

# Keppel-Sarawak Return to School Plans



## Welcome!

We are very excited for the new school year to begin and look forward to working with you and your child(ren) to make this year a positive experience for everyone!

Our staff at Keppel Sarawak will do everything we can to ensure that our students are as safe as possible by following all of the expected protocols while at the same time making our classrooms warm and welcoming environments where students are emotionally supported in a calm and caring manner.

Our Cougar staff are an awesome team who will certainly pour their heart and souls into making this transition as smooth and calm as possible for our students and their parents.

## Student Transportation (To and From School)

Active forms of travel (e.g., walking or cycling) and private transportation by parents/ caregivers are encouraged where possible.

More information will be sent home soon with specific details regarding drop off and pick up times and locations for students who will not be riding a bus to and from school.

Our transportation team will be communicating with parents prior to September 8<sup>th</sup> to inform you of your child(ren)'s bussing information. This will include the assigned bus route as well as drop off and pick up times and locations. If you have not received a message from the transportation team by Wednesday, Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup>, please notify Mrs. Lemon in the office to assist you in getting that information.

All students JK – Grade 3 will be encouraged to wear a mask while riding the school bus. All students in Grades 4-6 will be required to wear a mask while riding the school bus. An assigned seating plan will be in place on each bus. Students are to wash their hands before riding the bus to school and at the end of the day before loading the bus for home. Strict guidelines are in place for daily school bus cleaning.



## School Access

Unfortunately, we cannot permit any parent/ student access to the school prior to September 8<sup>th</sup>. We know this is especially difficult for our new JK students/ parents, as well as for the many new families we are welcoming to our school this year.

We are working to create a “Welcome to Keppel” PowerPoint that will be sent out in the coming weeks. This will provide you with some pictures and information about our school and what you can expect to see when you come to school in September! Our hope is that this will alleviate any worries you and your child(ren) might be having.

Once school begins, parents/ guardians will only be provided with direct access to the school in case of an emergency related to their child(ren). Only students and BWDSB staff will be permitted inside the building.

More information will be coming out soon outlining our process for picking up/ dropping off your child during the school day.



## MASKS

**Students in Grades 4-6 will be required to wear non-medical or cloth masks indoors at school and when riding the bus.**

**Students in Kindergarten – Grade 3 are not required but are strongly encouraged to wear masks in indoor spaces and when riding the bus.**

**Outdoor times such as recess can be used as opportunities to have a break from wearing masks.**

**If your child has a medical condition or disability that prevents him/her from safely wearing a mask please contact the office to have that conversation.**

## Class Placement for the 2020-2021 School Year

This year, we will be contacting you via email on Thursday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> to inform you of your child's class placement.

This email will include information about who your child's teacher will be, as well as our plans for entry on the first day of school.

## Learning Spaces at Keppel Sarawak

Our Kindergarten and Grade 1 classrooms are equipped with tables to provide students with more room for play and inquiry-based learning while still abiding by our physical distancing guidelines.

Most of our Grade 2 - 6 classrooms are equipped with desks that are spaced out according to Public Health and Ministry of Education protocols.

Plans and strict cleaning protocols are in place for the use of shared toys and learning tools in our classrooms.

Classroom windows will remain opened as often as possible.

Our library will not be open for traditional book exchange, however, classroom cohorts will have access to library books as needed for their learning.

We are currently working on schedules to allow for activities (e.g. drama/ dance/ DPA - daily physical activity) to move outdoors where possible and when physical distancing permits.

## Students with Special Education Needs

Our Learning Resource Teacher, Mrs. Radbourne, will be reaching out to our families during the week of August 31<sup>st</sup> to plan for our students who have special needs.

If you have any questions or concerns about your child's entry to school, please do not hesitate to contact her at 519-376-1789 ext 538 OR email her at [laurie\\_radbourne@bwdsb.on.ca](mailto:laurie_radbourne@bwdsb.on.ca).

You can also contact the school office to speak with us between 8:30am – 4pm any day after August 17<sup>th</sup>

## Recess & Nutrition Breaks



We will continue to follow a schedule which provides students with two 40 minute nutrition breaks. Twenty minutes will be spent eating and the other twenty minutes will be spent getting exercise outside on our playground.

Students will remain with their classroom cohort while eating in their classroom and playing in their assigned zone on the playground.

Students will perform proper hand hygiene before and after eating. Please send a small bag/ container for your child to put his/ her waste materials in after eating as all leftover lunch and packaging will be sent home each day.

Pizza/ Sub Days and our Milk Program are cancelled until further notice.

Play structures will be closed until further notice. If you wish to send a play item to school with your child for recess – it should be labelled. Please ensure it can be carried to and from school inside a backpack if riding the school bus. These items cannot be shared with other students. A bucket of school equipment (eg. skipping ropes/ balls/ hoops) will be available in each classroom and sanitized before and after each recess.

# Keppel Strong





### Personal Belongings

Personal items brought to school should be minimized.

If you choose to send a pencil case, we would recommend a material that can be easily wiped down. Personal items cannot be shared with other students.

Our fountains will not be available for use and all students should have their own water bottle to drink from throughout the day. Water bottles should be CLEARLY labeled! We will have reusable water bottles at the school for those students who do not have one of their own.

Be sure to label your child's personal belongings – including clothes and backpacks (we had a huge abundance of lost and found last year).

### Washroom Access

We are working on a school-wide plan to assign washroom locations to each class and create a schedule for class/ cohort supervised washroom breaks. Of course, washrooms will always be available to students in case of emergency between their assigned washroom breaks.

A maximum of three students will be permitted in the washrooms at one time and signage will be posted to remind students of physical distancing and proper hand washing.

Our JK/SK classrooms have their own washroom that will be available to these students as needed.

All washrooms will be cleaned throughout the day according to the health and safety guidelines that are in place.

### Physical Education

The Bluewater District School Board, in cooperation with The Ministry of Education, mandates that all students participate in daily physical activity as part of our elementary curriculum.

We will be trying our best to have gym classes outdoors as often as possible. Teachers will be planning activities that support physical distancing and limit the use of shared equipment. (Shared equipment WILL be disinfected regularly.) We will begin our year focusing on non-contact personal fitness. There will also be a focus on building student understanding of ways they can play outside that support positive health and safety practices.

Students will perform hand hygiene before and after gym class.

Please ensure that your child has appropriate-fitting, non-skid running shoes for use in the gym and outdoors during gym class.



### Student Medication

If your child requires ANY medication that is to be taken during school hours, a Bluewater permission form must be completed by parents /guardians.

These forms were sent out to returning students in the spring. They are also available from the school office.

We will be in touch with returning families the week of August 24<sup>th</sup> to arrange a time for parents to complete the paperwork and drop off medications that need to be available at the school for your child.

If you are new to our school and your child requires medication to be administered/ on hand at school. Please contact Mrs. Gilkinson ([laurie\\_gilkinson@bwdsb.on.ca](mailto:laurie_gilkinson@bwdsb.on.ca)) to let her know as soon as possible.

### Before and After School Programming

Currently there are two common practices for before and after school programming for students at Keppel Sarawak. BWDSB has a direct partnership with the YMCA before and after school program which is located in our building. We also bus students to and from the Queen of Hearts Daycare which is located on 4<sup>th</sup> Ave West. Parents requiring before and after school care are asked to contact those program supervisors directly as soon as possible – I believe there is already a waitlist for both of these programs.

YMCA Before and After School Program – Teresa Schmitz [teresa.schmitz@osgb.ymca.ca](mailto:teresa.schmitz@osgb.ymca.ca)

Queen of Hearts Daycare - Carron Standoloff [carron@queenofheartsnurseryschool.com](mailto:carron@queenofheartsnurseryschool.com)

**Keppel-Sarawak Elementary School**  
**HOME OF THE COUGARS!**

