



Earl Kitchener Elementary School

Earl Kitchener Families!

June 2024

Hello everyone, the end of the current school year is quickly approaching and still MUCH on the go ... please see below!

Also note, the following dates/events are for your reference and where applicable, additional information will be shared out regarding some activities indicated here in the days ahead (this is NOT an 'exhaustive' list).

Friday, June 7th ... PA Day

Thursday, June 13th ... Piano recital (gym / first block)

Friday, June 14th ... Volunteer Appreciation Tea @ 8:30

Friday, June 14th ... LAST Pizza day

Tuesday, June 18th ... Lockdown Drill @ 9:15

Friday, June 21st ... Junior Track and Field meet

Monday, June 24th ... Grade 5s to Kaneskare Orientation

Tuesday, June 25th ... Grade 5 Farewell @ 9:15

Wednesday, June 26th ... Play Day

Thursday, June 27th ... last day for students

Friday, June 28th ... PA Day

Scholastic Book Fair ... we hold two of these annually, one in October and one in May and they are always a big hit with children here. These are organized and run by the caregiver volunteers with our Home and School Association and the school receives a portion of the proceeds from items sold. Our Spring Open House Book Fair generated \$3800 in 'profit' (to be spent on classroom libraries largely) and an additional \$700 in 'bonus points' (also to be spent on books for classrooms and the library) ... thank you!

Kernals Popcorn sales ... this was organized a couple of months back simply to support our two-day per week student nutrition program. Sales of popcorn, in addition to the many generous donations of families in the community have resulted in earnings of \$3800 which means we can continue providing snack items to all 540+ students on Tuesdays and Thursday right to the end of June!

Lockdown Drill ... all HWDSB schools are required to practice two 'Lockdown Drills' annually as part of our ongoing safety planning. Our final Drill is scheduled for Tuesday, June 18th @ 9:15. Educators talk students through expectations in age-appropriate ways to ensure that no undue anxiety is caused.

Art Auction! Thank you also for the generous bids on our various class-created tote bags. This is an annual activity here at EK and this year we raised \$300 that will go toward our school 'Art Cart' supplies.

THANK YOU School Council and Home and School Association!

We are blessed with having not only an incredibly engaged caregiver community at Earl Kitchener, but also with an incredibly supportive, dedicated and hard-working group who make up our **School Council** and **Home and School Association**. It is because of this that we are able to offer numerous 'extra-curricular' experiences for children (trips, presentations, etc.) at a subsidized cost or at no cost at all. In my 26+ years with HWDSB, EK is my tenth school and I can say that no Elementary School in our system comes close in this regard. *In a separate communication in the coming days*, we will share a summary of the various ways in which fundraising for the school has been facilitated as well as how roughly \$20,000 in money raised has gone toward enriching the experiences of EK students.

School Council and Home and School Association (Part 2!)

PLEASE consider joining us next year as a member. There are eight meetings held annually here at the school (once a month, no meetings in December or June) and you can be part of the conversations around 'happenings' and plans at the school. Long-standing and well-loved traditions such as 'Fright Night' **DEPEND** on the involvement of caregivers and our hope is to be able to continue with the many offerings here at EK. The first meeting in the fall is on Tuesday, September 17th and if you are interested in more information, please reach out to:

EK School Council: earlkitchenerSC@hwdsb.on.ca

EK Home and School Association: ekhomeandschool@gmail.com

Planning for the fall (September 2024).

The first day of school ... for the start of the upcoming school year, the first day of school is Tuesday, September 3rd, right after the Labour Day holiday. We will continue with our Safe Arrival plan (only students on the back playground in the morning) that has been in place for years now. That said, *on the first day of school*, we will allow caregivers out back to hopefully alleviate much of the congestion along Stanley Street and Homewood Avenue that generally occurs on day #1.

Class placements and teacher assignments ... all HWDSB Elementary Schools will now be required to follow the same protocol for this. NO class information and/or teacher assignments will be communicated to families prior to the end of the current school year and this information will be available via the Parent Portal the last week of August (the week of August 26th). Schools were given the option of beginning this last year and we opted out (no choice now).

In case we don't see you, wishing you all a safe, fantastic summer! As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out and thank you for the continued help and support in making Earl Kitchener School a great place to be!

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

