

EPS November 2018 Newsletter

News from our Library



We have just purchased over 100 non-fiction books. The topics range from Machines on the Move to Pet Care to Oceans Alive. The books have lots of photographs and are informative,



but easy to read; most are geared to the primary and junior grades. Thank you for supporting the September Book Fair, as we were able to use the profit from sales to purchase these books. Also, overdue slips may be coming home in your child's backpack. While the school does not charge overdue fees, we do require payment for the replacement of lost books. It is actually hard to really lose a book; students often find them tucked in their own book shelves, under their bed or in a sibling's room! Thanks for helping them search.

Council Corner

- ❖ Parent Council is once again sponsoring a Christmas Bazaar. Please donate gently used items that would be suitable as gifts for our students to purchase for their loved ones. Donations of gifts bags are also needed, but no wrapping paper please as we have lots left from last year. Please stay tuned for the date and further details.
- ❖ Next council meeting will be **Tuesday November 20th at 7 pm in the school Library.**
- ❖ In the news you may have heard about a survey. It is the largest public consultation ever on Education. It is open to everyone, please have your say before December 5th, 2018. It can be found at <https://www.ontario.ca/page/for-the-parents>.
- ❖ The fall PIC event is coming up. The topic is "Social Media Fitness". Guest speakers are Chris Vollum, who was well received in Erin before, and Alyson Schafer. They will speak to families about effective social media strategies they can use with their children. They will be presenting in Guelph on Nov. 7th and in Orangeville on Nov. 8th at 6:45 to 8:45. Tickets are available for free at Eventbrite, <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/social-media-fitness-tickets-51253418354> All are welcome!
- ❖ We are no longer collecting Campbell's Soup labels. The company has stopped running a rewards program for them. Thank you very much for your support. We purchased some awesome gym equipment from the points before it closed.



Remembrance Day assembly will be on Friday, November 9th at 11:30 in the small gym. Parents are welcome to attend.

Bus procedure

We are making some changes to our school bus boarding procedure to further ensure the safety of our students. We need your help to make things run smoothly. If your child is a bus student and you are making different arrangements for her/him to get home (i.e. you may be picking your child up or he/she is walking to a friend's house) could you please let the office know? That way, we will not be looking for the students when we expect them to board the bus at the end of the day and they are not there. This is

only for students in grade K-5. We wholeheartedly appreciate your help in keeping everyone safe and sound.

Bus Behaviour



If your child is a bus student, please reinforce the importance of appropriate bus behaviour. Cold weather is just around the corner and bus drivers need to be particularly vigilant while driving. Students cannot be taking away the drivers' attention by being noisy, changing seats and not following bus rules. This seriously compromises everyone's safety. Students who break bus rules will have immediate consequences and may have their bus privileges suspended for a period of time. We thank you in advance for taking the time to remind our students about appropriate bus behaviour.

School Security

It is our Board Policy to have all visitors to the school sign in at the Office. Standard signage is posted on the doors of every school in our board. We are sincerely happy to see all our parents visit the school and our doors are always open, but signing in is an important safety precaution that we ask everyone to please adhere to. Even though we know most our parents, it is still important to sign in in the event there is a fire drill or an evacuation or any kind of emergency where we need to account for everyone in the building. Thank you kindly for taking the time to do this.

Cell Phones Policy

Please be reminded that cell phones are not permitted to be used at school unless explicitly permitted by the teacher. All cell phones are to be kept in lockers or backpacks during school hours. If you need to get a hold of your child during school hours, please do so via the Office.

If students use their cell phones without permission, the phones will be deposited at the office to be picked up by parents at a later date. Students are not given warnings, as they are well aware of this rule.



Lates and Absences

We are beginning to experience an increase in lates and absences. This is particularly worrisome because research shows that *chronic* lates and absences are a very accurate predictor of academic concerns and high school drop-out rates. On a more practical level, students who are late disrupt the classes that have already begun and miss out on some of the most important instruction of the day. Students who are *chronically* late will have consequences of making up lost class time at the end of the day or at recess. We respectfully ask everyone to reinforce the message that it is important to be prompt.

Student drop off and pick-up



Please be reminded that students who are in grade 1-8 may not be picked up at the school parking lot. With the opening of the Child Care Centre in December, parking will become more complicated and this is an area where we need all of the parents' help to make sure our students are safe. The only students who can be picked up and dropped off in the school parking lot are Kindergarten students.

This week, parents of Kindergarten students will be given a Parking Pass. The only vehicles permitted into the parking lot will be those with a Parking Pass. All other drop offs and pickups should be done on Daniel street south of the Crossing Guard or on England Street. The number of vehicles in and out of the parking lots has increased dramatically. With the cars zooming in and out and the 17 buses, the current volume of traffic is concerning for the safety of the students who are walking or crossing the parking lot or street to get to their parents' car for pick up. Please help us keep everyone safe.

Lunch reminders for grades 7 and 8

Students in grade 7 and 8 are permitted to go to town for lunch on Thursday afternoons. Students are reminded that a written permission must be given to the classroom teacher. The permission note must be written in the agenda on the appropriate date and signed by a parent. The office is not able to make phone calls due to sheer volume of calls.

Warm Clothing

Baby it's Cold Outside, as the song goes! Please send extra warm clothing for Primary students as they get wet and sometimes need to change their socks and/or mittens. Our Intermediate students, in particular, are often not dressed for the weather. Outdoor recess is 25 minutes long, that is a substantial amount of time to be outside without a hat, scarf or mitts when it's cold, humid and windy. On that note, if you happen to have some extra winter clothing such as hats, mitts, winter boots, jackets and snow pants that are gently used and you no longer need, please consider sending them to school. We can use some extras.



Mentors Program

Our Child and Youth Councillor, Tamara Zappia and our Special Education teacher, Lori Turk, have started a Mentors Program. This is an opportunity for some of our older students to mentor, support or just be a buddy to younger students, which benefits everyone! We are looking for donations of LEGO and board games for use in this program. If you have any of these items that you would be willing to pass on, we would sincerely appreciate your help!

Ongoing events at EPS:

- [Math Homework Help](#) is now available to any students who would like a hand with math. This is every Tuesday and Thursday, in the Library at first recess. Anyone welcome. Thank you to Ms. Turk for running this valuable math support.
- [Makerspace Club](#) will be running in the Library on Wednesdays at first recess. Students can come in and work with robotics, build and explore. Coming soon to our Library, and to complement the Makerspace is a LEGO Wall! Thank you, Ms. Turk.
- [Knitting Club](#) coming this month! Thank you to Mlle Carvalho.
- [Girls' Volleyball](#) will start this week. Thank you to Mr. Curry
- [Boys' Volleyball](#) try-outs and games. Thank you to Mrs. McDonald and Mrs. Root.
- [Intramurals](#) for primary and junior students! Thank you to Mlle Holden.
- [Wizard of Oz](#) musical rehearsals. Thank you to Mr. Snowball.
- [The school Hockey Team](#) has been practicing. Thank you to Ms. Waddell, Ms. Turk, and Mrs. Reilly, as well as our parent volunteer coaches.

- We are working on getting the **Green Team** off the ground. Thank you to Mr. Adair, Ms. Rowe, Mlle Carvalho and Mr. Curry for your efforts.
- **Breakfast Club** daily from 8:20-8:45. Thank you to Ms. Lebon, Ms. Rowe, Mr. McLean and our Parent Volunteers.

Fresh From The Farm

Thank you to all those who supported *Fresh from the Farm* fundraiser and thank you to Ms. Lebon for organizing it. We have raised close to \$400 and will be spending the money towards purchasing chromebooks.

Fresh from the Farm pick up is **Thursday, November 8 from 3:30-6:00.**

Please park by the back door and pick up inside by the Kindergarten rooms.



Thank You! To all our families who have sent items for our community Food Bank! We have collected 8 boxes of goods to help those who are in need.

Progress Reports are coming home on **November 21st**. These reports will let you know if your child is progressing as expected in Language and Mathematics and if there are difficulties in any other subject. The focus of the Progress Reports is Learning Skills. As educators, we believe that if the learning skills are well developed and reinforced with good habits, academic achievement is likely to follow. This is why the first reporting is focussed on these very important skills.

Parent teacher interviews

Parent Teacher Interviews will take place on **Thursday, November 29th from 3:45-8:00 pm** as well as on **Friday, November 30th during school hours**. Parents will be able to book an interview time online, starting November 12th until November 28th at noon. Please go to www.ugdsb.ca/pti/ for bookings. You will need your child's OEN, which you can find on any report card from any year, located at the top of the front page.

Lost and found

We have already collected a sizeable amount of lost items. These will be displayed on tables in the Main Foyer during PTIs. Please take a look and claim any items that belong to you. After November 30th, the contents of the Lost and Found bin will be donated to goodwill.



Kindergarten Registration for the 2019-2020 school year will be **January 8-18, 2019**. For more Registration information visit www.ugdsb.ca/kindergarten