



# Kleinburg Christian Academy

6950 Nashville Road, Kleinburg Ont. L0J 1C0 - Ph: 905-893-7211

[www.kleinburgchristian.ca](http://www.kleinburgchristian.ca)

September 8, 2009

Dear Parents of KCA,

I trust that you all had a great summer and are eager to get your child/ren settled in at **Kleinburg Christian Academy (KCA)**. We are ready for another school year and look forward to working with you. Thank you to all who were able to attend the BBQ last week. We had well over 100 people in attendance and had a great time together. This letter is intended to give you a quick update on a few important matters: H1N1 School Policy, Student Drop Off and Pick up Procedures, Nut Sensitive Policy, School Cancellation Procedures and KCA Enriched Pre-School Program.

## H1N1 School Policy

The H1N1 virus (Human Swine Flu) has become a concern for many of us. As you may have noted in the media, there have been confirmed cases of the H1N1 virus in the Greater Toronto area, including York Region. To date, cases in Ontario are reported to be mild. Also, travel history to Mexico is no longer the primary factor for acquiring this flu virus. In order to provide the safest environment for our students and staff at KCA, our policy has been updated and will be implemented as follows commencing September 8, 2009.

- 1/ Everyone entering the school premises must sanitize their hands. Hand sanitizers will be available at the school office and in each classroom. Students and staff will wash their hands well with soap and water or hand sanitizer 4 times per day, minimally: upon arrival, after morning recess, before lunch and after the noon recess. Students will be taught correct hand washing procedures.
- 2/ Students and staff will be taught and encouraged to cover their mouth and nose when coughing/sneezing by coughing/sneezing into their sleeves/arm or into Kleenex. Tissues should be thrown in the trash after use. Kleenex will be available in each classroom/offices and kitchen.
- 3/ Students and staff should avoid sharing food, beverages and other personal items.
- 4/ Common surfaces such as desk tops, tables for eating etc. will be disinfected daily.
- 5/ If a student, staff member, or volunteer exhibits flu-like symptoms of sufficient severity that require medical attention, they should:
  - see a health care provider or call Telehealth Ontario 24 hours a day, seven days a week at 1-866-797-0000. People who are ill should stay at home until given medical consent to return to school/work.
  - Practice social distancing (minimizing contact with family members, not going out in public) while sick.
  - Staff or students exhibiting fever while on the premises will be moved to an isolation room until picked-up by a parent/guardian or designate.
- 6/ As per standard school practice, all school staff are encouraged to be vigilant for students who are ill and to report any concerns to the principal. ***Please note that health information of individual students is protected by law and may not be disclosed.***

7/ As part of their regular duties, our caretakers continue to provide very thorough and effective cleaning and disinfection. In the event of a crisis situation, enhanced cleaning/disinfecting will take place upon the advice of the York Region Community and Health Services. No enhanced cleaning/disinfecting is recommended at this time.

## **Facts about H1N1**

H1N1 is a respiratory illness that causes symptoms similar to those of the regular human seasonal flu. The symptoms include headache, chills and cough followed by fever, loss of appetite, muscle aches and fatigue, runny nose, sneezing, watery eyes and throat irritation. Nausea, vomiting and diarrhea may occur in adults as well as in children. Some people with H1N1 have also reported vomiting and diarrhea.

Influenza and other (severe) respiratory infections are transmitted from person to person via the respiratory route. Coughs and sneezes release droplets into the air and onto surfaces. Individuals may become infected by breathing in the germs or touching contaminated surfaces and not washing afterwards.

Individuals exhibiting For more information regarding H1N1, please contact Health Connection at 1-800-361-5653 or visit the following government websites: [www.york.ca](http://www.york.ca), [www.health.gov.on.ca](http://www.health.gov.on.ca) or [www.phac-aspc.gc.ca](http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca).

We ask that you reinforce these messages often with your children at home. A hand washing chart is attached for use at home. It will also be posted in our school washrooms and classrooms.

We will keep in close contact with the York Region Community and Health Services and will follow any further advice given if a crisis or pandemic situation should arise.

*The above facts were taken from a publication from the York Region Health Services website and the York Region District School Board*

## **Pick-up and Drop-off Procedures**

When dropping off your children between 8:30 a.m. and 8:45 a.m. you have two choices, “Kiss and Ride” or “Park and Walk” your children to the playground. **For safety reasons, I ask that parking be limited to the south parking lot only.** Outdoor supervision in the morning begins at 8:30 a.m. If students arrive before 8:30 a.m., they should wait in their cars until 8:30 a.m. or be registered in our Before School Program (meeting in the school chapel).

Pick-up at the end of the day is from 3:30 -3:45 p.m. One teacher and I will be supervising student departure. Dismissal during “fair weather days” will be from the east parking lot along the sidewalk. Once you have your children, please walk them through the orange pylon area and check out verbally with me or the other teacher. If for some reason you are car pooling or having another non-biological child going home with you, please have that parent write a note to the classroom teacher or call the school office. For safety reasons, the school needs to hear officially from the parents, not from the child only. Dismissal on “inclement days” will be from the school gymnasium. Parents should enter the school building from the “carport” entrance only. Parents can wait there until 3:30 p.m. and then proceed to the gym for student pick-up. Students not picked-up by 3:50 p.m. will be registered in the After School Program and charges will apply. If you are not sure which area to pick-up your children, look for the location of the orange pylons and go there. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Last year we had far too many students arriving late to school in the morning. Think about this for a moment: if a child is five minutes late for school each day of the school year, the accumulated time is equal to three full days of missed school. Wow! KCA is striving for 1000 hours of quality educational time this year. Late students disrupt the class already in session and distracts from the learning process. **Please be reminded that school starts at 8:45 a.m.** The procedures of lining up outdoors before entering the building are part of the learning process. It’s a great place for character development. Students arriving after 8:55 a.m. or have not

made it to their classrooms at that time, will be sent to the office for a late slip. To keep the parents informed, "Late Slips" will be sent home at the end of the day attached to the student agendas (JK/SK will be in student take-home bag). After 5 unexcused lates, the principal will make a call home to discuss the situation further. Let's see if we can work together to get our students here on time.

We are saddened that Mrs. Iamundo has resigned from her involvement in the B/A Program. Her love for the children and commitment to the program will genuinely be missed. Miss Crichton is our new "Before and After School Program" Supervisor. After the first week of school, once enrolment numbers have been established, we may hire additional staff to ensure a safe and fun environment for your children. For urgent matters between 4 and 6 p.m., Miss Crichton can be reached on the school cell phone: 416-459-0419.

## **Nut Sensitivity Policy**

Please note that nuts or any foods containing nuts should not be brought to the school at any time. Also, we have a student in grade 3 that has been medically diagnosed with other food allergies. Therefore, the grade 3 classroom only and all foods offered at hot lunches and evening programs should also refrain from bringing in the following foods: Coconut, mustard, raw wheat, play dough, banana, raw or boiled eggs, and raw egg containing products such as mayonnaise, egg salad, omelettes. Please note that eggs in baked goods are not a problem. Your cooperation on this matter is greatly appreciated.

## **School Cancellation Procedures**

I'm not expecting snow just yet, but here's the heads up in case we need to close the school due to inclement weather and/or poor road conditions. All cancellation decisions will usually be made by 6:00 a.m. to ensure the safety of our students. The decision for KCA will be exactly what the York Region Board of Education decides. Their cancellation decisions will only be made after thorough consultation with school bus companies servicing York Region. Decisions are based on several factors including precipitation, air temperature and road conditions.

**Please note the following:** a decision to close the school may be system wide (when all buses in York Region are cancelled) or municipality specific (where buses in one or more municipalities are cancelled). Parents, students and school staff are asked to access the following Radio Stations after 6:00 a.m. to receive bus cancellation information 680 AM and CFRB 1010. A bus cancellation message will also appear at [www.schoolbuscity.com](http://www.schoolbuscity.com) and the KCA website shortly thereafter. The rule of thumb is this: if York Region school buses are cancelled due to inclement weather, KCA will be closed.

## **Enriched Pre-School**

As some of you may have heard from last year, the church is moving towards opening up a Daycare Centre, perhaps as early as January 2010. They are still waiting for final permits and approval. The Enriched Pre-School Program KCA is offering this year has nothing to do with the Daycare the church is initiating. It evolved rather quickly towards the end of June and was kept low key since limited space was available. Let me explain.

The Enriched Pre-School program will only be available and offered at KCA if enrolment for the JK class is not at capacity; usually 15 students. This new initiative is a creative marketing strategy, especially beneficial in a year of declined school enrolment. The intent is to increase revenue for the school and introduce Christian Education to some families one year earlier than usual with hope that they will become long-term supporters. Students enrolled in this program will be placed in the regular JK academic program for two years. Safeguards are also put into place to ensure that our quality JK program is not compromised whatsoever.

A child, to be considered for this program, must meet the following criteria:

- Be the age of three on or before, September 2009
- Demonstrate evidence of academic and social readiness
- Be completely toilet trained

If space is available, these children will be placed in the regular JK academic program for 2 days/week (Tues/Th). If the child does not integrate satisfactorily with the rest of the class by the end of term one, KCA reserves the right to modify the program to ensure greater success or discontinue enrolment until the child is of the pre-determined age for the regular JK program. It is understood that families enrolling in the full-time JK program take priority over part-time pre-school registration. Tuition for a two-day program would be 40% of the full-time JK program.

Currently there are 14 students in the JK class, four of which are part-time students: three are registered as enriched pre-school and one as part-time JK. The classroom teacher is more than qualified and capable of attending to the needs of the class. Both Mrs. Morris, the JK teacher, and I have first-hand experience with this type of program from a previous school and can testify to its success.

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to speak with me. I am anticipating a remarkable year to together.

Sincerely,

Garry Zondervan  
Principal