

KCA September 2017 Newsletter



Hello KCA Families,

Welcome to another school year. For those of you who don't know me, my name is Victoria Laurence and I am the new Principal of KCA. I am honoured to have this privilege and am excited about the year ahead. I come to this role via a variety of positions within the AVRSB, including Vice Principal, Behaviour Consultant, resource, learning centre, and classroom teacher. As I look at many of the parents within the KCA community, I feel old, having taught many of you over the years! I consider myself extremely fortunate to be working in such a wonderful school with such amazing staff, students and community. I am lucky to have both Krista Parrish and Jodi Durling as part of my admin team. Krista has been in our teaching VP role for the past two years and Jodi comes to us from Aldershot Elementary school in a similar role. We also welcome Diane Lyndsay as an addition to our secretarial staff, Shaun Dares as our new 7/8 French Immersion teacher, Ashlyn Sulis as a Phys. Ed. and academic support teacher and Kristin Hubley in Grade 2/3 and academic support.

Registration forms are being sent home today and we want to emphasize how important it is for families to look these over, update, and return as soon as possible. It is also important that you make us aware of changes to things like phone numbers as they occur. We rely on this information to be accurate in the case of emergencies so it needs to be accurate. Staying on the theme of paper work, if you plan on volunteering, please have all paperwork completed before class trips start. The earlier the better! The police check and child abuse registry check needs only to be done once every three years but the Form J (for driving students) needs to be completed every year. Stop by the office and Barb, Mary or Diane can answer all your questions about these forms.

As we did last year, we are making an effort to move most of our communication with families (information, calendars, important events, etc.) to our website and through the use of the "Alert" system. Our school newsletter will now come to you via email. This helps us cut down on paper use and gives you the most current information immediately. If you would like a paper copy of the newsletter please let your child's

IMPORTANT DATES BELOW

But please always check our website for updates.

Sept 11	First day for Breakfast Program First day for Cafeteria service
Sept 13	Walk and Wheel Day
Sept 19	PTA meeting 6 pm
Sept 20	Early Dismissal
Sept 21	Parent Orientation 6 pm
Sept 22	Terry Fox Walk/Run 1 pm
Sept 27/28	School Photos
Sept 29	Regional Shut Down Day

teacher know.

Our breakfast program is up and running. Thank you once again to our volunteers Paige and Doug Mosher for taking time to manage this important program. We were fortunate last year to have students volunteer their time in the program and look forward to seeing them again this year. Remember the breakfast program is open to all students. If your daughter/son wants to attend, make sure they know to go there before heading out for early morning play time.

Speaking of early morning, please make sure your son/daughter is on time...before 8 AM. Late arrivals are disruptive not only to individual students, but also to the classroom teacher and office staff who are signing students in and changing attendance. In some cases, students are missing out on important morning routines that help make the rest of the day successful. It is an important life-lesson for them to know that being on-time is important. We all have occasions (blood work, flat tires, power outages, etc.) that can make getting to school on time difficult, but these should be the exception not the rule. If your son/daughter is absent from school, please contact the school at 902-690-3850 to let us know. If we have not heard from you, you will receive an

automated call from us informing you of your child' absence.

If you are dropping a student off, please do so as quickly as possible. Our drop off loop is meant as exactly that...a drop off. Parking there for any length of time during the morning can make it difficult for other families doing the same and creates issues with traffic. It is a loop and cars will be moving through it, so we also ask that you try to have student exit on the passenger side for safety. Lastly, advance as far into the loop as you can. The sidewalk does extend as far as the stairs to Gary Pearl Dr. Please use the parking lot if you need to come to the school for any length of time. We encourage parents to use the gravel parking lot located by the soccer fields off West Main St as an alternate drop off spot.

We also would appreciate that any changes to afternoon dismissal routines be arranged well in advance of the rest of the day. Last minute calls are very difficult when we are managing the dismissal of over 600 students. It can often mean holding up buses as we try to locate students. Sending a note with the student or contacting the school in the morning is the best means of arranging this. At the very least, make the arrangement before 1:30 PM so that we can communicate with the student and teacher.

Please check the "Important dates of remember" section of this newsletter. September is a very busy month and we have lots on the go including our first Walk and Wheel Wednesday, Meet the Teacher, in-services and picture day. I encourage anyone wishing to get involved in our school community to attend our first Parent-Teacher Association meeting on Tuesday, September 19 at 6:00 PM in the art room.

Last week, we had a competition between the classes to see which class was the quietest during our first fire drill of the year. Noise during these drills had become a safety concern and communication between staff was challenging. The quietest class was promised an ice cream party. The students were so amazing and quiet that it was impossible to pick one class. As a result, we will be having an ice cream party next week. We will be serving ice cream sandwiches, with special purchases for those with nut and lactose allergies. Teachers have informed the office of the students requiring special treats. If you have any concerns regarding this onetime treat, please let me know.

Lastly, I just want to say my door is always open. Please feel free to contact me with questions or concerns. I look forward to seeing many of you on Thursday, September 21 at our Meet the Teacher evening.

Sincerely,
Victoria Laurence

From our library:

Welcome to all the families of KCA

All students in primary to six come to the library once a week. Grade 7 & 8 are able to access the library during lunchtime and before school.

Some tips from the library

- Help remind child(ren) to return their library books on time.
- Help choose a safe place for the books at home.
- When children go between 2 households it becomes very difficult to keep track of the books. I suggest they stay in their back packs as usually it goes between the 2 homes and then the child has the books on library day.
- If a book needs repair, please put in a bag and send back to the library. I have special items to repair the book.
- As always, read with your child or show an interest in what they are reading.
- Happy Reading

The library just received a book on "How to talk to your teen about Cannabis" in English and French. If you wish to sign it out, please let me know. You can download or order one of the books at DrugFreeKidsCanada.org



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