

Weekly Update Dec. 7 - 11, 2020



The Giving Tree



Please visit the EK website under “news” for information on “The Giving Tree” virtual program. This year, donations will not be taken at the school, however, there are many wonderful options available to families who would like to participate.

Student Information Forms

Please visit the Parent Portal under “forms” on a regular basis and complete all applicable forms. We need to ensure that we have the most up to date information for all students. The most important forms at this point are: Readiness for Distance Learning, Media Consent and Early Closure and Emergency Evacuation. Please do not complete the Nutrition Break form, as it is not applicable to Earl Kitchener.

Spirit Days

We would like to thank everyone who has donated to our past Spirit Days, however, with all of the challenges facing families during this time, we will not be accepting donations this year.



Holiday Colour / Ugly Sweater Day

On Friday, December 11, students and staff are invited to dress in the colours of the holidays! Whether you celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa or any other celebration, you are encouraged to dress in the colours of that holiday. If you are not sure what to wear, you can also wear your favourite ugly sweater! The idea of the day is to celebrate all traditions.



Pyjama Day

On Friday, December 18, it is our annual Pyjama Day! As is tradition, the final school day before Winter Break is Pyjama Day. Wear your favourite P.J.'s, however, come prepared for outdoor time, and gym if you have it on that day.

Setting Students up for a Successful Day

Do you find that your child is forgetting important items on a regular basis? If so, try making up a check list, and have your child go through the check list the night before. Things like running shoes, hat, mitts, boots, lunch, utensils, water bottle, homework etc. can be on the list. Have a set spot where your child gathers their items for school, and they can check them off as they are organized. Your child will feel confident that they are organized, and it will ease some of the anxiety of a busy morning. This will also help reduce your trips to the school.

Return to School Attestation (after illness)

Any students that are home sick, must have a “Return to School Attestation Following Illness or Self-Isolation” completed on the day that they return to school. This form is available on the Parent Portal, and **must be completed before the student can return to school.**



Dress for the Weather

As the winter weather has arrived, please be sure that your child comes to school dressed accordingly. Coats, hats, mitts and boots are recommended. If your child does not want to wear some items, please ensure they are in their backpack in case they are needed during the day. Please make sure that all items are labelled with the student first and last name. We do not have a Lost & Found this year, and would like to make sure all dropped items are returned to the proper student.

Late Arrivals / Early Pick Up

Whenever possible, please try to arrange appointments etc. outside of school hours. With all of the new safety protocols in place, we need to limit the traffic in and out as much as possible. Every time a student arrives late, or is picked up early, parents, students as well as staff are in contact with additional people outside of their cohorts, thus expanding the risk of exposure. If a student is going to be leaving early, please indicate this in their agenda (so the teacher is aware), as well as School Messenger (so the office is aware). This will make the pick up process run much smoother. School Messenger is also to be used to indicate if a student is going to be arriving late.

Extra Masks for Students

Please ensure that your child comes to school each day with **extra masks** in their backpack (ideally 3). Although we do have a few extra masks at the school, we are very limited in quantity and sizes.

Donating Items to School

Although we appreciate the offer of donations to the school (toys, books etc.), we are unable to accept any items due to safety protocols.

After School Arrangements

Please ensure that all after school activities (play dates, etc.) are arranged ahead of the school day, and included in the student agenda, so that both students and teachers are aware of the plan for release at the end of the school day. It can be very challenging to get messages to students near the end of the day, and we do not want to interrupt classroom learning.

Masks on School Property



This is just a reminder that, based on School Board protocol, **EVERYONE** (parents/staff/students) **MUST** wear a mask when on school property. This includes the front yard of the school. It would also be very beneficial to wear them on both Stanley Street and Homewood Avenue during drop off and pick up, when physical distancing can be a challenge.

Upcoming Dates:

Friday, December 18, 2020: Last Day of School before Winter Break
Pyjama Day

Monday, January 4, 2021: First Day back to School after Winter Break