



# Earl Kitchener Elementary School

*Earl Kitchener Families!*

December 2022

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Hello all,

**Winter is approaching and hopefully you're all keeping well. Just wanted to share some items for your information as we approach the winter break;**

- Last day of school prior to the winter break is Friday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>
- First day back from the break is Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup>

Speaking of winter, it is important to remember that wet shoes and boots cannot be worn in the gym (for safety). Please ensure that your child has 'inside' running shoes in order to ensure active participation in Phys-Ed class (students are welcome to leave a pair at school).

**Fright night 2022** ... after a few years hiatus, the long-standing tradition of 'Fright Night' made a wonderful comeback this fall due to the incredible efforts of numerous parent volunteers. You will hear more directly from the folks who make up our School Council and Home & School Association however we learned recently that close to \$9000.00 was raised ... bravo!

Our next **School Council and Home and School** meetings will be held in the library the evening of Tuesday, January 24<sup>th</sup> starting at 7:00 pm. Please consider joining us to learn more about what's happening here at EK.

**Wesley Holiday Store** ... we are currently collecting non-perishable food items and new (unwrapped) toys that will be donated for distribution to needy children, adolescents and families. Items can be sent in up to and including Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup> (pick up is planned for December 15<sup>th</sup>). Thank you in advance for the support and generosity.

**Lockdown Drill** ... as part of our ongoing due diligence around safety planning, school are required to perform two 'Lockdown Drills' each school year. Messaging for students is always age-appropriate and we treat these much like we do the required Fire Drills each year. The first Lockdown Drill for the current school year is planned for the morning of Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Daily School Route (DSR)** ... recently you should have received communication regarding the DSR initiative which is being piloted at EK and several other schools. Daily School Route is an active transportation system for children and families and the goal is to get more students walking and/or biking to school as it has been shown to improve their day emotionally, cognitively and physically. Families were asked to complete a short (5-minute) survey and the results along with possible next steps will be shared with us at our January 24<sup>th</sup> School Council meeting.

**Spring Musical** ... given the excitement in the building of late, I would imagine that many of you are already aware that we are preparing once again to perform a spring musical. Auditions for the **Wizard of Oz** were completed and rehearsals are happening weekly as Mr. Popek and Mme Prevec prepare numerous students in Grades 3, 4 and 5 for their parts. Watch for more information to come in the new year and our current plan is to hold evening performances the week of May 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Teacher Interviews** ... with the removal of dedicated time for caregiver-teacher interviews during a PA Day, please remember that you can reach out directly to teachers at any point in time should you wish to make arrangements to speak about student progress or even just to meet!

**Mrs. Macnab** ... recently our 0.5 Vice Principal Mrs. Macnab was successful in the HWDSB promotion process and she is being placed as Principal at Lisgar School as of the New Year. Bittersweet for sure and while we will certainly miss her expertise and sense of humour, we wish Mrs. Macnab all the best in her new role at a new school ... congratulations!

**Welcome!** With the departure of Mrs. Macnab, Mrs. Stacey Johnson (currently the Vice Principal at Allen A. Greenleaf School), will become our 0.5 VP in January, shared with Mary Hopkins School. We look forward to having Mrs. Johnson as our newest member of EK staff and hopefully you will have the opportunity to meet her soon.

Please do your part to help the school and office run efficiently by ensuring that students **arrive on time**. Students who arrive late must wait outside the front main entrance with caregivers until staff are able to identify and let them in. **If for any reason you need to pick your child up early, PLEASE let the school know as soon as is possible in order that we can be prepared and thank you in advance!**

Please check the EK website (calendar) for additional events and dates to remember.

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.**