



King George VI Public School

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A Few Words from the Principal

November 2023

Did you know that teachers at King George VI regularly screen and assess students' literacy progress? Teachers in JK through Gr. 2/3 systematically teach and assess early literacy skills: phonological and phonemic awareness (sounds of letters and words) and phonics (printed letters and words). As students move along the continuum of learning to read, the emphasis in teaching and assessment shifts toward vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension – the focus transitions from “learning to read” to “reading to learn.”

Teachers use a variety of tools to collect data, plan for instruction, and monitor student progress. In addition to observations during lessons and follow-up activities, teachers use research-based literacy screeners and benchmarking tools by *Heggerty*, *Benchmark Assessment System (BAS)* and more. Based on student data, instruction is then designed to meet each child's learning goals through a combination of whole-class, small group, and individual learning strategies.



We need families to help at home!

Read to and with your child(ren) - every day. Practice lower- and upper-case letter recognition as well as letter-sound associations (what sound letters make). Have fun breaking down word sounds: CAT...C-A-T. Review *Dolch Sight Words* - make it a game and have some fun, or download literacy-based apps on your devices. With older students, read together and discuss word meanings, plot lines, story characters, or anything that gets them thinking critically about what they're reading. Looking for ideas? Our incredible King George VI teachers are here to help!

Please visit King George VI on Facebook – it's a great way to get a sneak-peek into our terrific little school. Call, email, or pop by if you have questions or concerns – my door is always open. (adam.carswell@lkdsb.net)

Warmest regards,

Dates to Remember in November & December:

November 3	Spirit Day – Wear House Team Colours (Red OR Black)
November 4	King George VI Bazaar – Holiday Shopping!
November 7	Fall Photo Re-Takes
November 7	Volleyball Game, Boys & Girls @ Errol Road PS
November 8	School Council Meeting – 6:30 p.m.
November 10	Remembrance Day Assembly – 10:00 a.m.
November 10	Progress Reports & FDK Initial Observations Sent Home
November 15	Volleyball Game, Boys & Girls @ Errol Road PS
November 16	Parent Teacher Interviews
November 17	PA Day – Parent Teacher Interviews
November 20	ORDERS DUE – MacMillan’s School Council Fundraiser
November 20	Volleyball Game, Boys & Girls @ Errol Road PS
November 24	Spirit Day – Wear House Team Colours (Red OR Black)
November 27	Volleyball Game, Boys & Girls @ Errol Road PS
December 1	Spirit Day – Wear Country & Western Apparel!
December 4-6	Volleyball Playoffs, Boys & Girls @ Errol Road PS
December 8	Spirit Day – Wear House Team Colours (Red OR Black)
December 12	School Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
December 15	Spirit Day – Wear House Team Colours (Red OR Black)
December 15	Pizza Lunch (Boston Pizza, 1 st Break)
December 20	HOLIDAY CELEBRATION – 12:00 p.m. (Parent, Guardians, and Guests Please Attend!)
December 22	Last Day of School – Winter Break Begins



School Council

Thank you, School Council, for your recent purchase of **new outdoor play equipment** and for organizing our first-ever **Monster Mash**; to say our students had a blast is an understatement! We appreciate all the hard work that you do to support King George VI School and its students.

School Council is an integral part of our King George VI community and has a track record of being a dynamic, positive, and productive team. Among other things, School Council’s objective is to ensure accountability, make recommendations to the school, and engage in fundraising activities. Parents and guardians are encouraged to participate in School Council’s monthly meetings (2nd Wednesdays 6:30-7:30 p.m.) and engage in special events and projects. Our next meeting will be held on **November 8, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.**



Student Attendance

Each day at King George VI offers valuable learning experiences, so maintaining regular attendance is critical for student success. Although it's nearly impossible to attend every day of school, excessive absences can create learning gaps. Developing consistent morning routines helps to ensure that students arrive on time and then begin their day without the stress that often accompanies a rushed morning.

Character @ King George VI

Through November, students and staff will discuss **respect**, what it means, why it's important, and how it can lead to a more safe and caring school community. Respect is how we treat people; how we act towards them.



When I think about 'respect,' I find myself thinking about the Golden Rule: *"Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."* Or more simply: *"Treat others the way you'd like to be treated."* Character traits can be tricky and abstract concepts that may be difficult for young children to fully understand. Respect can be a *feeling* – you can feel respect for someone because of who they are, what they stand for, or how they act. Respect can also be an *action* – to show respect, you treat others kindly and with regard for their feelings and wellbeing.

Please continue the conversation at home – discuss 'respect' and the Golden Rule, read books showcasing respect as a theme, share stories of respectful moments in your own lives, and highlight when family members demonstrate respect. Be as concrete as you can; introduce examples and point out moments when they are demonstrating respect.

Congratulations to **Knight Award** recipients (Ali, Luke, Clara, and Jaxon), as well as our **Character Award** recipients who demonstrated *Empathy* through the month of October.



Knight's Corner

Our school has a weekly segment on our announcements called *Knight's Corner*. It's a chance for students to show off their skills in singing, sports, dance, artwork, and more. We're always in awe of their talent, and we look forward to seeing what they have in store for us! Sometimes we film these talents at school, however, if you have clips of your child's talent from events outside of school, we welcome those as well. Recently, we featured a remarkable dance solo by one of our students at her recital. We invite you to submit a brief clip (+/- one minute long) to Mrs. Van Wolde (amanda.vanwolde@lkdsb.com).

Cross-Country Team

Congratulations to all our student-athletes who represented King George VI so well throughout this year's Cross-Country season – despite rain and mud, you remained resilient and ran well! Thank you, as well, to our coaches: Mrs. Menheere, Mrs. Randall, and Mrs. Bartelen.



Students in Mr. Van Bunderen and Mr. Raiger's classes have been **learning to play the guitar!**



Students recently participated in a **STEM Challenge** in our newly renovated learning commons – with limited resources available, they were tasked with creating a boat that would sail across a small body of water, propelled by a desk fan!

