

MINUTES

School Council Earl Kitchener

October 21 | 6:30pm

Welcome by Rachel Collier

PRO grant

- Cait review of possible topics for PRO grant, most interest in Raising Resilient Kids, Helping Kids Build Health Friendships, Supporting children through change and transitions
- Suggestion to be mindful of age range
- Cait will collect pricing from speakers and report back

PLAYGROUND

- Possibility of additional garbage bin & K Pen refurb
- Question: How to keep woodchips contained in the designated area. Response: Not in school preview, City issue, Rachael will reach out to Maureen and copy concerned parents.

HALLOWEEN

- Halloween parade is cancelled, this came from staff, from equity
- Parade will happen in the school, wind through classes.
- Buddy activities in the afternoon for between grades.
- Classes can have parties in the afternoon.
- Discussions around how to celebrate holidays and issues around equity.

STAFF REPORT

- EK Scares Hunger- class with most donations gets to mummify the Principal.
- Progress reports Nov 18th, and Parent/Teacher interviews Nov 20th & 21st
- Musicals will be doing Mary Poppins- auditions and practices throughout the week- make best efforts to include everyone- put out calls for costumes. There will be 4 showing and gym holds 200 ppl.

PRINCIPAL REPORT

- See attached
- Question about no peanut rule, nothing here yet.
- Grade 5s went to see female soccer- this was a great event.

MINUTES

Home and School Association - Earl Kit chener

October 21| 7:30pm

Welcome by Maria Orrego

WELCOME & INTRO- Maria

- Opening remarks
- Intro of new VP

PIZZA & MILK- Maria

- Milk – We have it, happening with success!
- Pizza- Need more volunteers, please sign up, put ekpizzaday email on the safe list

FINANCIALS- Maria

- Budget for 2025/2026 ready in near future

REQUESTS- Maria

- Kinder Classroom Items \$1,162.73- for all classes to share
- Grade 5 Wipe Boards \$492.10- need 7, will share between classrooms
- Grade 3/4 requested \$640
- Mr. Popek has requested \$500 for musical

OPEN HOUSE & SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR- Jenn Castle-Timms via Maria

- \$4,840.63 EARNED
- Divided by 23 classes \$210 per classroom to spend
- Talk about distribution to classes with fewer resources

FRIGHT NIGHT

- Volunteers:
 - Low on Silent Auction items- they have 25-30, last year had 50, please donate.
 - We are looking 4-5pm, 5-6pm, SHORT on 6-7pm for every room, need clean up crew need help.
 - Grade 5s, 6 s & 7s can help but not staff rooms
- Sensory Room:
 - 20 families in attendance- during 30 min families can come and explore all the rooms
 - Making sure set up is wheelchair accessible
 - Having a Calming Room- Stew will lead and staff room
- New rooms:
 - We have 3 new activity rooms- Ghostbustin' & Alien Space Adventure & Monster Mash Dance Hall
 - More space for the Creepy café eating (107 &108)
- Friday- 4-9, done by 8pm- everything is set up this day
- Arrival on Saturday at noon- cakes, witches' kitchen, baked goods
- Doing a late slot volunteer call out

Q&A AND OPEN DISCUSSION

- Asked for a longer Open House timeslot next time.

- Next meeting Nov 18th

EK Principal's Report Oct 2025



Thank you to the community

- Over \$6,000 Raised for Cancer Research through Terry Fox
- Over \$4,800 raised through Scholastic Book Fair with wonderful parent volunteers

Key dates	Field Trips / Excursions
Oct 24. PD Day (no classes for students)	Brantwood Farms (FDK)
Oct 25. Fright Night	McMaster Marauders (gr 4&5s) Nov 6
Oct 27. Swim team competition	Steam Museum (gr 5)

Operational Items

Reorganization this year included both student moves, and staff changes due to the impact of changes across the school board. A couple of changes due to staff leave of absence. We welcomed:

Chantal Idzikowski	DECE with Mrs Howarth
Aaron Comstock	Grade 5
Jessica Schuler	changed from half time Gr 23 FI to fulltime Grade 34 FI
Kate Garcia	Grade 23FI half time
Jessie Prevec (LTO)	Grade 45 FI (Jovichevich maternity leave)
Toni Di Benedetto (LTO)	Grade 3FI (Sliwinska leave of absence), <i>she's back</i>
Toni Di Benedetto (LTO)	Grade 5FI (until new FI teacher is available)

Food Exception Days 2025- 26

The Ontario Ministry of Education's School Food and Beverage Policy requires all publicly funded schools to follow specific nutrition standards for food and beverages sold on school premises. These standards aim to promote healthy eating habits and support student well-being. Schools are permitted to designate up to 10 *special event days per school year* when the nutrition standards do not apply. These exception days allow flexibility for celebrations and events while maintaining a commitment to student health throughout the school year.

1. October	Meet the Teacher
2. October	Halloween
3. December	Class parties
4. February	Valentine's Day
5. March	Before March Break
6. April	Doughnuts
7. May	Open House
8. June	End of Year
9. June	Grade 5 Farewell
10.	School Council or Teacher choice (communicated to parents)