



R.F. DOWNEY PUBLIC SCHOOL
1221 NEPTUNE STREET, PETERBOROUGH ON
705 742-7201



Principal: Barb Bloom barb_bloom@kprdsb.ca
Superintendent: Steve Girardi steven_girardi@kprdsb.ca 705-742-9773
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2018/19 School Council Chair: Melanie Foster

SEPTEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER

Seek the best in ourselves and others
Participate in all aspects of our education
Pursue excellence and be the best that we can be

Principal's Message:

Hello and welcome to the start of a new school year at R.F. Downey! The hallways are sparkling, and the desks are shining, welcoming the return of our students. The teachers and staff have been working hard, getting ready to welcome your children into their new classes. A very special thank you to our custodians, **John** and his team whose hard work this summer has our school looking amazing. Eight of our classrooms have undergone a refresh and are all new! We also have an elevator which will be up and running shortly once it has been inspected. All students are asked to help keep our floors clean and keep themselves safe by making sure to have a pair of **indoor shoes** to wear while inside the school. Proper footwear is also **mandatory** in the gym.

We currently continue to accept and process new registrations. Good news – we are seemingly up in numbers in K-6 and we have added a 12th homeroom! Please be patient with us as we work through any necessary classroom changes in an effort to keep our numbers within the ministry targets. We will not however be making any unnecessary changes to classroom placements. The classes that were set in June will remain where possible.

We anticipate that the traffic around the school will continue to be busy. As always, we encourage parents to walk their children to school or to car pool with neighbours to help alleviate some of the congestion around the school. There is a parking lot by the soccer fields behind the school, with a short walk up the pathway to the school yards. You can access these parking spaces off of Milroy Drive. Our school continues to try to make our pick-up/drop-off areas safer for children. Ultimately, it is the parents that can ensure student safety by parking in designated areas only, walking students on sidewalks only (not across parking areas), and being considerate of others trying to navigate the area. **Please be respectful towards school staff who are monitoring the parking areas to keep students safe!**

This year we will continue to post our newsletters on-line following this first edition. If this is not suitable and you need a paper copy, please contact the office and we will add you to our list. If you wish to receive it by direct email, please email me directly at barb_bloom@kprdsb.ca and I will add you to the contact list for newsletters. Thank you for supporting our efforts to go Green!

R.F. Downey is a busy, productive and positive place to be, and we encourage all parents to visit, get to know us, ask questions and get involved! Please do not hesitate to email me at the address above if you have any questions, comments, concerns or ideas!

Barb Bloom

September Open House

Mark the date in your calendar!! We are having our School Open House on Thursday, September 26th from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. Details will be out shortly!

Student Verification Form

Please return no later than **Friday, September 13th, 2019.**

A student verification form will be sent home with each child. Please thoroughly check the information and return the form to the school, with any changes marked clearly (with red pen if possible). The information that you provide concerning emergency phone numbers and medical information is very important to your child's safety. If at any time, your information changes, please notify the school immediately. Thank you.

Indigenous Student Self-Identification

An information brochure will soon be sent home by our school describing the voluntary self-identification initiative for First Nation, Métis and Inuit students. Your Indigenous heritage is a vital part of who you are. By identifying your child or teen as a First Nation, Métis or Inuit student, this helps us build the best possible school programs for all students. The information you provide when you self-identify will be private and confidential.

You may choose to self-identify either by completing the form included on the brochure or on the Student Registration Verification Form which will be sent home in the coming weeks.

For more information, please contact Sheryl Mattson, Indigenous Education Consultant K-12 – Sheryl_mattson@kprdsb.ca

Attendance - Please Help Us!

If your child is going to be absent or late for school, please notify the school by:

- a)** sending a note to the teacher prior to the absence. This note may be delivered the same morning as the absence by a sibling or neighbour, but the teacher needs to receive it prior to 9:20 a.m.
- b)** phoning directly to the **Safe Arrival** line before 9:15 a.m. at **1-844-434-8119** .

If you do not call this line, once attendance is completed by staff, the system will call you automatically for a reason. It saves time if you call ahead! These notes/phone calls make our morning so much easier as it saves calling you to ensure that your child is safe. It also avoids you being called by the automatic Safe Arrival dispatch system!

SCHOOL HOURS REMINDER

Yard Supervision Begins	9:00 am (students should <u>not</u> be at school before 9:00 am)
Entry Bell	9:15 a.m.
Recess / Nutrition Break 1	10:55 - 11:35 a.m.
Recess / Nutrition Break 2	1:15-1:55 p.m.
Dismissal	3:35 p.m.

R. F. DOWNEY STAFF - 2019/2020

Principal:	Ms. Barb Bloom	
Secretary:	Mrs. Sumbler (Charlotte)	
Kindergarten:	Mrs. Gutoskie & Mrs. Janzen	Planning Teacher: Mrs. Noriega
Kindergarten:	Mr. Wade & Mr. Sheffield	Resource Teacher: Mrs. Moore

Kindergarten/1 Ms. Connelly & Ms. Basciano

Grade 1: Mrs. Burns

Grade 2 : Mrs. Jarvis

Grade 2/3: Mrs. Robb

Grade 3: Mrs. Geen

Grade 3/4: Mrs. McCrossan (Mr. Hamilton LTO)

Grade 4/5 Mr. Carter

Grade 5/6: Mr. Bent

Grade 5/6 Ms. Johnston

Grade 5/6: Ms. LeVasseur

Librarian: Mrs. Orbell

Core French: Mme Culi

Custodians: Mr. Lucciola and team

Support Staff: **CYW** – Kathy Wollny, Crystal Dewitt

EA – Cheryl Bulmer, Susan Davies, KariAnn Favron, Stephanie Hart
Michelle Bagshaw , Lauren McCormick, Shawna Goode, Kristi Waud

The **School Code of Conduct** - was developed by staff, students and parents. An abridged version of the code is at the beginning of the agendas. A complete copy of the Code of Conduct is available on the R.F. Downey school website. It outlines expectations for staff, students and parents as well as **progressive discipline** steps used with students. Please be sure to review the section at the front of the agenda with your child to discuss school expectations.

Health and Physical Education Curriculum

We wanted to provide an update on the Health and Physical Education Curriculum for the coming school year.

As you know, the government has announced a broad public consultation on this issue.

While this consultation is underway, the Ministry of Education has re-issued the 2010 Health and Physical Education Curriculum for elementary students. Secondary students will continue to receive the curriculum broadly revised and introduced in 2015.

We know that our teachers and school support staff are well-trained professionals who will continue to be committed to supporting the well-being and healthy development of students.

We are also obligated by legislation to follow the provincially approved curriculum. Our teachers are highly professional and will teach the curriculum in a developmental and age appropriate manner as they have always done.

As with any question you may have about anything related to your child's learning, the best place to start is with their classroom teacher. These conversations can strengthen positive relationships between parents and teachers, and resolve concerns at the level closest to the issue.

More information is also available on our board's website at: www.kprschoools.ca

FREE KPR Parent Conference October 19

Calling all parents and caregivers: join us the morning of Saturday, October 19 at Port Hope High School for KPR's free, annual Parent Conference! **Dr. Michael Ungar**, world renowned expert on building resiliency in children and youth, will talk about **The Risk-Taker's Advantage: How to Make Kids More Resilient by Not Bubblewrapping Them**. Take advantage of this rare opportunity to hear his engaging advice, while also enjoying free child minding, light refreshments and information booths staffed by local organizations serving families. Stay tuned for more information and registration details later in September at www.kprschoools.ca

Violence Threat Risk Assessment

The KPR Board is committed to providing safe learning environments for all. When students behave inappropriately, principals use progressive discipline to change behaviour. When student behaviours pose a potential threat to safety or serious harm, KPR's Violence Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA) protocol helps principals take immediate steps to protect student well-being. While such incidents are rare, the VTRA outlines how we work with local police, mental health providers and community agencies to keep students safe. [Read more about the protocol](#), including notification requirements, in the Safe, Caring and Restorative Schools section of kprschoools.ca. As always, student safety is our first priority. Should you have any questions, please speak with your principal.

SCHOOL COUNCIL



School Council Fall Fundraiser

This year R.F. Downey will be participating in "Fresh from the Farm". Information and order forms will be home soon! This is a great opportunity to support our school, as well as local farmers, with products that we use anyways!

Our annual elections are on Monday, September 23rd. Everyone is welcome! The School Council usually meets the 2nd Monday of every month at 6:30 p.m. in the library. The School Council will be sending out regular updates throughout the year. Below, you will find a nomination form for School Council. If you are interested in being a member please complete the form and send it to the school by September 14th.

R. F. DOWNEY SCHOOL COUNCIL ANNUAL ELECTION

Our School Council works as a team to promote and support the development of R. F. Downey Public School, as a safe, open, caring, rich learning environment for our children. We are an advisory body to school administration, and interconnect with the community in which our children grow, live and learn.

ANNUAL ELECTION MEETING BEGINS AT 6:30 P.M. ON MONDAY, SEPT. 23rd

PLEASE FILL OUT THE BALLOT AND RETURN TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE BY FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13th

We invite you to join the school council and be a part of setting goals to enhance our children's learning experience and support school staff and administration.

I, _____ am interested in putting my name up for election for the R. F. Downey School Council for the 2019-2020 school year.

Child/ren currently attending RF Downey: _____

My particular area of interest is: _____

I am interested in running for the position of:

- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Chair – or Co-Chair