



September

2019



From the Principal's Desk

Hello Erin Public School families! School days are just around the corner! We sincerely hope you had a restful, fun and happy summer! First and foremost, I would like to welcome families who are new to the community of Erin and our school. We hope you will love it here as much as we do! I would also like to extend a warm welcome to some new staff members: Ms. Patrycja Zuk will be teaching a portion of Core French, Ms. Melanie Brown, will be joining our EA team and Ms. Shyla Pogany and Ms. Lorrie Wren will be joining our teaching team in the Primary Division. Welcome to all of you, I know our school and our community will make you feel like you've always been here!

Our school is looking shiny and polished thanks to our custodial team: Ms. Stewart, Ms. Vansickle, Mr. Rodriguez and Mr. Leitch, who have worked tirelessly all summer long! A heartfelt Thank You to you for your hard work! Thank you also to Ms. Edwards who, as usual, has been tirelessly working on watering and maintaining the gardens and who organized a very successful Garden Open House this summer. Thank you to Ms. Turk for helping to welcome all visitors. This not only promotes our school gardens, but also goes a long way in extending a warm welcome to visitors at our school. I can't wait to see the kids' faces when they see all the vegetables! And, can I secretly admit, I wonder what wonderful concoctions the kids will be making with the produce?! Last year we got a bowl of delicious pumpkin soup delivered to us at the office by the Kindergarten students in a proper red wagon! Doesn't get better than that! A huge THANK YOU to all those who help make our building and school community a welcoming place to learn and grow!

In the next few weeks I will be updating the school website with events for the calendar, Family Handbook with lots of information, as well as other tid-bits you may want to keep on hand for future reference. In the meantime, enjoy the beautiful days of late summer and we will see you September 3rd at 8:55!

Please note:
Our school start
time has changed to
8:55 am instead of
8:45.
Dismissal time stays
the same, 3:15.

8:55	First Bell
8:55-9:55	Period 1
9:55-10:35	Period 2
10:35-10:55	1 st Nutrition Break
10:55-11:15	1 st Recess
11:15-12:15	Period 3
12:15-12:55	Period 4
12:55-1:15	2 nd Nutrition Break
1:15-1:35	2 nd Recess
1:35-2:15	Period 5
2:15-3:15	Period 6
3:15	Dismissal

School Council



Our Parent Council would like to extend our sincerest gratitude to all the families who supported our various fundraisers this year. Our fundraisers included the school BBQ, QSP cookie dough and magazine sales, pizza and sub day lunches, hot dog and popcorn days, our annual Christmas bazaar, and snack shack at the tournaments held at our school. These fundraisers raised over \$19,000!

With these funds, we were able to pay for the buses to take our students to the River Run Play performances, sports tournaments, and many other events. Other things we were able to provide include the student agendas, French-English dictionaries, Scientists in the Classroom Program, Zumba and Yoga classes and sponsorship of the grade 6 and grade 8 trips. We were able to purchase our own popcorn machine for movie nights and popcorn days. We were also able to provide each teacher with \$125 to use at their discretion for supplies for their classrooms.

It has been an absolute pleasure to be Chair of the Council this year. Our group worked tirelessly to ensure these fundraisers were successful. Thank you to all the parents for your dedication. Our success would not have been possible without the support of the staff at EPS and their help to facilitate the fundraisers. A very big and special thank you to Ms. Harrison, Ms. Klooster and Ms. Rowe for all your support with getting our ideas off the ground.

Our first meeting for the 2019-2020 school year will take place on September 24th, 2019 at 7pm in the school library. If you are interested in getting more involved in the school, please come out to the meeting and see what it is all about.

It's a great way to get involved and make a difference in your child's school. Your involvement can be as dedicated as you wish it to be. Please come out to the first meeting and see for yourself! There is no obligation to attend every meeting, although we think you will want to!

thank
you!



Patryzia Eltalawy, EPS Parent Council Chair



Open House BBQ

The annual Open House/Meet the Teacher BBQ is on Tuesday, September 17th at 5:30-7 pm. We will start outside with the BBQ portion of the evening and shortly after 6 o'clock everyone will be able to move inside and visit their child(ren)'s classroom, walk through the halls and meet the teacher. We look forward to meeting all of our school families!

Lunch Supervisor Positions Available!



If you are interested in getting involved in school life and you have some time during the day, then you may wish to consider applying to be a Lunch Supervisor. This is a paid position, there are two shifts per day - 10:25-11:10 and 12:50-1:35 and is working mostly with Kindergarten and Primary

children. We need people willing to come in as needed, on an on-call basis, as well as someone to work regular hours, though that does not have to be daily or both shifts. For more information or to apply, please call the school and ask to speak to either Mrs. Klooster or Mrs. Harrison or send an email to marina.harrison@ugdsb.on.ca. If you know someone who may be interested, please pass it on!



Communication:

Please take the time to visit our school [website](#) and subscribe to e-mail notifications from the school. Likewise, if you no longer wish to receive e-mails from us, please be sure to **Unsubscribe**. **Even if you have already subscribed,**

please visit the website to update your settings. The reason we ask you to do this is because



Subscribe to
**EMAIL
NOTIFICATIONS**

the legislation around e-mails has changed. Therefore, you will only receive e-mail notification from EPS if you have given your **explicit** consent to do so. If you do not wish to get e-mails, you can still tune in

via the school website. Most of the information e-mailed is also posted on our website. Our Newsletters are all issued electronically in an effort to save trees and paper costs. If you wish to receive your newsletters in paper form, please contact [Mrs. Harrison](#). Another way you can

stay informed is to follow us on Twitter. Also, you can install a free app, UGConnect, to receive notifications every time the website is updated.

This is a very handy tool where you can access several portals from one screen. You should also be receiving Class Newsletters from your child's teacher. As well, teachers can be reached by telephone or e-mail. This information can be found on the [Teachers](#) section of the school website using hotlinks.



In the first two weeks of school, you will be receiving LOTS of information from the school. Please check with your child daily to see what has come home. There will be LOTS of important information that will need your attention.

This year, we have colour coded the items that need to be signed and returned to school, they are printed on blue and yellow paper.

Below are a few things you can expect (NOT a complete list). Things that need to be signed and returned to school are in bold type.

- Consent to Share Personal Information [Please sign and return to school at your earliest convenience]**
- Walking Trip Permission Form [Please sign and return to school at your earliest convenience]**
- Communication at EPS [Please sign and return to school at your earliest convenience]**

- [UGDSB Student Verification Form](#) **[Please sign and return to school at your earliest convenience]**
- UGDSB Violence Threat/Risk Assessment and Suicide Protocol Notification
- School Emergency Response Training and Annual Drills
- School Insurance Information
- Student Insurance Information**

Bussing

Please check the transportation website at <http://stwdsts.ca> for updated information about bus routes for the school year. You will also be able to get updates on transportation services during inclement weather on this site as well. There is an option to pre-register for the cancellations notifications by e-mail. Go to <http://stwdsts.ca/home/> and click on "Subscribe". Your registration from last year will not carry over to this year. There is also a Transportation Newsletter attached at the end, for extra information in regards to bussing.



First Day Routines

All students should arrive at the back of the school.

Kindergarten students should be brought to the Kindergarten entry door at the back of the school. Kindergarten students who arrive by bus will be greeted by one of the teachers and taken around to the appropriate door. Kindergarten students from Appleseed will be taken there by the Appleseed staff.

Primary students should gather at the Courtyard Door and look for a sign on the wall with their grade number. Their teacher will come to greet them and take them into the school at bell time. to the spot on the school building or wire fence where their grade number is posted.

Junior students should gather at the Junior entrance by the gardens and sandbox at the back of the school. Their teachers will greet them there.

lists to help guide students to their teachers and classrooms. In the event of rainy weather, Primary and Junior students will enter through the courtyard doors and proceed directly to the small gym.

Intermediate students will enter through the double door at the back of the school (by the transformer) and proceed to the Cafeteria to find their class and teacher. Names will be called out and teachers will take their homeroom students to their classrooms.


School Agendas



Each year, our students bring Agendas home to be used as a communication tool between home and school as well as to learn to use this tool to organize school work, assignments and activities. In addition, the Intermediate students will need to have their permission notes to leave school property written and signed in the Agenda. This year, the Agendas have been paid for by our Parent Council and are free of charge to families. Thank you, Parent Council.



Breakfast Club

We are extremely fortunate to be able to offer a Breakfast Club program at our school. It is made possible by a variety of grants and by our tireless teacher volunteers and Ms. Lebon and Mr. McLean. Breakfast Club will open Monday, September 9th and will be open daily at 8:30. Children do not need to sign up, come as often as you like for some breakfast or just to start your day on a calm positive note. Breakfast Club is so much more than just about food! A tremendous Thank You  to all our volunteers who make the school a warm place, Breakfast Club is just one of many things made possible by our parents and teachers. A reminder to all students to enter the school through the front door and go directly to the cafeteria for Breakfast Club, not their hooks or lockers as there is not supervision inside the school until 8:55. Donations are always welcome! Contact Ms. Lebon at michelle.lebon@ugdsb.on.ca for more information or what kind of donations are needed. Fresh from the Farm fundraiser will be happening in the fall too. Please watch for the form and a communication on the Fundraising Plans for the year!

Safe Arrival

As most of you are aware, we have a Safe Arrival Procedure at our school. If your child is going to be late or absent for whatever reason, please call the school and advise the office by leaving a message on our answering machine, which can be reached at all times, 24/7. 519-833-9685 ext. 100. Please note that you must call every day the child is not at school, unless, of course, you notify us that your child will be away for a specific amount of time. Thank you very much for helping us to ensure our students are safe while travelling to and from school. **PLEASE**



NOTE: There are no teachers on duty, either inside or outside, before 8:40 (except at Breakfast Club), therefore there will be no one to supervise the safety of students who arrive before that time. Please call Mrs. Harrison if there are extenuating circumstances and you need to make temporary alternate arrangements.

Dropping-Off

Because we have 17 buses using our driveway each morning, we ask that students be dropped off on English street or on Daniel street south of the crosswalk, instead of our parking lot. The Crossing Guard on Daniel street will ensure the students cross the street safely. If at all possible, please refrain from parking in those spots during drop-off times as it takes up space for those wishing to “Kiss’n Ride”. Please avoid dropping off your child in such areas that the students have to cross in front of the buses (this is directly in front of the school). It is a busy time and a busy area. Your help is sincerely appreciated.

Kindergarten students can be dropped off at the North parking lot and taken around the back to their appropriate door. Parents will receive **Neon Pink Parking Tags** to be able to drive through the parking lot.

School Security

When picking up children during school hours, please come to the office and we will call the students down to meet you. All parents and visitors entering the school must do so through the front doors and sign in. For safety reasons, it is important that we know who is in the school at all times. During regular dismissal hours please pick up children at their designated door, not from inside the building.

Late Arrivals

Students who are late must register at the office to get a late slip and proceed to class. Please note: our Opening Exercises and announcements are held at 10:25. Therefore, at 8:55 teachers launch the instructional day and students who are late miss the instruction and disrupt the class. We ask that everyone make a reasonable effort to be at school on time.



Hot Lunches

Hot lunches will start in October. At EPS, this much-anticipated event is run by our Parent Council volunteers. Information and order forms will be coming home soon. Payments can be done online. If you are able to volunteer a bit of your time to helping with this initiative, please let us know at the Office.

Possible Reorganization in September

Schools have built class lists based on their tentative organizations. Every year, changes may be necessary in September due to new registrations, families moving in or out of the area and in order that our Board remain compliant with Ministry parameters (see below). Any changes must be implemented by Monday, September 16th. Principals do not have the option of changing the school organization that is set by the District Staffing Committee of the Board. If changes affect your child(ren), you will be informed by the school.

Ministry of Education Parameters:

- ✓ Full Day Kindergarten Class Size Average for the Board is 26 students
- ✓ 90% of the Board's primary classes with 20 or fewer students
- ✓ 10% of the Board's primary classes up to a maximum of 23 students
- ✓ Grade 3/4 classes have a cap of 23 students
- ✓ Junior/Intermediate Class Size Average for the Board is 24.85 students to 1 teacher



Book Fair is coming to Erin Public School next week! It will run Monday September 16th to Thursday September 24th. The Fair is open during school hours including First and Second Nutrition Breaks. It is also open during Open House (Tuesday September 17th), 5:30 – 7pm. Proceeds from the Fair go to purchasing more books for our library and classrooms. Books make great gifts for kids! We hope to see you there!

Terry Fox Run

The annual Terry Fox Run is on Thursday, September 26th. Our students will receive information in their respective classrooms and speak about Terry and his accomplishments. Then, our entire school will be going on a walk/run, to support Terry's cause, funds for cancer research, and in order to get a small sense of what Terry accomplished. Donations can be sent to school the week of September 23rd. Parents are invited to join us!



Life-Threatening Allergies

We have children in our school with potentially life-threatening allergies (called anaphylaxis) to various foods and substances. Anaphylaxis is a medical condition that can cause death within minutes. Some of these include dairy products, peanuts and tree nuts, eggs, various fruits, shellfish, certain spices and other foods. In recent years, anaphylaxis has increased dramatically among students. Although this may not affect your child's class directly, we are letting you know so that you are aware that we aim to create an allergy safe environment at our school. If your child is in a classroom with an anaphylactic child, then you will be informed by the classroom teacher. Our school has procedures in place for the prevention and management of anaphylactic reactions. If your child has health concerns of any kind, please tell your child's teacher AND the office and we will take the necessary health protection steps. Thank you for your understanding in ensuring an allergy-safe environment for all of our students.

Students with Life-Threatening Medical Conditions

UGDSB Policy 518: Students with Life-Threatening Medical Conditions, outlines the roles and responsibilities for all in the educational community to support students with possible life-threatening medical conditions. The prevalent medical conditions covered under this policy are Asthma, Anaphylaxis, Diabetes and Epilepsy/Seizure Disorders. If your child has one of these, or any other life-threatening medical condition, please visit: www.ugdsb.ca/board/policy (and look for Policy 518) and please contact the school as soon as possible. We will work with you to develop a Plan of Care to support your child.

Medication Administration

If your child must have medication administered at school, a permission form must be filled out and signed. The medication must be in its original packaging. Please come in to get the form at the Office. All medications are kept in a locked cabinet in our First-Aid room in the Office wing.



School Supplies for September



We would ask that you send your child to school with the following items. Other school supplies will be provided by the school. Please ensure that all items are labelled with your child's name. Thank you very much for your support.

All Students:

- A pair of shoes for inside the school – ***this includes Intermediate students***
- A lunch bag
- Gym clothes (shorts and T-shirt)

Kindergarten:

There are no required school supplies for Kindergarten students. Please do bring at least one set of dry clothing, including socks, undies and mittens, in a labelled Ziplock bag in case of accidents.

Primary (grades 1-3)

- pencils
- erasers
- pencil case
- 2-3 glue sticks
- markers
- pencil crayons
- scissors
- extra socks, mittens

Junior (grades 4-6)

- pencils
- erasers
- pencil case
- 2-3 glue sticks
- markers
- pencil crayons
- loose leaf paper (lined & graph)
- binder &/or duo tangs
- pens
- simple calculators

Intermediate (grade 7-8)

- ☐ pencils, pens ☐ erasers ☐ pencil case ☐ 2-3 glue sticks ☐ markers ☐ pencil crayons ☐ loose leaf paper (lined & graph) ☐ binder &/or duo tangs ☐ pens ☐ **scientific calculator**
- ☐ geometry set ☐ 2 Dudley locks

Please note: cell phones are not permitted to be used as calculators.

Cell Phone Use

At UGDSB, students are permitted to bring their own devices for educational purposes. We encourage all families to make a decision as to the safety of the valuables which are brought to school; these are the students' responsibility. Erin Public School is very fortunate to have a lot of technology available to students. Therefore, students are asked to use their own devices very infrequently. If students wish to bring their own cell phones to school, they may do so with parents' permission. The cell phones are to be put away in students' lockers or backpacks from 8:55 until 3:15. In case of emergencies, students and parents are welcome to use the office landline. If students need to leave the school in the middle of the day, please send a note to the Office. Please do not make arrangements with your child via cell phone for pick-up during the school day. Students are not permitted to use their phones during school. The Office needs to have this information so that we may keep everyone safe and sound.

Have you moved?

Please take a moment to drop by the School Office and let our Office co-ordinator, Mrs. Klooster, know if your address or phone number have changed or if you need to update any other important information.



Smoke and Vape-Free School Environment



The Upper Grand DSB provides a smoke and vape-free environment for its students, staff and others while on school Board property and at school events. Under our policy, all forms of tobacco, and any processed form of tobacco that may be smoked, inhaled or chewed is included. Additionally, all forms of e-cigarettes are also covered under this policy.

Smudging is the tradition of using sacred smoke from sacred medicines (e.g., tobacco and sage) that forms part of indigenous culture and spirituality. Smudging is allowed in schools under the Smoke-Free Ontario Act. Participation by staff and students is optional in a smudging ceremony.

Medication Administration

If your child must have medication administered at school, a permission form must be filled out and signed. The medication must be in its original packaging. Please come in to get the form at the Office. All medications are kept in a locked cabinet in our First-Aid room in the Office wing.



Bullying Prevention Plan

Is it Conflict or is it Bullying? What's the Difference? Conflict is a disagreement or a difference of opinion or interests between equals. The people involved in a conflict may disagree vehemently and emotions may run high. When conflict is badly managed, it may result in

aggression. In a conflict, both parties have power to influence the situation. That is their goal. Conflict may be an inevitable part of group dynamics, but bullying is not. In each, a different response is required. When schools consider implementing a peer conflict resolution model, it is important to ensure that the selected model is not applied in bullying situations, and that it does not replace adult support. Knowing how to resolve conflicts without resorting to aggression is an important skill for students and adults. Various models for conflict resolution in school environments exist. Peer mediation, and other methods are aimed at cultivating dialogue between the students involved in the conflict. Unfortunately, these methods for conflict resolution are sometimes mistaken for bullying intervention strategies. This can lead to damaging and even dangerous situations. Imagine, as a student who has been bullied, being required to face your tormentor to explain the impact of the bullying, then having to listen to the perspective of the tormentor. We would never expect this of an adult. When the elements that characterize bullying are present in a situation where there is aggression, conflict resolution is not a recommended response. Instead, adults need to ensure the safety of the student who is targeted and ensure that the student (or students) who has bullied, or encouraged the bullying, takes responsibility for his or her actions. Characteristics of a bullying situation include:

- an imbalance of power
- the intent to harm
- worsens with repetition over time
- the distress of the child or teen being bullied, often including fear or terror
- enjoyment of the effects on the child or teen being bullied by the person (people) doing the bullying
- the threat – implicit or explicit – of further aggression.

<https://www.safeatschool.ca/plm/bullying-prevention/interrupting-bullying/simple-strategies>

A detailed Anti-bullying Plan will be updated and posted to our website by the end of September. This plan is created by our Safe Schools Committee which consists of school staff, a community member, and parents. The committee uses data from the Climate Survey that all students and some families took in the spring. Parents will be advised when it has been updated for the year and you will be invited to access it from our website. If you would like to participate in this committee, please contact the school.

Report Bullying

We take all incidents of bullying seriously. If your child is the victim of bullying or sees bullying behavior at school, please encourage him/her to speak with someone at school or use our board's online reporting tool. Report Bullying gives students and parents 24/7 access for reporting bullying. You don't have to identify yourself – just your school – and your message gets sent directly to the school principal for follow-up. You'll find the Report Bullying button on our school's website. www.ugdsb.ca/erinps



Report Bullying
ONLINE TOOL

First Nation, Métis, Inuit Self-identification



If your child is a member of a First Nation, the Métis or the Inuit, then please consider having him or her self-identify. Self-identification helps in several ways: 1. Students will have access to more culturally relevant programming and opportunities for unique cultural and academic experiences 2. The school system will have an opportunity to focus efforts and resources, as well as an increased awareness of the diverse needs of indigenous families. 3. The school community will have an opportunity for building relationships to increase student success and well being. Share your pride in your heritage! Please have come to the office (or have your child do so) to get a card that can be filled in and submitted if you wish to self-identify. Data will be protected and governed by the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Transitions to School in the Fall

Returning to school is both an exciting time as well as one that can be challenging for some of our students. As our students get ready for new September routines, here are some tips to support parents on things to consider when the new school year is beginning again:

- If you are new to the school community, make an appointment to meet your child's school team so that you can develop a relationship with the school and learn the school based routines alongside your child.
- Connect your child with neighbourhood friends that are in their class to help them get to and from school with a peer to make the transitions more fun.
- Consider adapting your child's bedtime routine by returning to an earlier 'school day' schedule before school starts, aiming for 10 hours of sleep a night.
- Sit and plan what your child would enjoy eating as part of a healthy lunch while at school. Including kids in these routines helps them build their independence in packing a well-balanced lunch and snacks.
- Sometimes when kids are older and have more things to remember like locker combinations and schedules for classes, they can get worried about remembering it all. Talk through their concerns and make some plans for how they can remember these items during a busy day.
- Walk with your child to school to remind them of the safety rules and routines. The summer is a long time and this needs to be refreshed from time to time.
- Spend time each night checking in on how the first few weeks of school have gone. If your child is facing some concerns that do not seem to be ironing out, connect with the school to see if together something can be done to support them to be happy in their new school year. Adapted from KidsHealth.org

Student Accident Insurance Reminder for parents/guardians:

Accidents happen – be prepared with Student Accident Insurance Parents/guardians are responsible for expenses related to student injuries on school premises during school activities. Accidents can and do happen and the costs involved might not be fully covered by Provincial Health Care or employer group insurance plans. The Upper Grand District School Board is empowered under The Education Act to offer Accident and Life Insurance for students. Information will be sent home with respect to Student Accident Insurance offered by Old Republic Insurance Company of Canada. You should receive:

1. The Director's letter and an Acknowledgment to be signed by parents/guardians and returned to school. Attached to the Director's letter is a translation sheet for your reference.

2. An InsureMyKids application form Old Republic offers a variety of options, including family rates and multi-year plans, at affordable prices. The cost must be paid by parents/guardians. Subscription is directly through Old Republic by mail or online. Questions should be directed to Old Republic at 1-800-463-5437 or www.insuremykids.com. For today's active children, especially those who participate in field trips, co-curricular and other school activities outside the school day, Student Accident Insurance is valuable. The information package will come home during the second week of September. Please sign the blue acknowledgement section on the back of the Director's letter and return it to your child's teacher as soon as possible.

