



October Newsletter 2026



Happy October!

It's a beautiful time of year with the different colours that fall brings. It's hard to believe that we are already into our second month of school. Our teachers will be wrapping up our fall diagnostics to give us a good idea of where students are starting this year, so that we can tailor our teaching to their needs.

Our PATS committee is already hard at work helping to fundraise money for our school. When you purchase gift cards through Fundscrip, order through Mom's Pantry, or order hot food days, please know you are helping to provide our school with resources and activities. Whether you are able to come to meetings, or can help out on food days or with school activities, please know that your time is appreciated.

I'd like to wish all of our students participating in the regional Cross Country meet this Friday the best of luck. They have been training hard and we are proud of their efforts!

Please note the important days coming up listed below, including a Monday PD Day (which is not typical - usually PD Days are on Fridays). I'd like to wish all of our families and staff a Happy Thanksgiving this weekend. I know that I am grateful to be the Principal of such a wonderful school.

Warmly,
Heather Dyer
Principal, Kenilworth Public School

Upcoming Events:

- Friday, Oct.9 - Regional Track and Field Meet, Yogurt Parfaits 2nd Nutrition Break
- Monday, Oct.12 - Thanksgiving Monday (Holiday)
- Tuesday, Oct.13 - Mom's Pantry Orders Due
- Friday, Oct.16 - Salad Day
- Tuesday, Oct.20 - Term 1 IEPs home for students with Special Education needs
- Wednesday, Oct.21 - Early Childhood Educator (ECE) Appreciation Day
- Friday, Oct.23 - Mac 'n Cheese Day
- Monday, Oct.26 - PD Day, no school for students
- Wednesday, Oct.28 - Halloween Biscuit Sales (\$2 each, Nutrition Program fundraiser)
- Friday, Oct.30th - Halloween Costume/Black and Orange/Come as You Are Day

Whole School Focus - Writing

We will be focusing on writing during the 2026-27 school year. We are noticing that many of our students are having difficulty with using writing to communicate ideas and thinking. Research tells us that when we are better writers, we are also better readers and thinkers! Many parents ask us what they can do to help at home, so we'd like to share some ideas with you:

- Homework - many of our teachers provide activities to work on at home. This can look like alphabet activities, printing or cursive writing practice, home reading, and math. Homework is designed to be flexible to family schedules so that everyone has an opportunity to have weekly practice at home.
- Printing or Cursive writing practice (check with your child's teacher to see which one they are working on if you're not sure) - when we can write letters and words fluently and automatically, we free up our brains for the harder work of thinking about what to write and how to organize it.
- Regular writing activities - writing lists together, gratitude journals, and writing about the books students are reading are all great activities for practising writing in a meaningful way.
- Model writing in front of your children - some of the best learning children can do is watching adults do a task! The more you can talk out loud about what you're writing and why helps them learn.

PATS Meetings (School Council)

Hello Kenilworth Public School families,

PATS is excited for another great year at Kenilworth Public School! We have lots of fun activities and fundraising opportunities planned throughout the school year.

October is a busy month for PATS! Our October Food Day will be Mac & Cheese for \$4, giving students a delicious lunch option at school.

Our FundScrip fundraiser runs all year long, making it an easy way for families to support our school while purchasing gift cards for places they already shop. We also have Mabel Labels available year-round, which are perfect for keeping track of school clothing, lunch containers, water bottles, and more!

Our Mom's Pantry fundraiser is also underway! There are lots of great food options to choose from, making it a great way to stock up your pantry while supporting PATS. A reminder to get your Mom's Pantry orders in by October 13th!

Thank you to all of our families, staff, and volunteers for supporting PATS and helping us create fun opportunities for our students! 💜

Halloween 2026 at KPS

Many students in our school community enjoy Halloween and the magic of dressing up. As we near Halloween, please read this letter carefully. On Friday, Oct.31st, students are welcome to wear costumes to school OR wear black/orange, OR "Come as You Are".

Please keep in mind the following:

Costume Do's	Costume Don'ts
● Follow the school dress code ● Appropriate for school ● Are mindful that we have children as young as 3 years old in our school ● Use makeup or face paint (put on at home and worn to school) ● Make sure your child can get their costume on and off by themselves ● Is safe for school activities like Gym ● Are creative!	● No costumes that are representative of another culture, religious belief, gender, or socio-economic status ● No costumes related to COVID ● No masks ● No weapons ● No violent references

If students choose to dress up, they need to be able to wear their costume all day.

Halloween treats are welcome at school if you wish to send something with your child, so long as they are pre-packaged and nut-free.

Nutrition Program

Our Kenilworth Nutrition Program is off to a great start! We provide students with a variety of nutritious, kid-friendly foods throughout the school year, with options from three food groups: grains, protein, and fruits and vegetables.

Snack bins are available in each classroom during first break. Students can choose a snack if they are hungry, and the bins remain available throughout the day for anyone who needs a snack later.

We're also excited to offer Nutrition Program Food Days throughout the year! This month's featured options are our Apple Harvest Salad and Rainbow Yogurt Parfaits! 🍏🌈

A big thank you to our families, staff, students, volunteers, and supporters who help make our Nutrition Program possible

Bus Patrol

Our Grade 5 and 6 students have completed their Bus Patrol training and are now ready to start as Bus Patrollers. Our Patrollers are there to assist the bus driver and to model and give friendly reminders to students about safe bus behaviour. If your child needs help on the Bus, they can ask their Bus Patrollers for help. Thank you to our Grade 5/6 students for taking on this role and for helping to make our bus rides safe and positive.

Illness and Return to School

With the return to school often comes the return of colds, flu and illness. Public Health recommends that if your child has had a fever, that they need to be fever-free, without medication, for 24 hours before returning to school. If they have nausea or diarrhea, they need to be symptom-free (unmedicated) for 48 hours before returning to school. As always, reinforcing good hand washing practices, covering coughs, and blowing noses with a tissue help us not to share those germs with others.

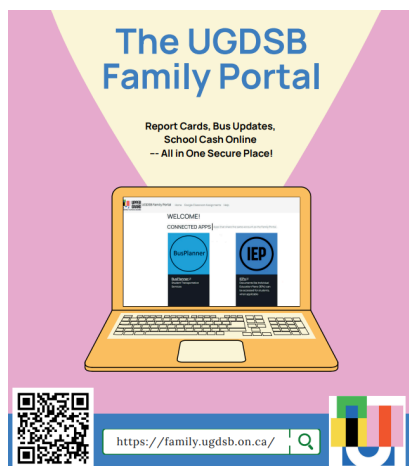
Late/Cancelled Buses

Please sign up for notifications through the Parent Portal on the Student Transportation Website so that you receive updates about late or cancelled buses if you have not already done so. The transportation website is here: <https://stwdsts.ca/>

If your child's bus is running late at the end of the day, and you would like to arrange for a pick up, please call the office when you receive a notification so that we can have the student waiting for you at the office when their ride arrives.



UGDSB Family Portal



The UGDSB Family Portal is open to all families in the board.

The UGDSB Family Portal puts your child's school information in one secure place. See Report Cards, Bus delays, IEPs, School Cash Online, and more—anytime. It's easy to use, with single sign-on for many tools (and we're adding more).

Get started: <https://family.ugdsb.on.ca/>

Need help? Please see this FAQ or contact your school office for support.

October Communications Newsletter

The October Communications Newsletter is out! This is the monthly newsletter from the communications department. In this month's issue we have information about:

- Cyber Awareness Month
- Support Office
- Road Safety

You can view the newsletter here: <https://www.ugdsb.ca/page/communications-newsletter>

Paying for School Items- PLEASE REGISTER FOR SCHOOL CASH ONLINE

We will be continuing to use School Cash Online this year for safety and efficiency reasons. Payments for food days, field trips, and donations go through School Cash Online. Please take a few minutes to register so you can enjoy the convenience of online shopping now and into the coming school years.

Here's How to Register for Online Payments

Step 1: Go to this website - ugdsb.schoolcashonline.com

Step 2: Register by selecting "Register" and follow the steps

Step 3: Respond to the confirmation email, select the "click here" option, sign in and add each of your children to your household account

If you need some help with School Cash Online, please reach out to us in the office.

Lost and Found

With the cool weather coming, please label your children's clothing so that lost items can be returned to your child. The most common items lost are hoodies/sweaters, mittens, hats, snowpants, jackets, and boots/shoes.



Student Attendance

Coming to school on time, every day (except when they're sick!), is one of the most important factors in a child's future success, both academically and socially. Thank you for doing all you can to ensure your student arrives at school on time and stays for the full day.

Is your child struggling with attending school? We are here to help! Here are a few tips and strategies to help encourage regular school attendance.

- Keep in mind that attendance issues can quickly escalate. Parents/guardians need to intervene and reach out for support as early as possible before it becomes the norm.
- Keep the expectation in your home of attending school and staying all day. Don't give up. Even if your child is anxious about school, ensure the expectation of regular attendance doesn't change. Work with the issue, not around it.
- Talk to your child to find out what is behind them not wanting to go to school. Anxiety can show up in a lot of ways and one of them can be not wanting to go to school. Encourage your child to talk back to their anxiety! Tell themselves they can do it!
- Ask questions about your child's worries about school. Although you know your child well, try not to assume you know the answers. Keep an open mind. Validate your child's concerns.
- If your child is having difficulty with attendance try setting a goal with them such as if they attend for a certain amount of time, they can have a special treat or do a special activity.

For more information, please visit the UGDSB website:

<https://www.ugdsb.ca/parents/student-attendance-at-school-tips-and-strategies-for-families/>

Attendance Matters!



Every Student, Every School, Every Day