



## 2019 Newsletter

**A Huge Thank You! To our families for being diligent with calling in student absences! Our Office Co-ordinator, Mrs. Klooster wanted to relay her personal gratitude for all your calls, allowing her to do her job so much more efficiently. Thank you, and keep those calls coming!**

### PLEASE Help Us

Please be reminded of the parking and drop-off protocol. Many of our students are crossing the road (Daniel street) at haphazard points. This situation is particularly dangerous because we have so many buses and if students cross in front of them, the bus drivers are not always able to see them, nor can they stop quickly because of the size of the bus. Recently, we have had a couple of near misses, where a student ran across and the bus driver was not able to see them because of their large side mirrors. The safest place to drop off is North of the crosswalk on Daniel street. This way, the students are being shuttled across the street by a crossing guard and not in front of the 17 buses entering our driveway in the morning. ***If you drop off on the street in front of the school, the students are placed in the path of the buses, which is unsafe.*** Dropping off in the parking lot is also unsafe, as cars exit the lot going directly against the flow of buses as well as the crosswalk for students.



### Upcoming Hockey Games:



Did you know Erin PS has its own hockey team? It is true! Thanks to our dedicated coaches, Ms. Waddell, Ms. Turk, Ms. Reilly and Mr. Messier! Even if you don't have a child on the team, come out and cheer the kids on! Here are some upcoming games:

- Wednesday, February 6, Centre 2000
- Wednesday, February 13, Centre 2000
- Wednesday, February 20, Grand Valley
- Wednesday, February 28, Grand Valley

All games are from 4-5pm

Tournament will be at the beginning of March. More information is to follow once the date is determined.



### **From the Library:**

In February, the Forest of Reading Book Clubs will be starting up once a week during nutrition break. The Silver Birch Express is for Grade 2-4 students; Red Maple/Silver Birch is Grade 5-8. The nominated books are read and discussed by the children and in April they vote for their favourite.

### **FEBRUARY 6<sup>TH</sup> IS WINTER WALK DAY!**

Lots of UGDSB schools participated in Walk to School Day in October. Did you know that there is also a walk to school day in February? Let's keep the momentum going! February 6<sup>th</sup> is Winter Walk Day across Canada. It's the perfect opportunity for parents and kids to get outside together and stretch those legs! Walk to school or at school for daily physical activity, a healthier environment, safer streets, making friends and...having fun! Walking helps kids get those 60 minutes of daily physical activity they need. It's also a great cure for those winter blues and helps students concentrate better in class.



Our school will be participating in our own Walk At School Day! We will be going for a walk outside around the school grounds. Please dress for the weather!

As a parent, you can help your child learn about walking or riding to school safely:

- Be a good role model. Demonstrate road safety rules with your child (e.g. looking both ways when crossing the street).
- Plan a walking or riding route. Assess potential hazards with your child. Encourage your child to stick to the route.
- Remind your child about personal safety. Point out the houses of people you know where they can go for help if needed.
- Adopt a buddy system. Walk with a "walking buddy" – a sibling or a friend.
- Ask that electronics like iPods and cellphones be put in their bag while walking to school. Pedestrian safety is compromised by texting, earphones and cellphone conversation.
- Talk about the rules of the road and pedestrian safety.

Visit [www.saferoutestoschool.ca](http://www.saferoutestoschool.ca) for more information and resources on active school travel.

### **Bus Days and Pizza**

Should bus day happen to fall on a Monday, Pizza lunch will **NOT** be delivered. If such is the case, an extra Pizza Day will be tacked on at the end of the order cycle.





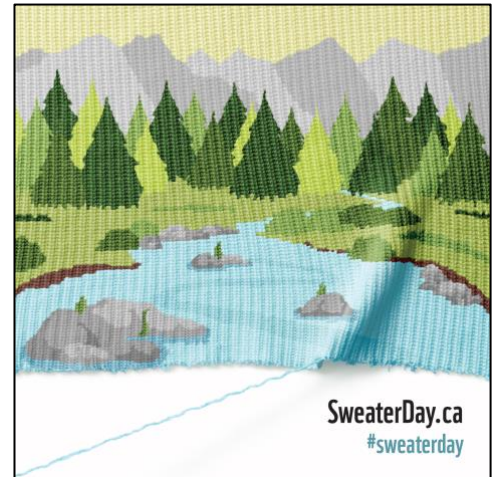
Monthly environmental activities to help celebrate our planet

## February 7th is National Sweater Day!

*Make the Earth better by wearing a sweater*

### Celebrate National Sweater Day on February 7th!

National Sweater Day is a way to learn about the importance of saving energy and to inspire you to use less energy all winter. Heating accounts for 80% of residential energy use in Canada. If all Canadians lowered their thermostats by just 2 degrees Celsius this winter, it would reduce greenhouse gas emissions by about 4 megatons – that's equivalent to taking nearly 700,000 cars off the road! [http://www.wwf.ca/events/sweater\\_day/](http://www.wwf.ca/events/sweater_day/)



National Sweater Day is about thinking differently about how we use energy, where our energy comes from and how we can play an important role in fighting climate change by using energy wisely. It is designed to help raise awareness about renewable energy and change behaviours around energy consumption in Canada. [assets.wwf.ca/downloads/nsd\\_2017\\_en\\_school\\_toolkit.pdf](https://assets.wwf.ca/downloads/nsd_2017_en_school_toolkit.pdf)

### Ideas for your family to celebrate Sweater Day

- Turn down your thermostat and wear a sweater on Feb 7<sup>th</sup> - and every day this winter!
- Ask your children to brainstorm with you about ways to save energy at home. Make a pledge to implement as many as you can. For extra ideas go to: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/how-use-less-electricity-home>
- Read a children's book on conservation such as: *Why Should I Save Energy?* by Jen Green. Encourage lots of questions and find the answers together.
- Learn about Green Energy sources. What types of renewable energy are available in Ontario - Wind? Solar? Geothermal?



Valentine's Day is just around the corner - use recycled materials to create your cards this year! To learn more about how recycling saves energy go to Alliant Energy Kids:

[www.alliantenergykids.com/UsingEnergyWisely/SavingEnergyAtHome](http://www.alliantenergykids.com/UsingEnergyWisely/SavingEnergyAtHome)  
School Newsletter Insert from Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph  
Public Health

## Information from Public Health

In Ontario, the *Immunization of School Pupils Act* requires that all students attending school be fully immunized or have a valid exemption on file. Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health (WDGPH) has recently mailed immunization notices to elementary students with incomplete vaccine records. To avoid suspension, please update your child's immunization record by **March 15, 2019**.

If the student has already received the immunization(s), report them using one of these methods:

- Online: View and report immunizations at [www.immunizewdg.ca](http://www.immunizewdg.ca). Sign-in using your Ontario Health Card Number or the Ontario Immunization ID (provided on your Immunization Notice if received by mail from WDGPH).
- Email: Send a copy of the record to [vaccine.records@wdgpublichealth.ca](mailto:vaccine.records@wdgpublichealth.ca)
- Call: 1-800-265-7293 ext. 4396

If the student needs the immunization(s) do one of the following:

- Make an appointment with student's health care provider, bring the notice from WDGPH with you, and follow up by reporting the immunization(s) to WDGPH.
- Call 1-800-265-7293 ext. 4134 to make an immunization appointment at WDGPH.

If the student is not being immunized for medical or conscience/religious reasons:

- Access the appropriate exemption form at [www.wdgpublichealth.ca/your-kids/vaccination](http://www.wdgpublichealth.ca/your-kids/vaccination)
- For the Statement of Conscience or Religious Belief Exemptions a parent/guardian must also complete an immunization education session at WDGPH. For an appointment call 1-800-265-7293 ext. 4134.

## Engaging Your Child in Science at Home!

As parents we have the wonderful opportunity and responsibility for nurturing our children's growth. Parents play a key role in the physical, emotional, and intellectual development of their child. As parents we can usually find time to read a story to our children, thereby instilling a love of literature, but we are often at a loss as to how to instill a love and appreciation for Science. Science encourages problem solving skills, curiosity and questioning, creative and critical thinking, observational skills and reinforces both literacy and math skills....and it's FUN! Here are some ideas for fostering Scientific skills in your children.



## 6 Tips to foster Scientific Thinking at Home

**1-See science everywhere.** Parents can take opportunities to ask "What would happen if ...?" questions or present brainteasers to encourage children to be curious and seek out answers. Children need to know that science isn't just a subject, but it is a way of understanding the world around us.

**2-Lead family discussions on science-related topics.** Dinnertime might be an ideal time for your family to have discussions about news stories that are science based, like space shuttle missions, severe weather conditions, or new medical breakthroughs. Over time, children will develop a better understanding of science and how it affects many facets of our lives. Movies and TV shows with science-related storylines are also great topics for discussion.

**3-Encourage girls and boys equally.** Many girls are left out of challenging activities simply because of their gender. Be aware that both girls and boys need to be encouraged and exposed to a variety of subjects at a very early age.

**4-Do science together.** Children, especially elementary-age children, learn better by investigating and experimenting. Simple investigations done together in the home can bolster what your child is learning in the classroom. Check with your child's teacher on what your child is currently learning in class and what activities you can explore at home.

**5-Connect science with a family vacation.** Family vacations are a great way to explore science. It could be a hiking trip where you explore nature or a discussion on tides during a beach vacation.

**6-Show excitement for Science!**

Reference: "NSTA Science Matters: Tips for Busy Parents - National Science ...."  
<http://www.nsta.org/sciencematters/tips.aspx>.

## Erin Y Child Care



As the largest provider of Child Care in Wellington County, the YMCA-YWCA of Guelph has been providing children with a safe, stable and nurturing environment for many years. On December 3rd, 2018 the Y opened a new Child Care location at Erin Public School. This space accommodates 10 infants, 15 toddlers and 24 preschool children for Full Day Care. The hours of operation for the Child Care Centre are from 7:00am-6:00pm. To register your child for care, please visit [www.guelph.org/erin](http://www.guelph.org/erin) or call 519-833-2731 to speak to Michelle

Patterson Child Care Supervisor.

### School e-mails:

If you no longer wish to receive our newsletters, please take a moment to unsubscribe from our e-mail list if you are no longer at our school. There is a limited number of subscriptions possible and some of our parents are not able to receive e-mails.