

# KAY BINGHAM NEWSLETTER

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December 15, 2016

Dear Parents/Guardians:

I want to take this time to thank all of our KBES families who were able to attend our Christmas Concerts yesterday. The students loved having the opportunity to perform for you and we loved having our extended KBES families gathered together.

Special thanks to Mrs. Hallett and Mrs. Covaceuszach for organizing our concert and taking the extra time to practice with students and classes.



We also want to thank all of our families for supporting our many PAC fundraising initiatives. You were extremely supportive of the Poinsettia Fund Raiser and Craft Fair. The first week back in January, PAC will be holding their annual reverse bottle drive. Please save your returnables and drop them off at the school between January 3 and 6<sup>th</sup>. First thing in the morning is the best time to drop them off, as a PAC member will be at the school to collect them. This fundraiser will close at 9:30 am on Friday, January 6<sup>th</sup>. The PAC's annual Holiday Gift Shop was a fantastic success. The goal of our Holiday Gift Shop is to provide students with an opportunity to shop for their families. This has always been viewed as a service and fun thing to do for our students and not a fundraiser.

Students are always excited at this time of year! We join them in the excitement of the season, as we recall what it was like to be a child swept up in all the anticipation and excitement of the season.

The staff of KBES wish all of our families a very happy, healthy, safe and fun-filled Holiday Season. We look forward to reconnecting in the New Year!

Happy Holidays!

Mrs. Wood,  
Principal



**PLEASE BE MINDFUL THAT SCHOOL RESUMES ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 3<sup>RD</sup> @ 8:30 AM.**

## SAFETY PRACTICES

Students and staff will participate in our second lock-down drill during the month of January. In February we will review and practice an earthquake drill. Parents please regularly review with your child/ren pedestrian safety, including stranger danger.



## FAMILY GAME NIGHT

KBES will once again be hosting Family Games Night on Wednesday evenings. Families are invited to gather in the library at 6:15 and play a variety of board games with their children. Family Games Night will run for 6 weeks, an hour each week. Our first Family Games Night will be Wednesday, January 11<sup>th</sup>!

## STUDENT ABSENCES

KBES now fully participates in the School District's new Safe Arrival System. This system **requires that all absences are called into the system by 8:30 am** each day. The new system will handle the majority of parent contact (including phone calls) when a student absence is unexpected. The new system also allows parents to interact directly with the system in the following ways:

- by phone when the system calls you, or when you want to initiate a call to notify that your child will be absent
- by internet through a login controlled webpage Interface
- by a smartphone app (iOS and Android version; both available for free).

**To report an absence you may choose to:**

- call the toll-free # 1-844-350-2647 or
- access the following website: <http://ktsd.schoolconnects.com/> or
- download the Synervoice Technologies Inc app by searching for SafeArrival School Connects.

KAY BINGHAM elementary R.O.C.K.S. !

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Please choose the reason for your child's absence from school: sick, appointment, family vacation, etc.

**Don't forget to wait for a confirmation # to ensure your child's absence has been recorded.**

*If you do not connect with the system by 8:30 on the day of your child's absence from school, and when the teacher has completed attendance for his/her class, then a report will be dispatched for all students absent without a reason. The system will then proceed to call home and cell phone numbers until you are reached. Each number will be called up to 5 times. It is important that your home and cell phone numbers, along with email addresses are kept current.*



## BASKETBALL SEASON

With January comes the start of Basketball Season in our School District. At this time, we anticipate having both a Tier 2 Girls and a Tier 2 Boys team participate.

## FOUNDATION SKILLS ASSESSMENT (FSAs)

Our Grade 4 students will participate in the Foundation Skills Assessment with other grade 4 students throughout the province starting the middle of January. The Foundation Skills Assessment is a snapshot of student achievement in reading, writing and numeracy.

Register  
for  
**Kindergarten**



Kindergarten registration for September 2017 is quickly drawing near! The last week of January, information nights and registration will begin for Schools of Choice. More information will follow in our January newsletter, as well as on the School District's website. **On Thursday, February 9<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-9:30 pm**, there will be a Kindergarten Round-Up information session for parents at the

Henry Grube Education Center. **On Tuesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, Kindergarten will begin for students at KBES.** Children who are 5 years old or will be 5 years old by December 31, 2017 are eligible to attend Kindergarten in September. It is important that parents bring in their child's birth certificate, care card and proof of address when they are registering their child. Early Kindergarten registration is important for important transition meetings, as well as, participation in our fun Welcome to Kindergarten orientation program.



## WINTER CLOTHING

Please ensure children come to school each day with the expectation that we will be playing outside during recess and lunch breaks. Students should have snow

pants, jackets, hats, mitts and scarves for our Canadian winters. Labelling your child's clothing will help with any innocent mix-ups of students wearing another student's boots home. If you are struggling to outfit your child/ren in outdoor clothing, please contact Mrs. Wood in the office for assistance.

## CANCELLATION OF CLASSES DUE TO EXTREME WEATHER, POLICY 1024.7

In the rare event that school is cancelled for students, the superintendent will make the announcement, as soon as possible, for parents so that they can make alternate arrangements for their children. Announcements will be made via: telephone message, local media and posting to the School District website. Parents, please remember to keep your contact information up-to-date with the office.

## MINDUP INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

In the fall, KBES began implementing an evidence-based social and emotional learning curriculum, which helps our students better engage in learning, limit their distractions, self-regulate their behavior and improve their focus and resiliency training. The program is called MindUP (The Hawa Foundation, 2011) and it utilizes a brain centered approach to integrating neuroscience, positive psychology,

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mindful awareness training and social and emotional learning, as tools for success in the classroom and in life.

We are at the beginning stages of implementation. The 15 lessons in MindUP will help a child enhance their self-awareness, concentration abilities, problem solving skills, pro-social behaviors (helping, sharing, and cooperating), while exploring positive human qualities, such as happiness, optimism, and gratitude. The Collaborative for Academic Social and Emotional Learning (CASEL) has accredited MindUP and chosen the program as one of the few CASEL recommended Social Emotional Learning (SEL) initiatives. MindUP has been rigorously researched, is evidence-based and schools who have used it report improvement in their overall learning and classroom engagement. The results include a decrease in stress and classroom anxiety, improvements in peer to peer conflict resolutions as well as the programs overall scaffolding of academic success.

MindUP was created to help children understand the ways their minds work, how their thoughts and feelings affect their behavior. The four goals of Mindup are:

- 1) To foster mindful focused awareness
  - 2) To increase positive human qualities, such as empathy, perspective-taking, helpfulness and kindness
  - 3) To increase optimism and the sense of well-being, while gaining resiliency traits
  - 4) To foster a cohesive, caring classroom climate
- Each MindUP lesson teaches students about their brain (anatomy and function), and how they can positively influence their own development. Along with the classroom lessons, there is a short, three times a day practice of calming the mind through "brain breaks" and focused breathing and listening exercises. We are excited about the potential this program holds for making all of our classrooms a better engaged, focused, and optimistic community of learners.

If you would like to learn more about the research around social emotional learning, please visit [www.casel.org](http://www.casel.org). For further details about MindUP and The Hawk Foundation, please visit <https://mindup.org/thehawkfoundation>. If you

have further questions about the program or would like more information, please feel free to contact your child's teacher. We are hoping to organize a parent information session later in the Spring.

## ENTERING AND EXITING THE SCHOOL

All students are asked to enter the school each morning through their assigned Pod door. For security reasons, the front door is the only door open during the school day. It is important that all parents and guests enter the school through the main door and check in at the office. Thank you for your cooperation on this important matter.

## ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL MATTERS

Regular and on-time attendance at school is very important for student academic achievement and sense of belonging and community. Please ensure your child arrives to school on a regular basis. Arriving on time is also important, as often one has a feeling of being overwhelmed or out-of-step arriving after class has already started. Our classes begin at 8:30 am with morning announcements.



## School Hours

Please be mindful that our school doors open at 8:20 with classes beginning at 8:30. Students are all dismissed at 2:30 pm. It is important that students are not arriving early and hanging around as we do not provide early morning supervision. If your child is attending the Breakfast Program at the Boys and Girls Club, then they should arrive at the portable by 8:00 am and stay there until the 8:20 bell goes. At the end of the school day, students should be promptly picked up.

## MONTHLY PAC MEETING

Our next monthly PAC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 4<sup>th</sup> @ 8:45 am. All parents/guardians of children attending KBES are considered to be part of our PAC and are welcome to attend our monthly meetings.

**Welcome January**



# JANUARY, 2017

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
<b>2</b> LAST DAY OF WINTER BREAK	<b>3</b> SCHOOL RE-OPENS!  PAC REVERSE BOTTLE DRIVE BEGINS!	<b>4</b> PAC MEETING @ 8:45 AM	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>  LAST DAY TO DONATE TO PAC'S BOTTLE DRIVE!
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>  FAMILY GAMES NIGHT IN OUR LIBRARY FROM 6:15 – 7:15 PM	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>16</b> FOUNDATION SKILLS ASSESSMENTS BEGIN FOR GRADE 4 STUDENTS	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> FAMILY GAMES NIGHT IN OUR LIBRARY FROM 6:15 – 7:15 PM	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> NON INSTRUCTIONAL DAY
<b>23/30</b>	<b>24/31</b>	<b>25</b> FAMILY GAMES NIGHT IN OUR LIBRARY FROM 6:15 – 7:15 PM	<b>26</b> NEWSLETTER POSTED TO WEBSITE	<b>27</b> PAC HOT LUNCH – HOT DOG DAY