

Dear Grafton PS Families,

I have updates from our local Health Unit, new parking lot reminders, and a list of so many fun things that are happening this month!

Spread the Word, Not COVID-19

Our area is experiencing an increase in Covid-19 positive cases which is including the school environment. We strongly encourage that *all students wear masks* in the school. If your child in grades 6-8 has permission to leave at lunch, please speak to them about the importance of physical distancing, wearing a mask if that distance cannot be maintained and the importance of staying with their cohort. We will continue to monitor leaving for lunch according to Public Health advice.

Colds, runny nose... and COVID-19. This winter, it's extra difficult to determine if your child's sniffles are something more serious. If your child is sick and showing COVID-19-like symptoms, keep them home. This helps prevent COVID-19 and ensure schools stay safe and open.

The Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit reminds parents/guardians to screen a child each day **before** sending them to school or child care. Resources are in place to help you make the right call:

- Ontario's COVID-19 School Screening Tool (<https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>) – Answer questions in this online tool to see if your child should go to school or day care. A printable version is also available.
- Schools and COVID-19 (www.hkpr.on.ca/2020/09/16/covid-19-and-schools/) – Visit this Health Unit webpage for resources and guidance on keeping your student and schools safe during COVID-19.

If you are unsure about your child's symptoms and what to do next, call the Health Unit at 1-866-888-4577, ext. 5020.

New South Parking Lot

Please use the south parking lot before and after school if your children need assistance to get out of the vehicle by themselves. For students that can grab their backpack and leave the car on their own, please use the bus loop after buses. This will allow a quick Kiss N' Ride. Due to the Health Unit asking students to not mingle/mix cohorts in the schoolyard or playground, drop off is at 9:20am. Students walking/biking etc. to the school should use the cross walk and not walk on or across the bus loop.

Parents that are parked at the end of the day will have students walked to them at 3:40pm. If you are driving the bus loop for pick-up, it is available at 3:50pm-4:00pm (or after all buses). We have "early" and "late" buses.

Early Departure/Late Arrival

We are keeping cohorts (approx. 2 classes and staff) separated so students in Kindergarten through to Grade 3/4, will use the doorbell closest to our Kindergarten entrance (south entrance), if you are late or picking up early. Students in grades 4/5 through to grade 8 will use the doorbell closest to the main office at the north entrance. The office has video cameras and a communication system at both entrances. Parents will continue to wait outside the school. Thank-you for your support.

December Events

Dec. 4th-Maureen Pollard-Coping Strategies for Anxiety & Stress (Virtual due to rain); Wacky Hair Day

Dec. 7th The VOICE- Guess the staff singing (pre-recorded) a Christmas Carol begins on the morning announcements

Dec. 14th Door Decorating Contest. Kindergarten will judge photos of each door this year & share results on the Virtual morning announcements.

Spirit Week-Dec. 14th-18th -Mon-Wacky/Festive Sock Day Tues-Wacky/Festive Hat Day Wed-Ugly Sweater Day Thurs-Dress Like an Elf/Santa/Reindeer Day Fri-PJ Day & BYO Snack, Movie Day

Dec. 17th Virtual School Trivia Contest (K through to Grade ¾ Game & Gr 4/5 through to Gr 8 Game)

Dec. 18th-BYO Snack PJ and Movie Day

Winter Break: Dec. 19th -Jan. 3rd

Teachers still have time available to speak to you about your child's progress so far, if you have not spoken to them. We hope that you will take the time to connect with them.

Sincerely,

Renee

Renee Cameron, Principal

Grafton Public School

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905-349-2591