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Principal's Message May 2020:

A Giant Cougar Roar Goes Out to Our Parents and Kids
from our Mascot Roarie!



I want to begin by thanking our parents, grandparents and kids for all the hard work they have been doing each day managing distance education. Our families have been patient learning new technology, curriculum and resourcefulness. The staff and I appreciate all that you are doing to help maintain your child(ren)'s education and wellbeing at home. Many of us are parents too and we know the effort it takes. Thank you!

The staff continue to work hard through this time finding ways to reach all the kids and keep everyone engaged. Their efforts are also greatly appreciated.

This newsletter contains a lot of important information that may answer questions you likely have. Please take

a few minutes to read the newsletter if you have time.

As you can imagine, it has been very difficult for us to continue the Pedal for Hope Campaign as we would normally. This is an important fundraiser every year to raise money for pediatric cancer. The police made the decision to continue running the campaign and they are completing their bike rides, but they have had to do it in isolation. They have appealed to the schools to support them as much as possible because earlier this year they committed to help kids who are battling cancer. They want to be able to support them and their families because cancer does not stop for Covid-19. To that end, we will continue to support the Pedal for Hope campaign, but we will do it in a way that, we hope, does not put extra pressure on families that are already stretched too far financially. Please see the Pedal for Hope section later in this newsletter for details of our inclusive plan.

Next year our school is growing. We anticipate 175 students (up from 166 this year). This meant we had to hire another classroom teacher and an additional .22 teacher for overlay (teacher preparation time). We will also be adding a portable for next year. We have now completed our hiring for the 2020-2021 school year. I am pleased to share that Mrs. Alicia Morrallee has been hired to teach our new grade 2/3 class and Mr. Matthew MacLeod is returning to cover the .22 overlay position. In this newsletter, we are sharing our anticipated school organization for next year.

With the warmer weather coming, we hope everyone will feel a bit more energized and less house bound as we can head outside to work on our lawns and gardens while the kids play in the fresh air!

Best regards,

Mr. Twiss

2020 – 2021 Classroom Placement:

Enrolment at North Cavan is projected to be about 175 students). We anticipate having 8 classes next year, but, the organization may be a bit different depending on our new registrations. Below are the expected classes for the **2020 – 2021** school year, however, this organization could change by September should enrolment change:

1. JK/SK Mrs. Bate/Mrs. Peever
2. JK/SK Mrs. Woollacott/Ms. Moore
3. Grade 1 Mr. Heuvel
4. Grade 1/2 Mrs. McGrattan
5. Grade 2/3 Mrs. Morrallee
6. Grade 3/4 Mrs. Moncrieff
7. Grade 4/5 Mrs. Caravaggio (Portable)
8. Grade 5/6 Mr. Woollacott (Portable)

Special Education and Library - Mrs. Mitchell-
Agar
French and Overlay - Mr. Hamel
Overlay - Mr. MacLeod
(Support Staff get placed near the end of June.)

Every June, many students put a great deal of thought and sometimes worry into their class placement for the upcoming school year. All but one of the classrooms next year will be split classes, which is not uncommon in small schools. This is often required to meet the Ministry of Education's class size ratios. When making up the classes for next year, a great deal of thought and consideration goes into the following:

- * gender balance
- * special education needs
- * academic balance
- * friendships
- * working relationships

Every effort will be made to at least have one friend move to the same class with each student to help ensure that the next school year is successful and fun. While not likely, it is possible that if there are significant numbers of students who transfer into or out of North Cavan, classes might have to change in September.



Pedal for Hope / Cops for Cancer:

We are forging ahead with our Pedal for Hope campaign this week and hope to have it wrapped up on Friday, May 15th. We recognize that many families would like to participate, but may not be able to support the campaign financially. That is okay! If you or a relative

can make a donation, please go to:

www.cancer.ca/pedalforhope

- 1) Select Team Name: North Cavan PS
- 2) Click on Make a Donation

Any donation, no matter how small, would be gratefully appreciated by Pedal for Hope.

As an alternative, or in addition to a donation, we are encouraging families to take a picture of their kids or the whole family riding their bikes, scooters etc. If you would be comfortable sharing your photos publically we will put them in a montage and create a link so we can share them with the Police doing their 'Virtual Tour'. We thought this would be a fun way to get everyone involved in some healthy exercise and would be great inspiration for the police who are trying hard to make a difference in the lives of kids fighting cancer. Please just email your photo to Mr. Twiss martin_twiss@kprdsb.ca by Friday, May 15th. We will share the montage with our school community too when it is done. All support is appreciated.

EQAO 2020:

All EQAO testing that had originally been planned for May has been cancelled by the provincial government for this year.

2019-2020 Yearbook:

With so much uncertainty this year about when we will be returning to regular school, we have decided to put our plans for a yearbook on hold for now. In June we will consider what our options might be given that we have so few photographs.

Crestwood Intermediate School:

On May 7th there was a Crestwood Intermediate Transition Committee meeting via WebEx. During the meeting there were presentations from a number of stakeholders from Superintendent Peter Mangold, the Principal at Crestwood Secondary, Trustees, Mr. Twiss and many others. Our school was well represented by Amy Carlton (Parent), Sophie H. (Student), Mr. Woollacott (Teacher), Mr. Twiss (Principal) and Angela Lloyd (our Trustee).

There were a number of topics discussed, but we would like to really touch on the ones that impact our community the most. The beginning of the meeting focused on the physical layout of the new Crestwood Intermediate School. The intermediate portion of the building will be on the second floor of the school. Intermediates will have different bell times and

nutrition breaks from the secondary students. Intermediates will still have recess. Most recently, Principals and Senior Administration are thinking of having recess at the James Strath intermediate yard. James Strath and Crestwood Intermediate would **not** have recess together. One group would have their nutrition break while the other group is out for recess and then switch at a bell. This has not been finalized, but is appearing to be the best option as it stands now.

There was discussion about Intermediate use of rooms such as drama etc., but these things will be discussed further once Principals look at their class scheduling. There was discussion of Intermediates being part of such dynamic programs as The Edge program at Crestwood Secondary (a phys.ed specialized program). This could be a possibility. Such possibilities will be discussed once schedules and teachers coming from their previous schools are allowed access and can get settled.

Busing was a concern due to the length of time some students now have on a bus. Superintendent Mangold said he was in talks with STSCO about increased busing, but once again this is in the formative stages.

Students representatives asked questions around a mascot, name etc. At most Intermediate schools connected to high schools the Intermediates simply take on the name of the high school mascot meaning it looks like our students will become Mustangs and the school colours will be red, white and some black. It makes buying gym clothes etc. much cheaper and easier for everyone.

There was discussion about a subject near and dear to our hearts - extracurricular activities. Once teachers get settled and find out who will be in their classes, schedules are set etc. (probably mid-June) discussions around this will start. Our Grade 6 students should bring all of their suggestions to the table (meetings etc.) and relay them to Sophie H. who will be their student representative. Mr. Woollacott and Mr. Twiss have looked at the staffing for the new school and know most of the staff through sports and outside of school. We are confident there will be a ton of sports and clubs for the students at Crestwood. If you would like to see a club or sport, speak up and let Sophie know! I am sure there will be a wide array of both at Crestwood

Intermediate (possibly more than you can fit into your schedule lol).

The Principal at Crestwood (Mrs. Dunn) discussed an upcoming virtual tour of the school for new students, virtual greetings with Secondary School Reps, messages from the new staff, and online activities for getting to know you the students. There may be weekly chats with the Principals from Crestwood and Adam Scott that would provide information as well to parents and students.

In all, it was a very productive meeting. There is a link in the KPRDSB website www.kprschoos.ca to the transition page where parents and students can ask any further questions. The next meeting of the transition committee will be May 29th at a time to be determined. We hope this answers some questions.

We are very excited for everyone going to Crestwood Intermediate and know this will be an incredible learning opportunity.

Mr. W.

Grade 6 Graduation:

Due to the government restrictions in place because of Covid – 19, we will not be able to have a graduation ceremony in the spring in our Gym. We don't even know if it will be possible to do this in the fall so principals have been discussing how we can still acknowledge our graduates some way at least virtually. We are working on it and will share more details once we have developed some plans collectively. In the meantime parents, please get those baby pictures ready for us!



Thank You To Our Amazing Volunteers:

We regret not being able to host the Volunteer Tea this year due to Covid – 19 restrictions. We want to acknowledge our amazing volunteers who do so much to support our School Council, our Breakfast Club, our classrooms, our school trips and our sporting events. Thank you for all your time and energy and commitment to our students and staff – **you are very appreciated!**

Kindergarten Registration:

Kindergarten registration for the 2020 – 2021 school year is well underway. If your child will be four years old by December 31, 2020 they are eligible for Year 1 Kindergarten. If they are five years old by December 31, 2020 they are eligible for Year 2 Kindergarten. Please contact the office to register your child and share this news with friends and neighbours who have kindergarten aged children.



'Virtual' Kindergarten Orientation:

This week our Kindergarten teachers and early childhood educators created and shared with parents a document to gather some helpful information from next year's Junior Kindergarten families. This is the first step we are taking to get to know our new students and make them feel welcome. Next we will begin building the Kindergarten classes. The Kindergarten team is currently creating a 'Virtual Orientation' of the Kindergarten program which will soon be shared with our new parents and students. It will include pictures of the staff, the classrooms, washrooms, yard, library, gym etc. and will also go over the same information we normally share at a regular Kindergarten orientation. It is the next best thing! The School Council will also be included to welcome our new families.

School Council News:

Thanks to the hard work of our School Council and the generosity of our School Community, our school will be receiving and installing new Gymnasium wall mats this summer. This will improve safety in our gym and will give a fresh look to our Gym facility. The School Council thanks all of the families who supported our Dance-A-Thon in February which helped make this possible. We plan to keep the old mats to support our gymnastics and dance programs.



School Council is not holding meetings at this time because of the need for social isolation. We hope to resume our meetings in the fall and always welcome parents to participate.



How Can I Get My Child(ren)'s Shoes and Materials Left at School?

Several parents have asked about getting their child(ren)'s personal effects from school. At the present time, the government is not permitting people into the schools other than secretaries, principals and maintenance staff for very specific purposes and for very short periods of time. They are trying to maintain safety and minimize contamination of the schools. We are waiting for direction from the Ministry of Education, Public Health and the Board before we can set up a plan for safely getting these items ready for parents to pick up outside of the school. We will inform parents as soon as we have that direction. We apologize for the inconvenience this may be causing.

Good Character makes a Difference:



This month's character trait is **HONESTY. I TRY TO BE HONEST WITH MYSELF FIRST. THEN I CAN BE HONEST WITH OTHERS.**

At North Cavan we try to help develop children of good character by encouraging students to be **responsible, respectful, honest, and to act with integrity.**

Thank You to Our Breakfast Club Sponsor's:

We would like to thank our sponsors who have funded our Breakfast Club program this year. Each school day, 166 students enjoyed free, healthy and nutritious breakfast snacks thanks to the generosity of the following organizations:

- Peterborough Child and Family Centres
- PC (President's Choice) Children's Charity
- Freshco
- Sobeys
- Metro
- Millbrook and Cavan Firefighters
- Individual donations from Families and Community Members

We would also like to thank the Breakfast Club volunteers and Angela Fuchs (Community Development Coordinator, Food for Kids). We could not do it without all of you!! Thanks!

Mental Health and Wellbeing:

We recognize the pressures that the pandemic is causing everyone. If you or a loved one needs some support please remember that the following resources may be helpful:

- 1) Kids Help Phone Line 1-800-668-6868
- 2) School Mental Health Ontario: <https://smho-smsso.ca/blog/how-to-support-student-mental-health-during-the-covid-19-pandemic/>
- 3) Canadian Mental Health Association
<https://ontario.cmha.ca/>
- 4) Board Web Site: <http://www.kprschools.ca/>
- 5) School Board Counsellor (Joe Hadzi). Please contact Mr. Twiss martin_twiss@kprdsb.ca if you wish to request support from our Board Counsellor.

Help! Steps for Parents to Support Distance Learning:

(If your child is grade 4-6, they can often do this themselves)

1. **Breathe!** Be patient with yourself and your child. We are all in this together. We are not perfect, and we will make mistakes. This is how we learn.
2. **Re-read the question.** Sometimes another look will reveal the key to understanding.
3. **Ask your child.** Most of the time, our students are familiar with a process or the content shared by the teacher.
4. **Ask a buddy.** Reach out to another student in the class, or to their parent. Learning is usually a social exercise. Talking out your thinking helps.
5. **Ask the teacher.** Send a message to ask for clarification, after you have tried steps 1-3.
6. If the question is about technology and the teacher cannot help you troubleshoot, please **call 1-877-741-4577 ext. 3001** for Peterborough assistance.
7. If a resolution is not found, please email Mr. Twiss at martin_twiss@kprdsb.ca and he will gladly respond to you. Together we will find the answers!

Happy Mother's Day!



We want to wish all our mothers and grandmothers a very Happy Mother's Day and thank them for all the wonderful things they do for us each day!