

June

Newsletter

2018

EPS

Hello Erin Public School Families!

The 2017—18 year has indeed been a busy one! There have been a few changes with the opening of the 2nd floor, Day Care building and the refurbishing of our track and field, which already looks amazing! As the final days of this school year draw to an end, I would like to thank our tireless staff for their hard work, dedication to our students and perseverance with challenges.

Thank you to all of the families too, for your support and encouragement! Your support and kind words go a long way!

E-MAIL NOTIFICATIONS

If you no longer wish to be receiving our e-mail notifications, because your child no longer goes to our school, please take a moment to unsubscribe so that the software can accommodate our new families. Many thanks for looking after that.

Likewise, if you know of any new families who have not already done so, please encourage them to go to our website [www.ugdsb.ca/erinps] to subscribe to our e-mails at the bottom of the home page.



COUNCIL CORNER



On behalf of EPS Parent Council, I would like to thank all of the families who supported our fundraising throughout the year. Our fundraisers included the Monday pizza lunches, QSP cookie dough and magazine sales, Movie night, Soccer-a-thon and the snack shack at the tournaments held at EPS. These fundraisers raised over \$18,000.

Our largest purchase this year was \$5,000 toward technology for the school, including new Chrome books.

The remainder of the money was spent on buses for Linamar plays and sports tournaments, as well as Scientists in the School, savings for Outdoor Classroom, and sponsorship of the Grade 6 and Grade 8 trips. The ropes course in September and Focus on Nature programs were also funded.

As well, each teacher was given access to \$125 to spend at their discretion for their classroom.

It has been a privilege to be Chair of the Council this year. This small but mighty group of dedicated parents is what makes all of this possible. I'd also like to take this moment to thank Ms. Harrison, Ms. Rowe and Ms. Klooster for all of their support in our endeavours. A big thank you to the teachers who helped to facilitate our fundraising efforts. Our first meeting is scheduled for Tuesday September 11th at 7pm. If you're looking to get more involved in the Erin Public School community, this is the place to start! Enjoy your summer!

SOME STAFF CHANGES

As many of you know, there are two staff members who will be leaving our school at the end of June: **Ms. Sowler-Price**, who will be teaching at a school in Orangeville, closer to home, and **Mrs. Hansen**, who is retiring after 18 years at EPS. You are welcome to join us at the Year End Assembly on **Thursday, June 28th at 9 am** as we bid them Farewell.



REPORT CARDS

Report Cards will be coming home Tuesday, June 26th. Please send the parent sign back portion on Thursday, June 28th so it can be filed in the OSR.

YEARBOOKS

Yearbooks will be distributed to students who ordered them on Monday, June 25th. If you did not place an order and would like to purchase a yearbook, please bring \$20 and you will be able to buy one on Tuesday, while quantities last. Thanks for supporting this initiative. Special thanks again to everyone who submitted photos; a huge thank you to our resident artist, photographer and yearbook producer Mr. McLean for photo taking and coordinating the yearbook! Hopefully this will bring back some wonderful memories in the years to come.

STUDENTS WITH MEDICATIONS AT SCHOOL



A letter was sent home to all families whose children's medication we have at the Office. Please pick up any medicine you may have left at school for your child from the main office before the end of the month. Any medication still at school will need to be discarded if not picked up. If you would like the medication to be sent home with your child, please sign the letter that was sent home and we will send it on the last day of school, or contact their teacher with a written note, giving your permission to send the medication with your child.

WELCOME TO NEW FAMILIES



We had our Kindergarten Orientation and our New Grade 7 Orientation. Welcome to all of our new families! We look forward to seeing you in September!



FROM THE LIBRARY



With the school year coming to a close, we're asking you to dig through backpacks, desks, and home reading nooks for any missing and overdue library books. All materials are due back as soon as possible. The more books that are returned, the less we will need to buy! Thanks for a great year of literacy learning! Be sure to check out OverDrive through your child's UGcloud account to access books online over the summer. And Keep On Reading!

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!!!

Throughout the year, we have been the lucky recipients of the help of many parents and dedicated citizens at our school. Without you, many of our field trips would not be possible. We have been so fortunate to have the generous donation of time and effort to provide many community events from the School Council and many parents who have helped with field trips and a number of other events. You are sincerely appreciated!



A HUGE THANK YOU FROM EPS STAFF TO OUR PARENT COUNCIL FOR THE DELICIOUS STAFF APPRECIATION LUNCH!!!



THANK YOU SCHOOL COUNCIL!



All year long, members of School Council have worked very hard on behalf of your children. The staff and students of EPS would like to thank this tireless team for their strong support. The educational experience of students at Erin PS is made a lot richer thanks to the efforts of this group of committed parents. Check out a few of the activities and resources for which we all have School Council to thank!

- Hot Pizza Lunches
- Transportation to sports team events
- Transportation to Linamar Presentations
- Gardening supplies
- Ropes course
- Christmas Bazaar
- Classroom supplies funds
- Gym Equipment
- Gardening supplies



FOOD AND FRIENDS



Erin PS is very fortunate to have our Breakfast Club Program, which is co-ordinated by Ms. Lebon with the help of parent and teacher volunteers. This program allows any student to come for breakfast every morning, receive some nutritious food, a friendly “hello” and just a generally warm start to their day. Thank you to all who contributed to the Food & Friends student nutrition program this school year. Thank you for your tireless dedication and kind hearts.

<http://www.childrensfoundation.org>

PLAN OF CARE LETTERS AND FORMS

If your child has a Life Threatening Emergency Management and Prevention Plan, then please be aware that there is a new policy in place that will start very soon. One change will be the name of the plan, which will now simply be “Plan of Care.” For children with life-threatening allergies, asthma, diabetes or other medical conditions that may require urgent attention, there are now new forms, which have recently been sent out. Families will be required to meet with the Principal to create the new Plan of Care and then parents will need to have it signed by the family physician over the summer so it’s ready to go for the first day of school in September. After this initial plan is created, it won’t need to be signed by a doctor each year as long as there are no changes required. If you have received your letter and are ready to drop it off at school, then please do so at your earliest convenience. The sooner we have the plans, the sooner we can pass it on to the Bus Consortium. We would like to put in place everything we possibly can to keep our students safe. Thank you kindly for your help with this important matter,

TRANSPORTATION

A reminder to parents of bus students to check the Transportation website 2 weeks before school starts in September to confirm their bus pick-up and drop off locations and times.

<http://stwdsts.ca/home/>

ARE YOU MOVING?



This is a reminder that we would appreciate a call or a note from you if your children will not be returning to our school in September, 2018. This information is very important as we make class lists, plan our staffing and organize our school for the coming year. Also, if you know of a family moving into our area, please let them know they

can contact the school to register. New student registration will take place Wednesday, August 29th, 2018.

TALKING ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH

Successfully Shifting From School To Summer

It is an exciting time of the year. The weather is getting warmer, days are getting longer and summer is just around the corner. School is



wrapping up and it is time to think about how to have a good transition from school routines to summer vacation. The shift from school year to summer break is easy for some, but more challenging for others, particularly those children and youth who experience anxiety or have difficulty with transitions. A good transition to summer is important and can lead to a more positive, fun summer experience.

Here are some practical tips to make a smooth transition from school to summer:

- Post the summer schedule. Have your child or youth contribute to a family calendar. Be sure to note blocks of unscheduled time as well.



- Make a list of places and people to visit when time permits and the mood strikes. Summer is a good time to stop by the library, bike trail, or concert-in-the-park that you can't seem to get to during the school year.
- Revamp – but don't eliminate – your child's daily routine. A daily routine gives most kids a sense of structure and security.
- Prepare your child for their scheduled activities. If possible, visit the locations where they will be during day camp or day care in advance. Have your child talk to counsellors, caregivers, as well as other kids who have enjoyed those same situations and settings.
- Get outside and enjoy the summer. Try to limit the amount of time online, watching TV, or playing video games. Be active and get plenty of sleep and exercise. Being outside, such as going for a walk or playing in the park elevates our mood and makes us feel less anxious.



Looking for Activities To Do?

- <http://www.orangeville.ca/parks-and-recreation>
- <http://guelph.ca/living/recreation/recreation-programs/>
- <https://www.centrewellington.ca/beactive/Pages/Recreation,%20Parks%20and%20Facilities/Community-Guide.aspx>
- <http://wellington-north.com/government/departments/recreation>

We hope you have a wonderful, relaxing, fun summer. However, if you find mental health challenges to be increasing or causing more difficulties over the summer, seek out mental health or addiction supports for your child/youth, you and your family.

Summer resources for Mental Health and Addiction supports:

- Your family physician and family health teams in Guelph, Wellington, and Dufferin are excellent resources.
- Canadian Mental Health Association WWD (CMHAWWD):
- Tuesday Walk In - 1:30-7:00, 485 Silvercreek Parkway, Guelph.
- To access services for Children, Youth and Adults in Guelph/Wellington: : 1 844 HERE 247 (1 844 437 3247) <http://here247.ca/>

- Dufferin Child and Family Services (DCAFS):
Tuesday Talk In – 1:00-7:00 pm, 655 Riddell Road, Orangeville.

To access services for Children and Youth in Dufferin: 519 941 1530.
<http://dcafs.on.ca/>

- Family Counselling and Support Services:

Walk-in, Wednesday, 1-7, sliding scale, based on ability to pay, but will not turn anyone away.
109 Surrey St E, 519 824-2431.
<http://familyserviceguelph.on.ca/>

- KidsHelpPhone 1 800 668 6868. <http://www.kidshelpphone.ca/>

Dr. Lynn Woodford is the Mental Health and Addiction Lead for Upper Grand District School Board

Follow me on twitter: @drlynnwoodford

TRANSITION PLANS FOR STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Spring has sprung and it's a great time to be reviewing your child's transition plans. Students who have an Individual Education Plan (IEP) must have a transition plan, whether or not they have been identified as an exceptional student. A transition plan includes goals for ensuring successful transitions, and the actions for meeting those goals. It is required if a student may need support making any transition, which may include entering, during, or leaving school. A plan to support the student must be developed as part of the student's IEP.

Some transition goals may help with changes throughout the day, such as moving from recess to the classroom, while other goals may assist with larger transitions, such as moving from one school to another or changing grades/teachers within the same school setting.

For many students, the supports provided to the whole class are all they need to have a successful transition, which means they may not need an individualized transition plan on their IEP at this time.

When planning for any transition, the students' strengths and needs are considered, as well as their physical, emotional, and learning needs.

Please communicate with your child's teacher if you feel additional transition supports are required on his/her IEP.

Have Wonderful, Happy, Fun-filled Summer!

See you September 4th at 8:45!

Please check the website in late August for the September Newsletter with school updates