

McKay Public School

18 Items

October Updates

New Daily COVID-19 Screening Tool Available

Thank you for your support in keeping our school safe by doing the daily COVID-19 screening with your child. Our school community appreciates your efforts.

We began our school year using a DSBN-created daily screening tool. Since then, a new screening tool has been launched by the Ministries of Health and Education. It's a quick questionnaire that will help you know whether your child should or should not be going to school. One feature that is particularly helpful is that it walks you through what to do if your child has one or more symptoms.

Click the link below to find the Daily COVID-19 Screening Tool it is also on McKay's website – click on the banner at the top of the page that says Daily COVID-19 Screening Tool. You can also download a paper copy if you like. Using this tool is optional, but we are encouraging families to use it as a simple tool to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Thank you for everything you're doing to keep our school community safe and healthy.



Daily COVID-19 Screening Tool for Parents

 Ontario

You must screen for COVID-19 every day before going to school. Answer the following questions to help you decide if you should or should not go to school today.

Is your child demonstrating COVID symptoms? Need Advice?

Talk with your doctor/healthcare provider or call Niagara Region Public Health for guidance at 1-888-505-6074 or 905-688-8248 press 7, then press 2

ARE YOU FEELING...
SAD
ANXIOUS
DEPRESSED
ANGRY
WALK IN CLINIC SERVICES
AVAILABLE **IN-PERSON** OR
VIA VIDEO



Pathstone Mental Health Walk In Clinics Help Available For Youth Up To Age 18

Visitors and Parent Meetings- Unfortunately, due to school access restrictions, we are unable to conduct in-person meetings at this time. However, we recognize the importance of continuing to keep the lines of communication open between home and school and will be happy to facilitate meetings by telephone or virtually, as needed.

Morning Arrival - Please do not arrive early. Supervision on the yard begins at 8:40am and this is when the first students should be arriving and proceeding directly to their classroom's zone. Please remind your children that the playground structure is closed for the start of school- this means before and after school also.

Family members are encouraged to model physical distancing and mask use while on school property.

After School Dismissal – As you can imagine, McKay is a busy place at dismissal time. Establishing a consistent dismissal routine with your child and their teacher is critical to making sure everyone gets to where they need to go at the end of the day. Changes to the routine (such as a last minute call to the office to request a child not be put on their bus) are very difficult to accommodate in a large and busy school. We understand that emergencies happen from time to time but ask that, wherever possible, parents make advance arrangements in the morning before their child leaves for school when there is a change from the usual dismissal routine.

Family members are encouraged to model physical distancing and mask use while on school property.

Lates and Absences - To ensure the safe arrival of your child at school, we take attendance each morning and afternoon. Your child's safety is a priority.

To enhance our existing absence-checking procedure, we have an efficient student absence reporting system called SafeArrival. This system will reduce the time it takes to verify student attendance, make it easy for you to report your child's absence and easy for staff to respond to unexplained student absences.

Step by step instructions on how to report your child's absence can be found below.

<https://dsbn.org/safearrival/>

To re-establish a connection for the new school year, please logout of the Schoolmessenger app, and log back in. Please contact the school if you have any questions.

Ongoing Communication for this School Year - For this school year, we will continue to use School Messenger to email you important information. In order to ensure that you receive information from the school, please provide your homeroom teacher and our school secretary with all your up to date information by completing and returning the Verification Form.

To re-establish a connection for the new school year, please logout of the Schoolmessenger app, and log back in. Please contact the school if you have any questions.

Water bottles – As a health and safety measure, our water fountains are closed. Please pack a water bottle for your child so they can stay hydrated during the day.

Snacks and Cutlery – At this time, we are unable to provide additional snacks and cutlery for our students. Please ensure your child has all the food they will need for the day and the utensils to eat it with.

Drop offs during the school day – As access to the school is restricted, we have placed a table outside for parents to drop off any items for their child during the day. Buzz or call the office to let us know when you've dropped something off.

Leaving School Property for 2nd Break - With parent permission, students are welcome to go home for their lunch during their class' second nutrition break. Please note we have staggered lunches this year and siblings may be on different break schedules. Students who leave school property for the break may reenter the school through the front doors when the break is over. They must wear a mask and sanitize their hands upon entry. Bringing outside food back into the school for consumption or distribution (i.e., give to a friend or sibling) is not permitted.

Borrowed Technology - If you borrowed technology items for the spring/summer online portion of school, we ask that you please return them so that they can be disinfected and ready for use in our classrooms.

Transportation - If you have questions about your child's bussing, you can go to nsts.ca for specific information.

School Council – Due to restricted access to the building, School Council meetings are on hold for the moment.

Terry Fox - This year marks the 40th Anniversary of Terry Fox's Marathon of Hope and McKay Public School is proud to be continuing the legacy of one of our greatest heroes.

During the weeks of **September 29-October 9**, students will be learning more about Terry and will be doing activities around the theme of "What's Your 40?". On **Friday, October 9**, students and staff are encouraged to wear their Terry Fox t-shirts to show their support and create awareness for this important event.

Last year, we exceeded our goal and raised \$4,582.95 which brings our grand total of donations to date to \$55,234.39! We have participated in 22 school runs and even though this year will look different, we are hoping to raise awareness and to continue contributing to this worthwhile cause. Due to covid restrictions, we cannot accept cash donations. If you would like to make a donation, please log into our school website and look for the Terry Fox link. Students can even set up their own fundraising pages and share with family and friends.

Please join us and support this wonderful cause by donating to:
<http://www.terryfox.ca/McKayPSPortColborne>.

Together, we can all make a difference! #terryfoxschoolruns @terryfoxfoundation

Meet The Staff:

Mrs. Ainslie, Vice-Principal
Mme Armstrong, Gr. 2/3 French Immersion
Mlle Arnold, Gr. 5/6 French Immersion
Mrs. Bidoski, Primary prep with Science
Mme Clarke, Gr. 4/5 French Immersion
Mr. Clarke-Louie, Gr. 2/3
Mrs. Crowe, Educational Assistant
Ms. Da Eira, Prep
Mrs. Doherty, Lunch Room Supervisor
Mrs. Edwards, Kindergarten 2
Mr. Faragalli, Gr. 4/5
Mrs. Fletcher, Gr. 3/4
Mme Germain, French Second Language and prep
Mrs. Grano, Educational Assistant
Mrs. Hamilton, Learning Resource Teacher
Ms. Handley, Secretary
Mrs. Hemauer, Learning Resource Teacher
Mme Jinks, Instructional Coach
Ms. Jones, Kindergarten 1
Mme Kalbfleisch, Gr. 1/2 French Immersion
Mrs. Kraliz, Designated Early Childhood Educator
Mrs. Lott, Principal
Mrs. Macfarlane, Lunch Room Supervisor
Ms. Mannell, Designated Early Childhood Educator
Mrs. McMahon, Grade 1/2
Mme Minor, Virtual Class Teacher
Mr. Mitchell, Gr. 7/8
Mr. Pelletier, Gr. 6/7
Mme Pierce, Gr. 6/7 French Immersion
Mrs. Ralston, Social Worker
Mrs. Rodrigue, Gr. 5/6
Mrs. Rossi, Youth Counsellor
Mrs. Rozic, Assistant Caretaker
Mme Suk, Gr. 3/4 French Immersion
Mrs. Tello, Lunch Room Supervisor
Mr. Tempest, Music & Prep
Ms. Tourand, Caretaker
Mme Tremblay, Gr. 1 French Immersion
Mme Vanderlaan, Gr. 8 French Immersion
Mrs. Vrbanac, Educational Assistant
Mlle Walinga, Gr. 7/8 French Immersion
Mrs. Whiteley, Secretary