



# Earl Kitchener Elementary School

*Earl Kitchener Families!*

March 2022

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Hello everyone,

Hope this finds you well and please note the following items for your information and consideration;

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**March P.A. Day** ... this Friday, March 4<sup>th</sup> is designated as a Board-wide Professional Activity day. While there is no school for children on this day, staff will be taking part in Professional Development and collaboratively working on our annual School Improvement plan.

**March Break** ... the March Break is now less than two weeks away. The last day of school is Friday, March 11<sup>th</sup> and we all return on Monday, March 21<sup>st</sup> ... please have a safe and fantastic break!

**Public Health vaccination clinic at EK** ... on Tuesday, March 1<sup>st</sup> we hosted an in-school COVID vaccination clinic for EK students. Caregivers were invited to indicate interest several weeks ago and our partners at Public Health facilitated the process.

**Parking Lot safety** ... please be mindful that some children are dropped off and/or picked up by caregivers using the staff parking lot out back. Children aren't always entirely attentive to their surroundings so PLEASE be cautious if ever you are pulling in or out.

**Playground ice** ... unfortunately it's that time of year where we struggle at times with significant areas of the back playground being ice-covered. Our priority is always safety and if ever it seems to be too dangerous (slips and falls), our only option is to remain indoors. Contractors clear the parking lot, caretaking staff is responsible for 'pathways' leading to and from and various entry/exit points, and the City of Hamilton is responsible for sidewalks. There is no provision for clearing or salting playgrounds.

**Snow days determination** ... I can't recall a time where we have had as many 'snow days' as has been the case this year and a number of parents have reached out seeking clarification as to how these are determined. In short, HWDSB Transportation partners drive specific routes in the morning between 5:00 and 6:00 a.m. and if roads are deemed to be unsafe for travel, transportation is cancelled and schools are closed.

**EK Readathon** ... in conjunction with our EK Home and School Association, we have JUST begun a (roughly) week long Readathon with students that runs through to Monday, March 7<sup>th</sup>. Information (along with 'tally sheets') has been shared home with students, as well as uploaded to our EK website, and any questions can be sent to your child's teacher.

Our next **School Council and Home and School** meetings will be held 'virtually' on MS Teams the evening of Tuesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> beginning 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

Please continue to 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.**

