



Earl Kitchener Elementary School

Earl Kitchener Families

February 2025

Hello everyone,

Hoping that you're all keeping well and please see below for some February information items:

February is Black History Month ... In schools, and in communities across the country and beyond, we understand the long history and importance of the Black community to the development and enrichment of Canadian society. Black Canadians from many different cultural backgrounds have made important contributions to the development of education, medicine, culture and human rights throughout Canada's history. As well, we need to recognize how systemic oppression continues to create challenges and barriers. We endeavor to celebrate Black culture and history while applauding the achievements and significant contributions Black Canadians have made to build our country, helping to make Canada the diverse and strong nation it is today. Teachers have access to a variety of supports and resources to facilitate age-appropriate conversations and learning with students.

FDK Registration for September 2025 ... this begins as of today (Monday, February 3rd). Children born in 2021 are eligible for JK in September and children born in 2020 are eligible for SK. Registrations can be completed online (see HWDSB Public website) and if you have questions, please contact the school.

Junglesport is coming! We are SO excited to be hosting the folks from the 'Junglesport' climbing and adventure program here at EK from Monday, February 10th to Friday, February 14th. Information has been shared home already along with the consent form that needs to be signed and returned for children to participate. All classes (K-5) will visit the program (set up in our gym) twice over the course of the week.

Music @ EK ... a reminder to all EK families that Mr. Popek has created an online space dedicated to sharing the various music activities that are happening around Earl Kitchener School. From classroom learning to extracurricular opportunities such as Primary Choir, Junior Choir, and Grade 5 Band (coming soon). Be sure to check it out! The website is accessible through the HWDSB commons at:

<https://cpopek.commonshwdsb.on.ca/>

Pink Shirt (anti-bullying) Day is recognized in schools on Wednesday, February 26th. Staff and students are encouraged to wear pink *anything* to show support for the ongoing battle against bullying behaviour.

Our next **School Council and Home and School Association** meetings will be held the evening of Tuesday, February 18th starting at 6:30 in the library. Please consider joining us to learn more about what's happening here at EK.

Volunteers are always needed and appreciated! We are often looking for help here at the school with things such as;

- Class Trip supervision support
- Pizza day help
- Nutrition Program help (Tuesdays / Thursdays)
- Library help

If you are interested and able to help in ANY capacity here, please reach out to the office (or myself) directly with questions or for additional information. It should be noted that Board policy requires that anyone volunteering in/with a school submit a current 'Vulnerable Sector Screening' (formerly known as a 'Police Check') which does take a few weeks from what we understand. *We do also have a number of caregiver volunteers currently who have the VSS expiring in the spring.*

Caregiver Engagement ('bEKind' Assemblies) ... as you likely know, we have been inviting caregivers into the school to attend our 'bEKind' assemblies when their child's class is participating. Our 'bEKind' assemblies are opportunities to recognize 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. We now invite caregivers of students in the participating 'host classes' to join us.

Dates for the final three 'bEKind' assemblies this year:

- Wednesday, February 26th (Ms. Johnson, Mme Long, Mme Blais, Mme Jovichevich, Mme Ogilvie)
- Wednesday, April 9th (Ms. Howarth, Mrs. Hammond, Mme Cantagalli, Ms. Wahoush, Mrs. Hall)
- Wednesday, May 7th (Mrs. Walkinshaw, Mme Bulloch, Mme Belforte, Mr. Daniels, Mme Garcia)

Caregivers of students in these classes receive 'invites' the week prior.

Please continue 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 great place to be!

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