

# January NEWSLETTER

Welcome back to virtual learning, I hope you and your families are doing well. I wanted to take a minute and thank you all for your flexibility and for finding ways to adjust to the current school model. Communication is so important and it needs to go both ways. We are three weeks into virtual learning, here is what our amazing teachers are saying:

- Engagement is up!
- Students are receptive to lessons.
- Students are focused and working so hard.
- Anxiety is down.

- Most kids are doing the work.
- Students are showing up to live lessons.
- Students are sharing their ideas.

## Reminders:

- Let your kids do the work themselves, teachers know what your kids typically hand in and they know when an adult helps too much.
- Be aware of background noise when your child is on a call, the microphones pick up a lot and it distracts the other students - even if they are wearing headphones!
- Students need to participate in all areas of the curriculum, not just math and language.
- Please do not talk to your child during their meeting so they can focus undistracted.

Teacher's are working hard to provide the best learning for your children while managing their own households. There is a lot on their plates, just like there is a lot on your plates. They want you to know that when academics are tough, please reach out to them so you can work together to make adjustments as needed. They want to hear the good and the struggles so please, reach out anytime.

## What parents want to know:

**I emailed my child's teacher last night and they didn't get back to me, I thought they had to?**

Teachers must be available throughout the instructional day but they do not need to be available in the evening. Virtual learning makes finding balance difficult and each teacher does it differently. For the most part, if you send a message in the evening you can expect a response early the next day.

*I thought teachers were supposed to be online teaching all day?*

Teachers need to be available during the hours of the day for learning but the actual face-to-face time of whole class lessons and discussion is a schedule created by the teacher based on age, stamina and necessity. Support staff, homeroom teachers and planning teachers are working together to bring your child opportunities for small and large group learning.

February 1st is a PA Day - There will be no programming offered this day

### **Kindergarten Registration 2021-2022**

If your child will be 4 by December 2021, register [online now](#) for Kindergarten starting in September.

When completing the on-line registration, create an account using your email address. Then complete the fillable fields, providing the information requested. Submit the form to be reviewed by the school. The secretary will check the form for completeness and accuracy. The form may be sent back and forth between parent/guardian to ensure it is complete.

Finally, verification documents will need to be provided once schools are open and secretaries are able to book appointments.

- **Birth certificate**
- **Proof of address**
- **Citizen verification**
- **Custody documents (if applicable)**

### **Virtual Elementary School**

Students have another opportunity to switch from in-class learning (or remote learning if schools do not open on January 25), to the Virtual Elementary School (VES). The application process for switching to VES is open and will close on January 22.

An Opt Out portal will be open at <http://optout.kprdsb.ca/> from January 13 to 4 p.m. on January 22, for families to complete if they wish to transfer their children to the VES. **Parents and guardians must complete the form on this portal between January 13-22 if they wish their children to move to the [Virtual Elementary School](#) on the next available transfer date.**

The first day of virtual classes for new VES students will be **Tuesday, February 2** (February 1 is a PA Day). Teachers will begin contacting families of new VES students January 28. Until then, students will continue to attend their home school.

When filling out the portal you need your child's OEN number which can be found on the top of their report card.

Thank you for the support and gratitude that many of you have been demonstrating. We are all living in a world where not much is making sense and fear lies in all of us to varying degrees. From our Norwood team of amazing staff to your families,

*Stay well, Stay safe, Stay kind* 