



Earl Kitchener Elementary School

Earl Kitchener Families

January 2025

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.

- Next Pizza Day is Friday, January 17th
 - School Council / Home and School Association meetings on Tuesday, January 21st
 - Next Popcorn Day is Wednesday, January 22nd (last day for ordering is Wednesday, January 8th)
 - PA Day on Friday, January 24th
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Thank you EK community! We had SO many generous donations to Wesley's Holiday Season Store. Your contributions helped many children and families in our community and beyond ... THANK YOU!

As indicated above, our next **School Council and Home and School Association** meetings will be held in the library the evening of Tuesday, January 21st starting at 6:30 pm (in the library). Please consider joining us to learn more about what's happening here at EK.

Community Engagement ... we know how important it is to find opportunities to invite caregivers in to see and/or be part of 'happenings' involving their children at school. For years we have had an initiative in place here at EK that we refer to as 'bEKind' and we organize regular assemblies to recognize, teach, and celebrate kindness.

Caregivers of students in participating classes are invited each time and our next assembly is planned for Friday, January 31st @ 9:15 (Ms. Nickafor and Mrs. Rodney-Glen, Mrs. Hall, Mme Chapman, Mme DiTomasso and Mr. Minich).

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 we continue to share, 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 and ask, we have close to a 100% success rate in returning items to students when names are written in somewhere!*

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.