

Weekly Family Update Week of September 16 - 20, 2024

Hello KOTR Families!

Welcome to our school weekly newsletter! We are pleased to share some exciting updates and important information with you.

Classroom Spotlights

Students in Ms. Sheppard's intermediate music classes are excitedly starting or getting back to their musical instruments.

The kinders were "rocking it up" this week enjoying some music-making of their own outside!



Clarification on Cell Phone/Device Use in Grades 7 and 8

We wanted to clarify that according to the OCDSB updated procedure [PR.622.IT - Appropriate Use of Technology \(Students\)](#), we have adopted the K-6 standard to **ALL** our students, including students in grades 7 and 8. That means, ***the use of students' personal mobile devices is prohibited throughout the instructional day, except when their use is explicitly permitted by the educator.*** This was done in consultation with the school staff and the school Superintendent. Families had the opportunity to provide their feedback, and may continue to do so, with this [form](#).

Concussion Protocol and Family Responsibilities

Every year, as part of our commitment to student safety, and to uphold the requirements of [Rowan's Law Day](#), staff undergo yearly mandatory concussion awareness training.

We wanted to review how we approach the management of [concussions](#) at the school, as per [OCDSB PR.561.SCO: Concussion Management](#):

1. When a student experiences a significant impact to the neck, face, head, or elsewhere on the body, the staff member who is supervising that student (i.e., teacher, coach, duty supervisor, etc.) will immediately stop the student from participating in the activity and undertake the [OCDSB Tool to Identify to a Suspected Concussion](#) to determine if the student is presenting any of the signs of a suspected concussion.
2. Where a concussion is NOT suspected but a possible concussion event was recognized, the student will return to learning the same day with no physical activity, and with continued monitoring at school and home for 24 hours. If after 24 hours of monitoring, no sign(s) and or symptom(s) have emerged, the parent/caregiver will inform the school and the student will be permitted to resume physical activities. Medical clearance will not be required.
3. Parents/caregivers are notified as soon as possible if their child experiences a concussion event, and whether or not they are experiencing signs of a suspected concussion.
4. The student must be picked up at the school by a responsible adult.
5. When it is determined that a student is experiencing signs of a suspected concussion, parents/caregivers are **required** to seek medical attention **that same day** from a **medical doctor or nurse practitioner** (no other health practitioner qualifies under our policies and procedures) - **the student may not return to school until the medical doctor or nurse practitioner has determined whether or not the student is suffering from a concussion.**
6. If there is a diagnosis of a concussion, the student **must** follow a medically supervised, individualized [Return to Learn/Return to Physical Activity Plan](#).
7. If after seeing a medical doctor or nurse practitioner there is no diagnosis of a concussion, the student can return to regular activities with no restrictions.
8. Please see this [flowchart](#) for the stages and responsibilities of the school and the families when a concussion has been diagnosed.
9. According to this procedure, families are also **required to inform the school if their child has been diagnosed with a concussion by a medical doctor or nurse practitioner due to an event outside of school hours**, and the steps in the procedure will be followed. If your child is attending school and it is determined that they have a diagnosed concussion, a responsible adult will be required to pick them up until such time as a medically supervised, individualized Return to Learn/Return to Physical Activity Plan is submitted to the school.

Please carefully read all the information in the links above to ensure you understand the expectations for families. If you have not already, please ensure you have a plan that allows you or an emergency contact to be available to come to the school in a timely manner when you are needed.

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 and caregivers become responsible for these expenses.

The OCDSB does not provide student accident insurance. Caregivers are encouraged to consider purchasing accident insurance or student accident insurance for incidents that may not be covered by the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) or any additional medical plans they have.

Student accident insurance is available for purchase on a voluntary basis. Caregivers may apply online at insuremykids.com or call 1-800-463-5437. The accident insurance coverage options range from \$17.00/year to \$33.00/year. All plans provide 24/7 coverage and a variety of important accident benefits (benefit limits differ based on plan selected). If you have any questions, please call **Jones DesLauriers Ottawa (formerly Binks Insurance Brokers)** directly at 613-226-1350.

Reminder: Locks for Lockers

All students in grades 7-8, and some in grade 6, have lockers for their backpacks, lunch bags, etc. All students are required to have a functioning lock for their locker.

Please ensure your child has a lock, and we recommend having back-ups in case a lock needs to be cut off a locker (which happens when students forget their combination, or if the lock is malfunctioning and won't open).

Kars on the Rideau Second Annual Holiday Maker Market

Last year, with the help of our School Council, we held our very first Holiday Maker Market. We also invited student crafters to sell items for a charity of their choosing. It was a huge success and raised over \$1600 that went towards supporting our school's first musical.

Our second market will be held November 16, 2024, from 10am-3pm. We would appreciate you sharing the information with your network of family, friends, and neighbours. Please feel free to use this image to help get the word out.



Action Item: Voluntary Student Fees

In order to supplement our student's school experience, enhance the programming and materials used in the curriculum, and to offer optional activities we are requesting a voluntary annual contribution for the 2024-2025 school year. A portion of the fee will be used to cover the cost of student agendas for our grade 4-8 students, as well as other materials for activities such as clubs. We also like to organize special activities during the school year which in the past have included workshops by Alex Mateas, and various field trips.

The student fee is \$20.00 for each child and for families with 2 or more children at KOTR it will be \$40.00. We would greatly appreciate your contribution by Friday, September 27, 2024 through our online payment system, [School Cash Online](#).

Please remember that subsidies are available upon request and requests will be treated confidentially. You may make a request to the Principal or to the homeroom teacher. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at 613-489-2024.

Meet the Staff

We are welcoming families to our Meet the Staff event on Wednesday, September 18th, from 4-6pm.

This is an opportunity for you to visit your child's educators and see the classrooms. Educators will be available to share general information about their program for the year, and to discuss routines, etc.

The purpose of this evening is to share information in a general way, and it is not the time for parents/caregivers to have a conversation about their own child's progress, or to raise concerns about their child. Please reach out to your child's teachers if you wish to make an appointment for a meeting.

Action Item: Family Handbook

We are preparing to create a KOTR Family Handbook. We are looking for families to contribute questions or information they feel would best support students and families as part of the school community.

If you wish to contribute, please fill out this [form](#) by Friday, September 20, 2024. This is strictly voluntary.

A draft handbook will be presented at the first School Council meeting on September 24, 2024.

Terry Fox Walk/Run/Roll



On **Thursday, October 10th**, all students from JK to Grade 8 at Kars on the Rideau Public School will be taking part in The Terry Fox National School Run Day from 10:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. For our students in grades 4-8, our Terry Fox event will incorporate a 5 kilometer loop around the community and a finishing lap on our track. The JKs-grade 3 students will be commencing on the track and will be staying on school property to complete their run. We welcome parents to come and join us for the event. This year's run celebrates the 44th anniversary of Terry's Marathon of Hope.

Many people today have a connection to someone who has had cancer. This run can serve as a personal dedication to a friend or relative. Students will be receiving a dedication sticker prior to beginning the run. The sticker that each student will be receiving is to be worn on their shirt during the event. We encourage you to discuss with your children who they are running for.

We are very pleased to be a part of this year's Terry Fox school event as we encourage our students to develop a sense of volunteerism and goodwill. If you would like to make a donation, any amount is greatly appreciated. All monies raised will be forwarded to The Terry Fox Foundation. Please visit our **Kars on the Rideau Public School Online Fundraising Page:** <https://schools.terryfox.ca/KarsontheRideauPSKars> To make a donation, simply click on "Donate" then select "To this school". (Please note the date on the page needs to be revised to October 10th).

To date, the OCDSB has raised over 3 million dollars in support of the Terry Fox Foundation - what an amazing accomplishment and we want to keep that spirit of generosity going!

Thanks in advance for your contributions and support!

September 19th is Powley Day

Powley Day is celebrated by the Métis annually on September 19th, the anniversary of the Supreme Court of Canada's unanimous ruling in The Powley Case (R. v. Powley). The Powley decision affirmed Métis harvesting rights, and was a momentous victory for the Métis Nation; it marked the beginning of a greater recognition of Métis rights in Ontario and across Canada. Métis people celebrate this legal victory that advanced Métis rights, and which continues to play an important role in the Métis struggle for visibility and independence.

For those that wish to learn more about the Powley Case, please see this short trailer video of a documentary by the Metis Nation of Ontario: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nPwVNfNZoJs>

Action Item: Forms

Forms (please bookmark this site as it contains many important forms that families will need over the course of the school year)

The following forms are mandatory and are to be completed and submitted every year:

[Appropriate Use of Technology Agreement](#)

[Concussion Code of Conduct for Inter-School Sports Parent/Guardian](#)

[Concussion Code of Conduct for Inter-School Sports Student \(students must complete\)](#)
[Media/School Website Permission Form](#)

The following forms are only required when and if necessary:

[Handling of Prescribed Medication for Students \(Non-Life-Threatening\)](#) (only when necessary and must be completed for each new medication)

[Plan of Care for Students with Life-Threatening Medical Conditions](#)

Reminders

Dates to Remember:

September 18 - Meet the Staff. 4-6pm

September 19 - Powley Day

September 24 - School Council Meeting/Elections 6:30pm

September 24 - 25 - School photos - **NEW DATE**

September 26 - Friday Schedule

September 27 - PA Day - No school for students

September 30 - National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

October 1 - Potluck Breakfast with the Principal - 7:45am

Take good care,

Erin and Lara

Principal and Vice-Principal

Kars on the Rideau PS