



# Earl Kitchener Elementary School

*Earl Kitchener Families*

January 2024

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**Welcome back and Happy New Year! We hope that everyone was able to enjoy some time relaxing with friends and family over the winter break. Please note the following and consider checking our website for additional events and dates.**

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**Thank you EK community!** We had SO many generous donations to Wesly's Holiday Season Store. Your contributions helped many children and families in our community and beyond ... THANK YOU!

Our next **School Council and Home and School Association** meetings will be held in the library the evening of Tuesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> starting at 6:30 pm (in the library). Please consider joining us to learn more about what's happening here at EK.

**Community Engagement.** Some of this plan was shared prior to the winter break. In schools we know how important it is to find opportunities for inviting caregivers in to see and/or be part of 'happenings' at the school involving their children. This past fall, we created a 'Community Engagement Team' with this as the focus. Given our ongoing learning around equity and inclusion, these events will not be connected to any particular holidays and rather will be based around an initiative that we already have in play here at EK that we refer to as 'bEKind'. Since last year we have organized regular assemblies to recognize, teach, and celebrate 'kindness' as it pertains to students here at EK.

Hosting these assemblies has always been shared between combinations of Grades 1-5 classes and this will continue to be the case. Our new plan however includes inviting caregivers of students in the participating 'host classes' to join us.

**Our next 'bEKind' assembly is planned for Thursday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, and will be hosted by the following classes:**

- Mr. Minich, Mme Kohler, Mme Blais, Mme Sliwinska

Caregivers of students in these classes will be invited to join us and additional information will be shared out in the coming weeks.

**Winter Salting.** As a reminder, and also shared last month, this is an annual issue each winter and at times families reach out to us directly with concerns. Please know that the School / School Board is responsible for pathways leading to and from the school as well as for certain areas on the school grounds (e.g. stairs, areas of particular concern, etc.). **Sidewalks around the school (Dundurn Street, Homewood Avenue and Stanley Street) are the responsibility of the City of Hamilton.** Schools do not have the budget nor the resources (product) to take on these additional areas however we do 'throw a little out there' where it is possible/necessary as a courtesy. Concerns related to sidewalk salting should be directed to the City of Hamilton @ 905-546-2489.

**Gym shoes.** With the arrival of winter, it is important to remind students and families that wet shoes and boots cannot be worn in the gym (safety concern). Please remember to send your child to school with running shoes to ensure that they are able to actively participate in Phys-Ed class and/or DPA each day. If possible, students are also welcome to leave an 'extra pair' at school.

**Lost and Found.** As has been shared previously, we accumulate articles daily left behind by students (largely on the playground and in hallways). We always 'display' items and teachers bring students to 'have a look' with the hope that children can identify and reclaim things that belong to them. Our trouble is always around having space to maintain the 'ever growing piles' and so (roughly) once a month, on the last Friday, we are donating unclaimed articles to charity groups. *As a reminder, we have a 100% success rate in returning items to students when names are written in somewhere!*

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**As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call the school directly or make arrangements to come in and talk ... thank you for the continued help and support in making Earl Kitchener School a safe and great place to be!**

**Mr. Thorne, Ms. Ricci, and the staff of Earl Kitchener School.**