



## Weekly Update Jan 4-8, 2021

### The Giving Tree

EK Staff and Parents – THANK YOU! The ongoing generosity of our EK Community shines bright again today, we've come together during this difficult time and provided support to so many others in the Hamilton Community. Amazing! Thank you to everyone who participated in The Giving Tree 🌲 at EK – 2020's Virtual Edition, your donations and kindness spread throughout the Hamilton Community will add a bit of brightness for many people in the days ahead! There are 42 ornaments hanging on The Giving Tree at EK and 38 photos 📷 were sent in for the Photo Collage, what a beautiful representation of the "Be Kind" way at EK! Thank you to Mrs. Matthews (EK Staff) for adding the ornaments daily and to Vanessa Scanga (EK Parent) for creating the photo collage, your help was appreciated! Thanks again for your ongoing support of the Hamilton Community, without you this wouldn't have been possible. Happy Holidays – Stay safe and well, The EK Home and School Association



### Dress Like Your Favourite Book Character

On Wednesday, January 27, we will be having our next Spirit Day to go along with Family Literacy Day. Students are encouraged to dress like their favourite book character! Be creative, and see if your classmates can guess the book!

### **Label All Items - Reminder**

This is just a reminder to ensure that ALL items your child brings to school (coats, boots, hats, mitts, snow pants, waterbottles) **MUST** be labelled with first and last name. This is especially important for any new items received over the Winter Break. There is no lost and found at the school this year, so unless the item is labelled properly, we will be unable to hold it.

### **Daily Screening for Students**

This is just a reminder for parents to do the Daily Screening for all students prior to coming to school. If your child is showing ANY of the symptoms listed, they **MUST** stay at home. This check list is on the Parent Portal. It does not need to be submitted every day, but you must check your child each day.

### **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

### **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.

### 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, masks, 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.**

### 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.

### 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:**

**Wednesday, January 27, 2021:** Dress Like Your Favourite Book Character

**Friday, January 29, 2021:** P.A. Day – No School for Students