



VINCENT MASSEY P.S.

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER 2020

A Peanut, Nut, Flax & Scent Safe School



Nicholas Shea, Principal
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TBD, School Council Chair

September 2018 Newsletter #1	10 Church St Bowmanville, L1C 1S3	Tel: 905-623-5502 Fax: 905-623-7341
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DATES TO REMEMBER

- September 14 – Welcome back to 1/4 of school
- September 15 - Welcome back to 1/4 of school
- September 16 - Welcome back to 1/4 of school
- September 17 - Welcome back to 1/4 of school
- September 18 – Welcome back to ALL Students

- September 21 – Parent Council Virtual Meeting and Potential Elections

LOOKING AHEAD

Oct 12 – Thanksgiving Day (No School)



RED & WHITE Day for Terry Fox!

Please plan to join us as we walk/run for this great cause. Details will be sent home soon. In the meantime, save the date – September 25th!

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Welcome back VMPS Family! This is a September like no other. The staff have been working extremely hard to ensure that we have a safe and

healthy start to school. It's been a long time since our students have been in our building and we working hard to make it as inviting and welcoming as possible giving the new limitations and restrictions that are in place as we live in the new COVID-19 reality. We are here to support you, your children and the community!

September is a month of community building, inside and outside of the classroom. Our focus this year is to continue building and maintaining an environment where everyone is welcome, safe, healthy, and continue to focus on having VMPS be the hub of our school and greater community. The staff and students learned a Xhosa word last year: *Umbuntu*, "I am because we are." This word encompasses the goals that we have set in allowing VMPS to become an even stronger community; one where people younger and older look out for one another and support each other on a daily basis. "I am because we are, together we are a community!" is our motto and it will mean so much more this year.

VMPS is continuing to use Seven Grandfather Teachings to help students develop their characters. September and October's focus will be on Courage or Zoongide'ewin: Courage is represented by the bear. The mother bear has the courage and strength to face her fears and challenges while protecting her young. The bear also shows us how to live a balanced life with rest, survival and play. To face life with courage is to know bravery. Find your inner strength to face the difficulties of life and the courage to be yourself. Defend what you believe in and what is right for your community, family, and self. Make positive choices and have conviction in your

decisions. Face your fears to allow yourself to live your life.

Courage is in us right from the start; we all had the courage to develop into an infant before we were born, to develop into a toddler who could walk and talk to develop into a child, teenager and adult. Courage is what's inside us, our heart and is what allows us to be who we want to be.

This school year start-up will have its challenges, this school year will have its challenges, but together we can make a difference and we can keep each other safe. Remember to social distance, wash your hands and keep your hands off your face and we will control the virus together.

Looking forward to a year filled with learning and memories.

Stay safe and healthy,

Nicholas Shea
Principal

SAFE & CARING SCHOOL WEEK

Safe and Caring School Week begins on September 17th. Throughout the week we will direct our teaching and learning to the actions that support a welcoming school, and our collective response to an emergency situation should one come our way. Students will learn about WHAT needs to be done, WHEN it needs to be done and WHY. At this time in the school year, all staff and students will know when we will be practicing a safety drill (no surprises!) so that focus can be placed on responding calmly, appropriately and safely. Unannounced safety drills will occur later on in the school year.

SCHOOL COUNCIL 2019-2020

The first virtual meeting and possible elections for the upcoming school year's **School Council** will be held September 21, 2020. Whether you are interested in formally joining this membership or becoming a school volunteer, we welcome you! The nomination form for those interested in a School Council position is on page 4 of the newsletter. The work of our Council is vital to the school. Details about our major fundraising initiative will be sent home on October 1st.



BEING AT SCHOOL ON TIME IS IMPORTANT – LET'S DO IT!

This year we have a staggered entry at the beginning of each day. Please ensure that you follow the correct time based on your last name. (Purpose: to minimize congestion in the hallways and school yard.)

Beginning of Day (8:15-8:30):

Beginning of school day will be based on a staggered schedule using first letter of last name:

A-G - 8:15 enter school
H-M - 8:20 enter school
N-S - 8:25 enter school
T-Z - 8:30 enter school

DAILY SCHEDULE	
8:15	Staggered Entry Begins
8:30	Entry Bell
8:30-10:30	First Instructional Block
10:30-11:10	First Nutritional Break
11:10-12:40	Second Instructional Block
12:40-1:20	Second Nutritional Break
1:20-2:50	Third Instructional Block
2:50	Dismissal Bell

ADMINISTERING MEDICATION

As per the Board's Policy Code: ES-1.5, we must have an "Administering Medication Form" completed by a parent/guardian in order for the school to administer any medication. Please contact the office for further information.

Plan of Care: Medical Information

Students with any potentially life threatening illnesses or medical conditions will be receiving a 'Plan of Care' information package from the school today. Please complete and return this information package to the school as per instructions enclosed. Please contact our Special Education Resource Teacher (SERT) Ms. de Vries, at the school should or email suzanne_devries@kprdsb.ca you have any questions or require more information.

STUDENT AGENDAS

Student agendas will be used by all students in grades 1-8 to support school to home and home to school communication.

The cost of the agendas is \$8.00 for grades 1-5 and \$4.00 for grades 6-8. School Cash on line payment ONLY, no exceptions as we cannot be handling cash or cheques.

INDOOR SHOES

Please do not send INDOOR SHOES at this time. If it is raining or snowing then they may wear boots with their INDOOR SHOES in their backpacks, however, they must return home that day.

VINCENT MASSEY P.S. STAFF 2020-2021

S. Fallis	Secretary
M. Heaslip	Head Custodian
M. Dalbi	Night Custodian
M. Fulford	Extra Custodian (1 hr)
C. Watson/M. Topper	Kg Year 1 & Year 2
S. Hicks &	Kg Year 1 & Year 2
N. Fedorowich	
D. Nugent	Kg Year 2
T. Ling	Gr. 1
A. MacDonald	Gr. 1/2
A. Iacobelli	Gr. 2/3
M. Michaud	Gr. 3 & 4
M. Bondgard	Gr. 4/5
M. Smith	Gr. 5/6
D. Woodman	Gr. 6/7
S. Hall	Gr. 7
J. McGillen	Gr. 8
K. Bond	Gr. 8
L. Balde	French 6/7 and Planning
J. Nowry	Junior/Int. French
S. de Vries	SERT
T. Bond	Reading Recovery/SERT
S. Fish	Planning
P. Carlson	CYW
B. Ibbotson	EA
L. Dunn	EA
N. LaFave	EA
A. Ruckstuhl	EA
S. Sajac	EA
A. Weatherup	EA
N. Shea	Principal

POLICE RECORD CHECKS FOR VOLUNTEERS & FIELD TRIP SUPERVISORS

The Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board requires volunteers to complete an annual criminal background check which must include a vulnerable sector screening. This can be done at Durham Regional Police, Clarington, East Division, located on Hwy 2 west at the corner of Maple Grove Rd. Please pick up a letter at the school office to take with you when you request your police check.

Thank you for being a volunteer! We always need you and appreciate your help!

SAFE ARRIVAL

Please use the safe arrival system by calling 1-844-434-8119 or go to studentabsence.kprdsb.ca to report student absences.

CROSSING GUARD SCHEDULE

King/Simpson	Liberty/Church
8:00-8:30	8:00-8:30
12:30-12:40	12:30-12:40
1:00-1:10	1:00-1:10
2:50-3:10	2:50-3:10

Mearns/Soper
7:50-8:15
12:35-12:45
1:00-1:10
3:00-3:25



ALLERGY ALERT

We have many children and staff at our school with allergies that can make them very sick as well as those that are life threatening. As a result we have declared ourselves as a Peanut/Nut/**Flax**/Scent safe zone.

To ensure students and staff are in a safe environment, we ask that food containing peanuts/nuts/flax not be sent to school. For those students and staff who may use soy butter as a protein substitute for peanut butter, we ask that soy butter products be clearly labeled as such in lunches. This will ensure students and staff who are allergic to peanuts/nuts will not feel uncomfortable around soy products which are similar in appearance.

Please refrain from using strong shampoos, deodorants, and perfumes.

Thank you for ensuring that we provide a safe school environment for our students and staff.

VINCENT MASSEY SCHOOL COUNCIL PARENT NOMINATION FORM

CUT AND RETURN

I WISH TO NOMINATE (SELF OR OTHER INDIVIDUAL)

_____ FOR THE POSITION
OF _____ ON THE SCHOOL COUNCIL.

I AM THE PARENT/GUARDIAN OF _____, WHO IS
CURRENTLY REGISTERED AT THIS SCHOOL

THE PERSON I HAVE NOMINATED IS THE PARENT/GUARDIAN OF _____
WHO IS CURRENTLY REGISTERED AT THIS SCHOOL IN GRADE_____.

I AM AN EMPLOYEE OF THE BOARD. (Please circle one)

YES NO

Nominator's signature

Date

Parent/Guardian and Student Protocols

Purpose: To inform parents/guardians and students about the COVID-19 protocols put in place by VMPS and KPR to support students, staff, parents and community members' health, safety and well-being from the contraction of COVID-19.

Self-Assessment for Student and Parents:

It is vital that all parents self-assess themselves and their children on a daily basis before sending them to school. If a student or household member has a fever, cold, flu or other symptoms ALL STUDENTS from that household ARE TO REMAIN HOME FOR 24 HRS (48 HRS in the case of vomiting and diarrhea) after they are symptom free, plus has been assessed by a medical professional. If a student or household member was tested for COVID and was negative, the student can return 24 hrs after symptoms have gone (negative test does not mean they can return, they can return 24 hrs after being symptom free (48 HRS in the case of vomiting and diarrhea).

Self-Assessment looks like:

- a. Take temperature: Normal temperature **98.6°F (37°C)**.

Fever temperature chart: If a child or household member has a temperature reading similar to the readings below; the child or household member has a fever and **MUST** stay home for 48 hrs or until temperature is normal. Please contact school and explain the situation so that we can monitor the other students in that child's cohort.

Remember, a **child** has a **fever** when his or her **temperature** is 100.4°F (38°C) or higher, measured rectally.

...
Temperature comparison table.

Axillary/Forehead (°F)	Oral (°F)	Rectal/Ear (°F)
98.4–99.3	99.5–99.9	100.4–101
99.4–101.1	100–101.5	101.1–102.4
101.2–102	101.6–102.4	102.5–103.5
102.1–103.1	102.5–103.5	103.6–104.6

[1 more row](#)

www.mottchildren.org > health-library ▾

[Fever Temperatures: Accuracy and Comparison | CS Mott ...](#)

b. Info directly from Ministry of Ontario Health For :

Ministry of Health

COVID-19 Reference Document for Symptoms

Version 6.0 – August 6, 2020

This document outlines the symptoms which have been most commonly associated with COVID-19. This information is current as of August 6, 2020 and may be updated as the situation on COVID-19 continues to evolve. If there is a discrepancy between this list and other guidance, this list should be considered as the most up to date.

Common symptoms of COVID-19 include:

- Fever (temperature of 37.8°C or greater)
- New or worsening cough
- Shortness of breath (dyspnea)

Other symptoms of COVID-19 can include:

- Sore throat
- Difficulty swallowing
- New olfactory or taste disorder(s)
- Nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain
- Runny nose, or nasal congestion – *in absence of underlying reason for these symptoms such as seasonal allergies, post nasal drip, etc.*
- Croup
- Conjunctivitis

Atypical signs can include:

- Unexplained tachycardia, including age specific tachycardia for children
- Decrease in blood pressure
- Unexplained hypoxia (even if mild i.e. O₂ sat <90%)
- Lethargy, difficulty feeding in infants (if no other diagnosis)

Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C)

Information on this syndrome and its temporal association with COVID-19 is still emerging. As such, information on symptoms associated with MIS-C may evolve over time. Please see the [World Health Organization \(WHO\) Case Definition](#) or the [Canadian Paediatric Surveillance Program \(CPSP\) Case Definition](#) for diagnostic criteria.

Symptoms associated with this MIS-C may include:

- Persistent fever
- Conjunctivitis
- Gastrointestinal symptoms, such as nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, and abdominal pain
- Rash

- Nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain
- Runny nose, or nasal congestion – *in absence of underlying reason for these symptoms such as seasonal allergies, post nasal drip, etc.*

Other clinical features of COVID-19 can include:

- Clinical or radiological evidence of pneumonia

Atypical signs and symptoms of COVID-19 should be considered, particularly in children, older persons, and people living with a developmental disability.

Atypical symptoms and clinical features can include:

- Unexplained fatigue/malaise/myalgias
- Delirium (acutely altered mental status and inattention)
- Unexplained or increased number of falls
- Acute functional decline
- Exacerbation of chronic conditions
- Chills
- Headaches

Illness Protocols:

The following protocol was developed in conjunction with our local Health Units.

- Staff, parents/guardians and children must not attend school if they are sick, even if symptoms resemble a mild cold.
- Staff who become ill will be sent home immediately and directed to seek assessment and testing at a COVID-19 Assessment Centre.
- If a child begins to experience symptoms of COVID-19 while attending school, the sick child will be isolated in a separate room at least two metres away from other students. Parents/guardians/emergency contacts will be asked to pick up the child immediately. Siblings of the sick child will also be picked up from school.
- Kits with sanitizer, masks and other items will be available in the event a student, staff or essential visitor becomes ill while at school, for use by the ill individual and the staff member attending to them.
- Spaces and items used by ill students/staff members will be cleaned and disinfected; items that cannot be easily cleaned will be removed.
- If COVID-19 is ruled out by a healthcare provider, the child/staff member may return to school 48 hours after symptom resolution.
- The local health unit will be contacted for assistance and direction when there is a suspected COVID-19 case in a child or staff member.

In the event of a positive COVID-19 case:

- Public Health will be responsible for case and contact management of students and staff. If an outbreak is declared, families and staff will be informed, and the school and board will take steps as identified by the local health unit.

Hand Hygiene:

Hand hygiene will be an important part of school routines. We will have touchless sanitizers in key areas throughout all schools and every classroom will have hand sanitizer available for students. Signage at sinks and sanitizing stations will remind students about proper cleaning techniques.

Time will be provided for handwashing and/or hand sanitizing throughout the school day.

Students and staff should perform hand hygiene:

- On arrival at school
- Before eating or drinking
- After using the washroom
- After playing outdoors
- When their hands are physically dirty
- When they cough or sneeze
- When they touch their face.

Appendix D – Handwashing and Sanitizer Posters

WASH YOUR HANDS
For at least 20 seconds

- 1 Wet Hands**
- 2 Get Soap**
- 3 Lather Soap and Scrub all Surfaces of Hands**
- Palms, backs of hands, between fingers, around thumbs and fingertips
- 3 Rinse and Dry**
- Dry with paper towel and turn off tap with paper towel

Help Stop the Spread
www.kprschools.ca

KPR Return to School Plan 13 September 2020 - DRAFT

SANITIZE YOUR HANDS



1 Apply 1-2 pumps of sanitizer to palm of dry hand
- enough for hands to stay wet for at least 15 seconds



2 Spread hand sanitizer over all surfaces of hands
- palms, backs of hands, between fingers, around thumbs and fingernails



3 Continue to rub hands together until dry

REMEMBER, hand sanitizers should only be used when hands are visibly clean. Wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.



Help Stop the Spread
www.kprschools.ca

Mask Protocol:

Students:

- Grades 4 to 12 will be required to wear non-medical or cloth masks indoors in school, including in hallways and during classes.
- Kindergarten to Grade 3 will be encouraged but not required to wear masks in indoor spaces.
- Students may wear their own non-medical masks. Non-medical masks will also be made available for students if needed. A Plan of Care will be required in the event of a reasonable exception to wearing a mask.

Staff:

- Medical masks and eye protection (i.e. face shield) will be provided for all teachers and other educational staff.
- All school-based staff will be required to wear masks, with reasonable exceptions for medical conditions.

Visiting school:

- a. **No visitors shall enter building unless they have made an appointment prior to coming to the school;**
- b. Upon arriving at the school visitor will buzz the office using the doorbell;
- c. Office staff will ask COVID assessment questions prior to allowing entry (visitors only); (All visitors must go directly to the main office to be signed in and assessed by office staff)
- d. Only visitors wearing masks shall enter the building
- e. Upon entry and exit all visitors, including students, shall disinfect their hands using automatic hand sanitizing station located in the main office entrance between the two doors.
- f. Only the student shall enter the school, secretary will buzz student in and do attendance. Note: based on age appropriateness or ability of student, students are to go directly to class otherwise they will be met by a support staff and guided to their room. (unless visitor has a scheduled appointment);
- g. Visitor will follow the arrows and barriers that direct them to the office;
- h. Visitor will be assessed by office staff using COVID sign-in questions and tracking sheet, as well as, having temperature taken with non-touch thermometer;
- i. Students who are being picked up by parent/guardian will remain in the classroom until parent/guardian buzzes the office upon their arrival (if ill or showing symptoms of COVID student will be in isolation room located in main office);
- j. Parent/guardian will wait outside until the student comes to the office;
- k. Office staff will sign them out;
- l. Student will disinfect before exiting and meeting with their parent;

The following are signs that are posted outside the main door as reminders of our COVID protocol:

Appendix C – Visitor Protocol Poster

KEEP OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY SAFE

VISITOR PROTOCOL

Visitors to the school are **by appointment only** or for urgent reasons.

Please ring the buzzer and follow these steps when entering the building:



Wear a mask



Sanitize your hands



Practice physical distancing



Sign in at the office



Help Stop the Spread of COVID-19
www.kprschoools.ca

Appendix E – Main Entrance Screening Poster

KEEP OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY SAFE

STOP Do not enter if...

-  You or someone you are in close contact with have travelled outside of Canada in the past 14 days
-  You have been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19
-  You have any of the following symptoms
 - Fever
 - New or worse cough
 - Shortness of breath
 - Difficulty breathing
 - Sore throat
 - Headaches
 - Diarrhea
 - Unexplained fatigue/ malaise/muscle aches
 - Chills
 - Runny nose/nasal congestion without known cause
 - Nausea/vomiting
 - Pink eye (conjunctivitis)
 - Difficulty walking
 - Abdominal pain
 - Decrease or loss of sense of smell or taste

PHYSICAL DISTANCING IN EFFECT

6ft/2m

Reducing close contact between people helps slow the spread of infection and disease.

STAY HEALTHY

-  Cough or sneeze into your elbow
-  Do not touch your face
-  Wash or sanitise your hands regularly

 **Help Stop the Spread of COVID-19**
www.kprschools.ca

Beginning of School Day (8:15 to 8:30):

Beginning of Day (8:15-8:30):

Beginning of school day will be based on a staggered schedule using first letter of last name:

- A-G - 8:15 enter school
- H-M - 8:20 enter school
- N-S - 8:25 enter school
- T-Z - 8:30 enter school

End of Day

Each hallway has devised a safe plan for exiting the school at the end of the day that supports maintaining social distancing and other protocols put in place due to COVID-19.

Nutritional Breaks:

The nutritional (recess and lunch) breaks will be based on the following schedule. **No student is permitted to exit the building for lunch, this includes going home and for Gr. 7 & 8 lunch privileges.** Entry and exiting Protocol for nutritional breaks will be as follows:

Primary: Zone 1 & 2: Entry and Exit Primary Doors Zone 3 & 4: Entry and Exit Intermediate Doors Zone 5 & 6 Entry and Exit Junior Doors	Junior/Int.: Zone 1 & 2: Entry and Exit Primary Doors Zone 3 & 4: Entry and Exit Junior Doors Zone 5 & 6: Entry and Exit Intermediate Doors
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Student Belongings:

Students in Primary grades (JK-3) shall not bring personal items from home, including pencil cases, markers etc. Junior and Intermediate grade shall not bring personal electronic devices to school; they are also encouraged to keep all personal learning materials in their backpacks until needed and are not to share belongings with anyone.

Students are also encouraged to bring a reusable water bottle as they will not be able to drink directly from the fountain and will be WATER BOTTLE FILL ONLY

- a. Students will keep their belongings in their backpack at all times or until needed;
- b. Younger students (JK to 3) will hang their backpacks on a hook based on a colour system set-up in classroom to ensure safe social distancing; (i.e., yellow, red, green and blue)
- c. Older students will hang their backpacks on their chairs at their desk along with coats;

- d. Boots and outdoor shoes will be left on the bench outside classroom in the Junior Hallway;
- e. Boots and outdoor shoes will be left under coat rack at the back of the classroom in Intermediate Hallway;

Modified School Routines

To support physical distancing and the maintenance of safe, healthy environments, there will be some modifications to school day routines. School staff will remind students of the importance of these new routines, and we ask families to help re-inforce these ideas at home.

What Will the School Day Look Like:

- Students Grade 4 and up must have a mask on to enter the school, while students in Kindergarten to Grade 3 will be encouraged, but not required, to wear masks in indoor spaces.
- Students must proceed directly to their classroom upon entering the school. Students will carry all their belongings to class.

Classrooms

- Students will be reminded regularly of hygiene and distancing protocols, and this will be supported by signage in classrooms and throughout the school.
- Desks will be spread out and spaced away from other desks as much as possible.
- All teachers and education support workers will be provided appropriate PPE (personal protective equipment).
- Tape will be used to help students remain appropriately distanced from the teacher's desk.
- Walking directions will be provided in the classroom to help students remain at a distance from each other.
- Classes will be held outdoors when possible, especially physical education.

Cohorting

Cohorting refers to the practice of keeping students together in a small group throughout their school day, with limited exposure to multiple teachers or a wide variety of classmates.

Hallways and Common Spaces

- Signage in hallways and common spaces will provide directions and guidelines for all staff and students.
- Drinking fountains will be closed except for the purpose of filling water bottles. Students should bring a re-usable water bottle to school each day.
- Breaks will be staggered to reduce the number of students in the halls at one time. (See Nutrition Breaks)
- Common areas will only be utilized by students with teacher/staff supervision ensuring physical distancing guidelines are followed.
- Large gatherings and assemblies will be cancelled for the immediate future. This includes gathering spaces such as cafeterias.

Outdoor Spaces

- Outdoor spaces will be utilized according to a staggered schedule to limit the number of students in the areas, allowing for better ability to physically distance.

Drop-off and Pick-up

- Visitors to the school will be limited. If parents need to visit the school, they will be asked to make an appointment and follow the appropriate protocol. Visitors must wear a mask, sanitize their hands upon entry into the building, sign in at the office, and practice physical distancing.
 - School entry and exit times may be staggered for students, depending on school size and the number of entrances/exits.
 - Staff will be present to monitor physical distancing by students.
- Schools will communicate directly with families about drop-off, pick-up and other protocols that are school-specific.

Transportation

With the return to school plan being fulltime throughout our district, our transportation consortium Student Transportation Services of Central Ontario (STSCO), is implementing enhanced cleaning protocols. School bus drivers and monitors will be provided with PPE and the same classroom mask protocol for students will apply on buses.

- Buses will be cleaned twice per day with a focus on all high touch surfaces.
- Bus drivers and students will wear masks and sanitize their hands before boarding the bus. Students in Grades 4 and up will be required to wear non-medical face masks while on the bus, while students in Kindergarten to Grade 3 will be encouraged, but not required, to wear masks on the bus.
- STSCO will attempt to assign seating in a way that keeps siblings and same classroom students sitting together. Assigned seating will also support contact tracing.
- Students must stay in their assigned seat at all times.