteers to assist the Eagles' Nest Playground sub-committee. We would be happy to provide more information about these roles if you are interested. Please contact us at knoxdalecouncil@gmail.com.

The KCSC would not be able to offer all of the wonderful activities and events for our children, school and community over the course of the school year without the support of volunteers. Please consider offering just a little of your time if you can help in any way. Thank you very much!

Mabel's Labels ~ No more lost and found bin!

Don't forget to order your labels! It's easy, please go to www.campaigns.mabelslabels.com and search for Knoxdale Public School. Remember that our children benefit as 20% of the proceeds are directed to KCSC!