

# King George Junior Public School

25 Rexford Road, Toronto, Ontario M6S 2M2 • Tel: (416) 394-3060 • Fax: (416) 394-4060

P. Vanetti, Principal

**September Newsletter 2015**

The 2015/2016 school year has officially started! It was great to see all our returning families and those who are new to King George over the past two days. King George is a great learning environment both in and outside of the classroom. We look forward to working with all families to make this a wonderful year.

Welcome George Brown College Early Childhood Education students Mr. Minh Nguyen with Ms. Van and Ms. Murray, and Ms. Nicole Romano with Mr. Whitfield and Ms. Montgomery.

Attached is an updated Staff List for 2015/2016.

Welcome back to Feven Habtom who will be returning as our School Social Worker and welcome to Shelley Park Itinerant English Language Learner Teacher.

**Agenda/Parent Handbook**

By now all students have received either a King George/TDSB Agenda (Grades 4/5/6) or a King George/TDSB Handbook in an orange duotang (Grades 1-3). Communication between home and school for Grades 4-6 will be the Agenda, yellow duotangs for Grades 1-3 and notes in pouches for Kindergarten students.

**Distribution of Information and Collection of Monies**

Until further notice information from the office and the collection of any monies will be sent home and collected in the labeled Ziplock sent home on Tuesday. All money should be in an envelope labeled with your child’s name and what the money is for.

**Weekly Communication – Thursday Email**

Every Thursday an email will be sent out through the School Connects system. If you would like to receive a printed copy of the Thursday Email please inform Ms. White, Office Administrator by calling

416-394-3060. The Thursday Email will start as soon as we have updated all email addresses.

**Realignment Process**

During the first two weeks of school the TDSB monitors class size very closely to determine if realignment (addition, deletion or reorganization of classes) is necessary. Should realignment be required at King George I will send out information the week of September 21st.

**Photo Day**

Photo day is coming up on September 16th, 2015 in the morning. For more information on photo day, check out edgeimaging.ca.

Only individual photos will be taken on September 16th. Retakes and class photos will be taken on October 27th.

**Subway and Pizza Lunches are Back!**

The first Parent Council Subway Lunch is Friday, September 18th. Please see the information sent home today. You now have the option of paying for the year, the term or the month.

Next Thursday information will be sent home about Pizza Lunches. The first Pizza Lunch is Friday, September 25th.

Thank you to Anne Pennington and her team for organizing.

**School/Parent Council Meeting and Elections – Wednesday, October 6th, 2015**

**6:30 pm in the Library – 2nd Floor**

Each TDSB school is required to have a school council made up of the principal, parents, teachers, support staff, students (secondary schools), and community members. The purpose of the council is to actively engage parents to improve student success. It also provides a regular opportunity for its members to discuss how to make the school a better learning environment for its students.

The principal brings important information about the school to the school council. The school council,

in turn, advises the principal on matters related to the learning goals of the school, the school's policies and procedures, students' needs, activities and resources for students and parents, and ways of involving parents in the life of the school.

The school council is required to hold at least four general meetings each school year that are open to all parents in the school, and a membership election in the first 30 days of school. (TDSB News You Can Use). A Self-Nomination Form for School Council Executive Positions will be sent home in the next couple of weeks.

At the end of the last school year, in recognition of the King George families who have given their time and energy to help with the numerous events held for our children, the King George Parent Council donated a book to each class (chosen by the teachers) that contains an acknowledgement to the volunteers of 2014-15. Parent Council thanks everyone who helped out last year, especially those who have left KG and will be greatly missed.

**Parent Council Back to School BBQ/Curriculum Night**

The BBQ and Curriculum Night have been tentatively scheduled for Thursday, October 1st. Watch for more information in the next couple of weeks.

**Parent Reading Program**

The Parent Reading Program will start in October. Parents who have completed a Police Reference Check and have an hour or two a week to spare to read with our primary students are welcome. Watch for more information soon.

Need a Police Reference Check - please speak with Ms. White.

**TDSB Violin and Vocal Music Itinerant Music Programs**

The year we are fortunate once again to have the Grade 6 Violin Program at King George. Grade 6 students will receive 80 minutes per week from Itinerant Violin teacher Val Wilshynsky.

Each school year we apply for additional music programs through the TDSB that provide an opportunity for 3 teachers to work with an Itinerant teacher once a week. This year Ms. Ehrichs,

Ms. Rodriques and Ms. Switzman’s classes will be working with Vocal Itinerant teacher Alison Roy.

Both programs will start in the next two weeks.

**Lockdown and Fire Drills**

At the beginning of each school year, our students and staff prepare for the year ahead by establishing the foundations for a successful year. One of the ways we know we can help students be successful is to create a safe environment in which to learn. The safety of students and staff is a top priority at our school and to that end, as with all emergency drills, it is essential that we are prepared and understand the importance of procedures that will help ensure the safety of everyone in our school.One aspect of emergency preparedness is the lockdown and fire drill. All schools are required to conduct a minimum of two lockdown drills and six fire drills each school year. Lockdown drills, like fire drills, are an essential component to ensuring student and staff safety. The drills last approximately 5 minutes and ensure plans are effective and can also systematically identify any safety concerns. (TDSB News You Can Use)

We will be conducting a fire drill and a lockdown practice next week.

**Administration of Medication and Medical Concerns**

The TDSB has procedures for the administration of medication to students. This includes pills, puffers, Epi-Pens. If your child is required to take medication at school, please contact the school and the forms will be sent home with your child.

**Anaphylaxis Allergies** – We have quite a few students with severe and/or life threatening allergies to the following foods: peanuts/nuts/eggs/shell fish/fish. Your understanding and cooperation in assisting us in providing all children with the safest environment is appreciated.

We ask that snacks and lunches **do not** contain **nut products**.

We ask that if you send your child to school with a lunch containing whole eggs/shellfish/fish that you or your child (depending on the age of the child) inform the lunchroom supervisors and/or office staff to ensure that precautions are taken to reduce the risk of exposure:

* Alternative seating arrangements are made if needed
* Reminders are given about washing hands with soap after eating
* Reminders are given to not share food, utensils or containers

**Student Attendance and Punctuality**

Regular student attendance and punctuality is important in order for students to be successful at school. A student’s academic progress depends on regular class attendance. All students should be in class by 8:55 am.

**Safe Arrival Program – School Connects**

One measure of keeping students safe is ensuring students have safely arrived at school. If your child is going to be late or absent for any reason, it is important that you contact the

office immediately at 416-394-3060 and report the reason for the absence.

At the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) we now have an automated call-out system that will attempt to contact you if your child is late or absent on the day where the school was not previously informed.

The system call-out works as follows:

Parents/guardians identified in TDSB's Student Information Systems who has access to student records, and emergency contact with priority 1 or 2 will receive a call.

When you receive the call, you are required **to listen to the entire message** and follow the prompts accordingly.

You will be asked if you are aware or unaware of your child's absence.

If unaware, you will be asked to call the school immediately.

If you are aware of the absence, you will be asked to enter the reason for your child's absence. The following options will be provided for you:

- Illness;

- Doctor Appointment;

- Dentist Appointment;

- Family Matter;

- Weather;

- Other.

At the end of the message, you will have to press 2 to confirm you received the message.

If you do not confirm receipt, you will receive a call on your mobile phone.

If there is no response from a Priority 1 contact, this same process will be followed for Priority 2 contacts.

If there is no contact with either Priority 1 or Priority 2, this entire process will be repeated 3 times in 10 minute intervals.

In the evening, all parents/guardians of students who were late that day will receive a call informing them of their child's tardiness.

With this in mind, it is important that your contact information on file at the office is current and up-to-date. Please let the office know immediately if your contact information changes at any time throughout the school year.(TDSB News You Can Use)

**Reminders:**

**Lunch/Milk Program** – Grade 1-6 students may purchase tickets at the office (250 ml chocolate milk, for 60 cents cash or 10 tickets for $6.00 and 125 ml white milk for 30 cents cash or 10 tickets for $3.00).

Kindergarten students may purchase white milk (125 ml) for 30 cents cash or 10 tickets for $3.00. Please send money in a labeled envelope in your child’s pouch.

Tickets leftover from last year may be used this year. Students who moved from SK to Grade 1 were given milk tickets

Don’t forget to send your child with a spoon or fork if needed.

**TDSB Virtual Library**

Attached you will find an information sheet and a Learnmark (bookmark) about the TDSB Virtual Library. It is a great resource of digital resources. The Learnmark provides the password(s) needed to access the various sites.

**Playground Equipment**

Just a reminder that the Playground Equipment is not be used in the morning before school starts and until after the 3:45 pm bell. Please let other adults who may be picking up your child know.

**Parking Lot** - King George has a very small parking lot with a limited number of parking spots. For safety reasons we ask that the parking lot NOT be used for parking or drop-off and pick up.

Starting next week the gates will be locked overnight.

**Bikes and Scooters**

For safety reasons bikes may not be parked inside the school. They need to be locked up at the bicycle racks. Scooters may be parked at the bottom of the stairwells.

**Bulletin Boards**

There are bulletin boards just inside both entry/dismissal doors at the back of the building. Please feel free to come in and check the boards for TDSB as well as community postings either immediately following entry or at the end of the day after dismissal.

\*\*We still have a few dishes/containers and cutlery leftover from the June Staff Appreciation Lunch. They are in the office.