



Earl Kitchener Elementary School

Earl Kitchener Families!

February 2022

Hello everyone,

Hoping that everyone is keeping well and just wanted to share some items for your information and consideration:

February is Black History Month ... In February, we acknowledge Black History Month in schools and in communities across Canada. It is important for us to understand the long history and importance of the Black community to the development and enrichment of Canadian society. Black Canadians from many different cultural backgrounds have made important contributions to the development of education, medicine, culture and human rights throughout Canada's history. As well, we need to recognize how systemic oppression continues to create challenges and barriers. We traditionally celebrate Black culture and history while applauding the achievements and significant contributions Black Canadians have made to build Canada, helping to make this country the diverse and strong nation it is today. Teachers have access to a variety of supports and resources to facilitate age appropriate conversations and learning with students.

'Open Gym' (Intramurals) ... as was the case in the weeks leading up to the winter break, classes are once again able to sign up for time in the gym during Nutrition Breaks. We are currently restricted to having children only from the same class (cohort) participate together at any given time and yet regardless, a fun and active way for children to spend their time!

Library ... during the summer of 2020, the library at EK was renovated into a larger learning space by removing a pre-existing temporary wall and expanding to include the room next door. With the removal of some restrictions, and with us no longer needing to use the space as a classroom, this space now referred to as 'Learning Commons' is ready to go and children will once again be visiting and able to participate in book exchanges. Reach out directly to your child's teacher with any questions.

Our next **School Council and Home and School** meetings will be held 'virtually' on MS Teams the evening of Tuesday, February 15th and starting at 7:00 pm. Please consider joining us to learn more about what's happening here at EK and if you haven't already shared your email contact information for an invite to participate, please email either;

EK School Council: earlkitchenerSC@hwdsb.on.ca

EK Home and School Association: ekhomeandschool@gmail.com

Home and School Association Update

We were busy this past November and December with a few fundraising initiatives on the go! We would like to thank you, the Earl Kitchener Community, for your ongoing support and generous contributions to these initiatives!

Virtual Book Fair (November 2021) - Our Virtual Book Fair sold 295 books and together we raised \$602.63! These funds have gone back to EK to support the school library and classrooms.

The following initiatives also raised funds to support EK students, staff and even the community. AMAZING!

- **'HAMILTON IS EARL KITCHENER' (T-Shirts November 2021)** – 85 tees sold and \$637.50 raised!
- **KINDNESS CALENDAR (November 2021)** – a few calendars sold and \$30 raised!
- **MABEL's LABELS (Ongoing)** – since September, this fundraiser has raised \$175 (\$71 received last week)!

FOOD COLLECTION & DONATION (December 2021) – EK Families, your generosity continues to shine! Five trunk loads of food were dropped off at the Locke St. Community Fridge and Restoration House Hamilton Food Bank on the last day of school prior to winter break. **Special thank you** to Staff, Kandi Beaudoin, Heather Comrie, Lori Macnab (and daughter), and David Thorne, and Parent Volunteer, Jenn Abbatiello, for delivering these trunk loads for us (at the end of a busy day)! THANK YOU for your generous donations, and thank you for supporting our Hamilton Community!

What's Next?

Donation to HWDSB Foundation [Foundation \(hwdsb.on.ca\)](https://www.hwdsb.on.ca) and Martha House [Martha House - Good Shepherd Centres](#). As decided at The Home and School Association's January meeting, a charitable donation of \$2000 (\$1000 to each organization) from our current funds will be made in February 2022 to these organizations. Thank you for being a part of this generous donation to our Hamilton Community!

Upcoming Read-A-Thon (February/March 2022) – The Home and School Association has also planned a Read-a-thon Fundraiser for the end of February! Funds raised from this initiative will be donated to Neighbour to Neighbour Hamilton's 'Books Feed Families' Initiative [Books Feed Families | Neighbour to Neighbour Centre \(n2ncentre.com\)](#) Stay tuned... more details to come!

Parent Support Library – The Home & School Association has a Parent Support Library available to our EK Families. The library has resources for parents looking for information about behaviours, differences, and childhood in general and the books are intended to guide and support parents to better meet your child's needs. Children's books available too! Since parents are not able to access the library within the school currently, we will be launching a 'remote service' (with delivery included!). Stay tuned for further details!

Please continue check the EK website (calendar) from time to time for additional events/dates to remember and as always, if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out ... thank you for the continued help and support in making Earl Kitchener School a safe and great place to be!

Mr. Thorne, Mrs. Macnab and the staff of Earl Kitchener School.