



# Spring Valley Bulldog Bulletin

Friday, September 4th, 2020

Welcome back, Spring Valley families! We are so looking forward to seeing your children, and you, coming back to school. We know that you have many questions and, while we do not pretend to have all the answers, we hope that this “newsletter” will provide some of the answers you are looking for.

Firstly, I would like to thank our amazing custodial staff, Mr. MacLeod, our head custodian and Mr. Joncas, our new afternoon custodian, for all that they have done, and continue to do, to make the school an exceptionally clean and clutter-free place for your children to return to. Likewise, a big shout out to Mrs. Peters, our office administrator, for returning to work early to support all the administrative changes that have been taking place. Many thanks, as well, to our teaching and support staff for all their work to prepare the learning spaces your child(ren) will be using and their engagement in a significant amount of professional learning and planning all revolving around the safe and successful return to school for your children. Lastly, a special note of thanks to Ashleigh, Damon and Morgan for the volunteering to tidy up our front gardens. They are looking great!



As you know, there have been a great many changes in our lives and communities since your children were last at school. Just as there have been many significant changes in the world around us, there have been changes in the protocols and procedures at school that we have put in place to make your child(ren) and our whole learning community as safe and as enjoyable as we possibly can. Returning to school will be quite different from this time, last year, and we are all very excited to be welcoming your children back.

There will be many new procedures and routines for all of us, that are explained below. Please, pace yourself as you read and we thank you, in advance for your understanding, patience and cooperation as we endeavour to create the safest and most engaging learning environment possible, for your child(ren), that we can.

## **Important questions you may have:**

When does my child(ren) actually return to school? We are having a “staggered” start. Our students are returning to school in smaller groups so that we can focus our attention on helping them to learn the new routines quickly and efficiently. There have been some changes to the Kindergarten start dates, since my earlier communication on this process.

This is the “**New**” Spring Valley schedule.

Monday, September 14th:

- Grades 1 to 8 students whose last name starts with the letters **A to K** come to school.
- Junior Kindergarten students will be having scheduled classroom orientation visits.
- Senior Kindergarten students DO NOT attend on this day.

Tuesday, September 15th:

- Grades 1 to 8 students whose last name starts with the letters **L to Z** come to school.
- Junior Kindergarten students will be having scheduled classroom orientation visits.
- Senior Kindergarten students DO NOT attend on this day.

Wednesday, September 16th:

- Students JK to Grade 8 whose last name starts with the letters **A to K** come to school.

Thursday, September 17th:

- Students JK to Grade 8 whose last name starts with the letters **L to Z** come to school.

Friday, September 18th:

- All students come to school.

What Happened with the “Opt-Out” option and how did it affect the school? At Spring Valley, we had 31, approx. 14%, of our students, choose the “Learning At Home”, Virtual School option. This required us to restructure our staff and classroom organization.

What grades are the teachers teaching?

JK/SK	Ms. Dodgson and Ms. Cuttler	5/6	Ms. Robertson
JK/SK	Ms. Koets	6/7	Ms. Morford
1	Ms. Coxhead	7/8	Mr. Pemberton
2	Ms. Ostrander	French	Ms. Balog
3	Ms. Gram	SERT	Mr. Fanjoy
4/5	Ms. Worona	Planning	Ms. Budgell

How do I find out who my child(ren)’s teacher is (are)? The Board has created a “[ClassLookUp](#)” portal, that is set to go “live” today, at 4 p.m. You will need your child’s Ontario Education Number (OEN), found on the top of their report card and your child’s birthdate to access the portal.

What is going on with bussing? Busses will be running on the first day of school, Monday, September 14th. Information about the new bus protocols and procedures can be found on the Student Transportation Services of Central Ontario ([STSCO](#)) website.

Can I drop my child(ren) off, myself? You may drive your child(ren) to school, however, the drop-off procedure will follow a “**Kiss and Ride**” format, regardless of your child’s age. This means that *you will have to join the bus drop-off line, wait until you reach the south gate where bus students disembark, then a staff member will assist your child(ren) out of your vehicle and walk them onto the schoolyard. Only students are to get out of the vehicle.*

This will likely be a lengthy process during the first week as a staff member will be boarding each bus to inform them of the new morning school entry procedures. This will be explained to your child by the staff member who assists them out of your vehicle.

***Please do not park your vehicle and attempt to walk your child(ren) to any school or schoolyard entrance, for both traffic and COVID protocol safety reasons.***

Why can't I walk my child onto the schoolyard? New COVID visitor sign in and contact tracing protocols require us to closely monitor and track all "visitors" to the school property, both inside and outside the building. Visits to the building must be prearranged and require that all visitors follow our new procedures, explained below.

What happens if it is raining? The process will be the same except that the bus and "Kiss and Ride" drop off point will be the front door of the school.

How do I get my child at the end of the day? All bus students will be loaded onto their busses, first. Students who are to be picked up by parents will wait near the south gate, appropriately socially distanced, until you drive up to the drop-off/pick-up point. A staff member will walk your child(ren) to your vehicle. You may secure your child(ren) in their seat.

*If you plan to pick up your child early, please call the school office, ahead of time, notify the office when you arrive (buzz the entry buzzer) and your child will be sent to the front doors to meet you. If the busses are already lined up, please wait to leave the parking lot after them.*

What will happen when my child(ren) enter the school grounds? Your child will be directed to a waiting area where their teacher will be waiting to greet them and help them learn the new morning entry routines. *For this first week, we are asking that all students in Grades 4 to 8, leave their face masks on while waiting with their new classmates, to enter the building.* They will be able to take them off when they go outside, later in the day, for outdoor activities.

Can I have access to the school or schoolyard? School doors will be locked, all day. New COVID protocols require that all "visitors" to the school prearrange an appointment by contacting the office, wear a mask, read the visitor signage, use the door buzzer, sign a visitors log that includes a COVID - 19 screening checklist, maintain physical distancing and remain at the office area until the staff member they are meeting with comes to the office.

*The schoolyard is closed to all save staff and attending students.*

What's happening with the breakfast program? We know how important our morning nutrition is, especially for students who have long bus rides or might miss breakfast. To start the year, the breakfast program will have pre-packaged items available in their classrooms - things such as granola bars. More details will follow as we adjust the program to meet our students' needs.

Does my child need special supplies for back to school? Each teacher runs a different program and uses different things. Your child's teacher will let you know what they would like you to send in. We are working to be minimalists this year to help our custodians with our cleaning routines! As always, if purchasing school supplies is hard for your family, the school will get what you need. Every child at Spring Valley will have access to the supplies they will need for learning. All materials and items, including lunch containers, water bottles and wrappers, will be taken home by each student, each day.

What about the drinking fountains? The drinking fountains have been turned off but the water bottle filling stations will be operational. Your child will need a refillable water bottle that must be taken home, every day.

What is happening with face masks? Grades 4-8 students will have to wear masks most of the time they are indoors, including in hallways, entrances, during classes, and while they are riding the school bus. Kindergarten to Grade 3 students will also be encouraged to wear masks at these times. When students are outside with their cohort for various activities and can remain physically distanced from one another, they will be able to take a break from wearing their masks. Students will be able to remove their masks when having their lunch or snacks in the classroom.

[KPR Mask resource](#).

What about back to school clothing?

Pockets and play: This year students will be spending as much time as possible outside, for play and learning. With that in mind please dress your child appropriately to be outside, playing and sitting on the grass. In addition, try to make sure children have pockets to keep their masks in when they are outside. With the focus on outdoor learning, closed-toe shoes would be ideal.

Footwear: For September, students will not be using indoor/outdoor shoes - this will prevent having to change them in the halls. Please be sure that the shoes they do wear to school are practical for running and playing. Indoor shoes will be reexamined once our procedures are more practiced and understood.

Thank you for taking the time to read all of this and keep an eye out for any additional communication from us or the Board. We will continue to prepare the school and refine our planning, next week, in preparation for your child(ren) to return to us in a few more sleeps.

In the meantime, stay safe and healthy.

Mr. Cooper, Principal, and all the Spring Valley Staff.

**Important resources for you to access: (click on the blue hyperlinks)**

1. KPR's "[Important Information and Resources: COVID - 19](#)" - Frequently updated with timely information from the Board
2. KPR's "[Frequently Asked Questions](#)" for parents and the larger community.
3. KPR's "[Return to School Plan](#)" - last updated September 2, 2020

**School Contact:**

Principal email: [steven\\_cooper@kprdsb.ca](mailto:steven_cooper@kprdsb.ca)

School staff emails: [Spring Valley Staff Directory](#) (Please note, some teaching assignments and personnel have not been updated, yet.)

School phone: 613-475-2578