

December

Erin Public School December 2019 Newsletter

Important Dates

- Dec. 1-24-Advent (Christian)
- Dec. 2 –Pizza Lunch
- Dec. 5-Indigenous Knowledge Keeper visit (Ms. Waddell & Ms. Reilly's classes)
- Dec. 6-Subway Lunch; Gr. 8 Course Selection Presentation by EDHS
Day Of Remembrance And Action Against Women
- Dec. 8-Geeta Jayanti (Sikh); Bodhi Day (Buddhist)
- Dec. 9- Pizza Lunch; Dance-Ed. Residency starts; Fundscrip \$ due
- Dec. 10-Tech Day for Gr. 8s @ EDHS; Intermediate Volleyball Tournament, Fergus
- Dec. 11-Twin Day
- Dec. 13- Subway Lunch
- Dec. 16- Pizza Lunch; Red And Green Day
- Dec. 17-**Winter Concert 6:30pm;**
Holiday Headwear Day
- Dec. 18-Christmas Bazaar; bring quarters and loonies; Christmas Bling Day
- Dec. 19-Ugly Sweater Day
- Dec. 22-30-Hanukkah begins (Jewish);
- Dec. 20- **Pancake Breakfast [bring a plate & fork]; Subway Lunch, Pajama Day; Movie, Character Assembly**
Last Day of school 2019
- Dec. 25 - Christmas (Christian)
- Dec. 26-Jan. 1- Kwanzaa begins (African)



Our **Colour Houses** are going strong! We are very excited about that! The idea is to have students of a variety of ages to be in a “house”, while they participate in a wide variety of activities, spirit days and friendly competitions to foster a sense of community and belonging. Every month we focus on a character trait, using the word Eagles, as in Erin Eagles. In October, we focussed on “E” for effort, in November it was “A” for attitude. December will be the

letter “G” for generosity and Gratitude. At the end of each month, we have an assembly, where students who got “caught” demonstrating the character trait of the month are recognized in front of the entire school. We also introduce a colour House activity, where students work together on a small project for about 30 minutes and earn points for that project. This fosters co-operation between students, allows our Intermediate students to act as Big Brothers and Sisters to the younger ones and is just generally lots of fun. I am very **Grateful** for our teachers who organize these very valuable events.

- At EPS, we take bullying very seriously. Although anti-bullying week was in November, our school has been running programs on a continuous basis throughout the year. It starts with

a hands-off policy at our school, because hands-on games can often very quickly escalate into serious conflict. We have had several speakers in to address the student body, such as Brent And Sarah's Find Your Magic, daily announcements during the Bullying Awareness Week, classroom activities spearheaded by our CYC and classroom teachers, a variety of Clubs, Mentors programs, Family Transitions program and Roots Of Empathy Program, to name a few. As noted above, programs such as Student Council, Colour Houses, spirit days as well as the upcoming Digital Intelligence Presentations are also meant as preventive measures.

- **New and improved UGDSB app UGConnect!** Our school board app has been upgraded and it has some great features! Tons of features are available all in one place on your phone or tablet. ★ Read website posts from only EPS or from multiple schools in our board on one newsfeed ★ Access the school calendar from only EPS or have events from multiple schools appear on one calendar list ★ See what buses are late or if buses are cancelled ★ Have easy access to SchoolCashOnline. ★ Notifications that are sent from the school will ping your phone if you set it up to allow notifications from the app. Search Upper Grand District School Board wherever you get apps and make it easy to stay completely up-to-date with what is going on at EPS and all your kids' schools!



- **Immunization:** In January, Public Health will be sending letters home to families who have children with immunization records that are not up to date according to their records. Please take action if you receive this letter. If immunizations are up to date, contact Public Health so their records can be revised. If your child needs some shots, you can go to your doctor or you can go to the Public Health office to get them caught up. It is up to you to report immunizations to Public Health. Not all doctors' offices do that. If you do not take action and the records at Public Health indicate your child is behind in immunizations, you will receive a notice and then s/he will be suspended in March.

- **Our Winter Concert will take place on Wednesday, December 17th at 6:30 pm. Please Lug-A-Mug for a complimentary cup of hot apple cider!**

- We would love your **donations of board games** such as Candyland, Jenga, Snakes and Ladders, Connect 4, Guess Who?, Headbands, etc. for our Mentors Program, which runs once a week and pairs older students with younger students for some fun in the library at nutrition break. Thanks in advance!



- **The Grade 8 year-end trip** is in the planning stages. There will be a parent information night in January, shortly after we return back to school. Stay tuned for more details.
- **Intermediate Volleyball tournaments** for both the girls' and the boys' teams are in Fergus this year on December 10th all day

- It is now starting to get chilly, especially in the morning. Please send **weather-appropriate clothing** and spares for the younger students. If your child frequently comes home in wet (from rain and snow) clothing, then maybe some spare dry clothing is in order. Students in younger grades definitely require extra mitts. We are also noticing that students in the Intermediate grades are not dressed for the weather. Our recesses are 20 minutes long and they do need hats, mitts, boots and scarves to stay warm.



- We have recently had some requests to keep **students indoors during recess** because they are not well enough to go outside. Unfortunately, we are not able to provide adequate supervision both indoors and outdoors during recesses. If your child is too ill to go outside during recess, they are likely too ill to be at school.
- If you are at the school, our **Lost and Found** bin is getting full. Please have a look through and claim any lost items. Anything left behind after December 20th will be donated to Goodwill.
- Please remember to call our **Safe Arrivals** line when your child is ill. This helps us ensure that everyone is safe.
- Kindergarten Registration** will be Jan. 7-17, 2012. If you know of families with Kindergarten-age children, please pass it on.
- FundScrip Fundraiser** for friends and families of Grade 5 - 8 students:
The school staff are organizing a holiday gift card fundraiser to help you and your child cover some of the cost of the year-end trip to Ottawa and Québec City. This fundraiser is a nice way to offset some of the cost without spending more money or buying things that you otherwise wouldn't. Grade 5-7s can fundraise and "bank" their funds toward their year-end trip in their Grade 8 year. Detailed information along with the order form and tracking sheet has been e-mailed to each (gr. 5-8) student's g-mail account.
If you have any questions about the fundraiser, you can email Mr. Nethery at pnethery@ugcloud.ca.

Council Corner



-Council has had a great start to fundraising this year! Our fundraising efforts enhance the classroom experience for all students. A huge thank you to all who contributed by ordering pizza, subs, pop corn, snack shack items, hot dogs as well as the McMillan food orders. You guys are amazing!

-For the fourth year, Council is putting on a Christmas Bazaar for the K-6 kids. Students have the opportunity to purchase presents for their family members. Gifts are sold anywhere from 25 cents to \$1. This was a great event for the last three years and the kids enjoyed it so much! In order for this to work we need gently used items donated. Are you doing a clear out before Christmas? Bring your used items to the school! Nothing too large as students will need to carry it home. Anything you can contribute would be appreciated!

- There is no meeting in December. The next Council meeting is on Tuesday January 14 at 7pm in the Library. All are welcome to attend!

Lead in school drinking water:

There is information for parents on the board website regarding testing for lead levels in school drinking water: <https://www.ugdsb.ca/blog/information-for-parents-testing-for-lead-levels-in-school-drinking-water/>

Please note that a link to this information has been **posted on our school websites, under 'Board News'**, right hand panel.

I am pleased to inform you that all designated fixtures for drinking water, making of food and drink that were tested are satisfactory at our school. More information, and all of the results of water testing for lead in our schools, is posted online on the board website at www.ugdsb.ca/programs/environment/water-testing-for-lead/.

There is also a posting of this information specifically on the News section of our website.

Road works on Daniel street:

Scotch street will be closed from Daniel to Erindale.

At some point in the future, but not this year, Daniel street will be closed from English street to Scotch street. Both the school and the bus company will be notified in advance. There is nothing planned for Daniel street in front of the school. I will post this information in the December Newsletter as well.

Monthly environmental activities to help celebrate our planet



December 10th is HUMAN RIGHTS Day!

“You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.” –Jane Goodall

Celebrate Human Rights Day on December 10th!

Human Rights Day calls on everyone to stand up for someone's rights. It starts with each of us. Step forward and defend the rights of someone whose voice is not being heard. Recognize that human rights include the right for everyone to have access to clean water, unpolluted air and healthy food.

<http://www.un.org/en/events/humanrightsday/>

Simple yet meaningful ways for your family to celebrate the rights and responsibilities that we all share as human beings!



<http://calendarholidays.xyz/holiday/168/human-rights-day.>

- **Learn about how children live in other parts of the world.** Find out about their schools or traditional food and language.
- **Read the book: We Are All Born Free:** The Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Pictures by Amnesty International.

- **Read the Ontario Environmental Bill of Rights.** Decide if there is a cause your family wants to support, or an Ecojustice action you want to take on.
- **Make a World Wishes Dove with your family.** Cut feathers from white paper. Have everyone in the family write their wish for the world on a feather. Cut out the body of a dove and glue all the feathers on it.
- **Start a tradition of doing a family service project on Human Rights Day.** Find an opportunity to volunteer in your local community and make a difference.

“For the bigger picture we can (and should) do what we can to fight injustice. But on a smaller scale, in the day-to-day, practicing kindness can help knit a web of compassion to give humanity a boost of resilience” by Melissa Breyer

Talking About Mental Health December 2018 – GIVE THE GIFT OF RESILIENCY

As we head through December and towards the holidays, it is important to be aware that this can be a very exciting time of year, but for some it is also a difficult time of year.

REMEMBER:

- eat well
- get good sleep
- don't over schedule
- stay connected to family and friends
- keep daily routines going
- avoid over-use of technology
- get outside and enjoy the crisp, fresh air

HOLIDAY “CONNECTING & REFLECTING” IDEAS:

- **23 Days of Giving:** Every day in December have everyone put something that they don't use or need into a basket. Later in the month you can go as a family and donate to a shelter or community center
- **Reflection Wall:** Have a wall in the house where everyone can add sticky notes of what they are grateful about from the year. Focus on lessons learned, new skills and strategies used throughout the year
- **Rose, Bud, Thorn:** Have everyone identify one or two things that they feel were successes from the year (rose), something that was a struggle (thorn) and what they did to overcome the struggle, and something they are looking forward to in the new year (bud).

Signs to look for when someone is struggling *Sometimes it's hard to tell that someone is suffering. Here are some signs that someone is struggling.*

- not coming to school or work
- not engaging with friends or family
- not participating in activities that they used to enjoy
- withdrawing
- feeling hopeless
- increase use of drugs or alcohol
- changes in behaviour
- anger/irritability

Remember: Saying something kind or doing a random act of kindness goes a long way to helping someone feel better and fill their bucket. Do something kind every day and it will become a habit before you know it! It will also make you feel good! It's a win/win!



HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL

from all of us at EPS!!!

