

Annual Waste Audit

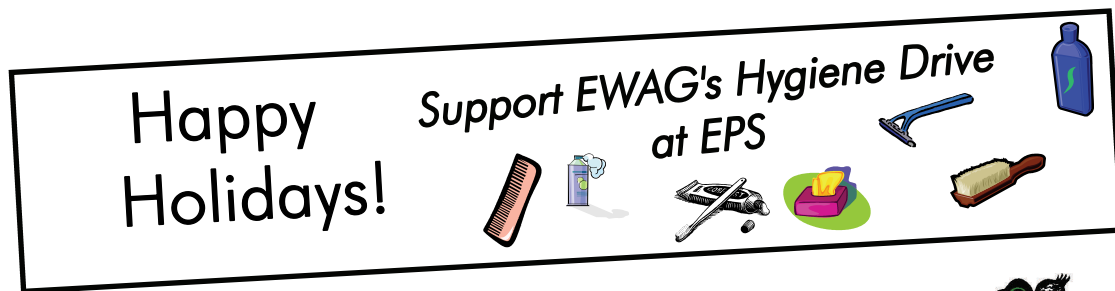
On November 2, alongside of the teacher-leadership of Mrs. Blevins, members of our Green Team participated in our annual Waste Audit. Students analysed the content of garbage bags collected from the prior week. Items were



sorted into paper, plastic, food wrappers, compostable items, and cans and then weighed. It was remarkable to learn that out of 12 bags of "waste" collected, 10 bags contained items that could have been recycled or composted. Classes were invited to attend the audit. Members of the Green Team



gave great explanations regarding where the waste came from and what students can do to reduce the amount generated. Mrs. O'Shea has completed a foyer bulletin-board to display pictures and share our school goals regarding reducing the amount of waste generated. So far five students have received our weekly Eco-Hero Award.



Erin Public School



Principal: Mitch Zuk Vice-principal: Sean Singh

December 2011

Seasonal Open House: December 13 at 6:00-7:30

Be certain to attend our Seasonal Open House on Tuesday, December 13 from 6:00 to 7:30. Our school Band will be playing. Sing along with them as they play some seasonal music. Our Student Council will be having a bake sale in the foyer area. All money raised will go towards supporting Me to We. Our grade seven students will be having a fashion show, based on fashion-related artwork they completed in class. Mr. Singh and Mr. Zuk will, once again, be serving hot apple cider as you enter the school. I look forward to seeing all our parents and guardians at our Open House!

Thanks to all parents for attending your child's interview. Teachers expressed appreciation for the conscientious manner in which students and their parents committed themselves to setting and working on academic and learning skill goals.

Don't forget to send your child to school with hygiene items in support of East Wellington Community Services. All students bringing in an item will receive a draw ticket for many excellent reading resources.

We look forward to seeing back on January 9, 2012!

As always, your comments are valued, appreciated, and respected. Mitch Zuk



Erin Public School at the Santa Claus Parade

The float was fantastic! Thanks to Shannon Smith and Carrie Coote for the great job they did in decorating our school float. The Eco themed float paraded up Main street with its recycled tree ornaments, eco-banners, recycling bins, and eco-friendly messages. Thanks to Mr. Snowball and the Band for the great job they did in performing seasonal carols and songs. I would also like to thanks Breanne,



Ryan, Angela, and Danielle for carrying our school banner. One cannot forget Mark Freure, and his great tractor and wagon.



Character Education Assembly: Caring and Compassion

On Tuesday, November 29, our school had a wonderful Character Education assembly that celebrated the themes of caring and compassion. Students in all grades received recognition awards and were acknowledged by parents, peers, guests, and staff. We are particularly proud of our students who daily actions reflect the values taught in class. Aligned with our character education initiatives is the Me to We enterprise in which students throughout Ontario have pledged to undertake local and global campaigns to make a difference in the lives of children throughout the world.

During the assembly, our Me to We team of students and teachers shared a lesson regarding unfortunate children throughout the world who do not have a voice and cannot speak up about their needs and wants. To support these children our school undertook a Vow of Silence, and remained silent from 9:30 to 10:30 am. Some staff and students extended their vow and remained silent for 24 hours. Classes made murals and Ms Lower's class perform tableaux's throughout the school. Students also brought in a twonie that will be donated to the Save the Children charity. Mr. McLean's Art Club created a huge mural that reflects a young girl who cannot speak-up about her needs. The mural (below) adorns our entrance.

At our Christmas Open House on December 13, please visit it and sign it to show your support!



School Council Corner

Christmas Float

Thank you to Carrie Coote and Shannon Smith for organizing and decorating our float in the Christmas Parade. The eco-school theme was brought to life with recycled materials used to decorate the tree and float and a big sign from the green team. Thanks to everyone who got involved. I think it was our best float, yet!

Free to Achieve Fund

Looking for a great teacher's gift this Christmas? Think about a gift that gives back to our community! The Free to Achieve fund has been set up by the Upper Grand District School Board to help underprivileged kids in our board. It helps provide these children with basic necessities and learning experiences outside the school that they would not normally have. This may include clothing, food, eyeglasses, or involvement in sports. For more information on how to make a donation, please email me at accuthbert@rogers.com or visit our school website.

Fundraising

Our fundraising initiatives this year will be dedicated to technology based learning tools and Scientists in the Classroom visits. Tech-based initiatives include LCD projectors, document projectors and even tablets. With technology being a core part of everyday life and a key in learning, school council and staff have decided to focus funds in this area. Thank you for your continued support of the hot lunch program, QSP and our dance-athon to come in the new year!

Campbell's Soup Labels and Ink Jet Cartridges

Reminder: keep bringing in Campbell's Soup labels and ink jet cartridges! We redeem the soup labels for points to get gym equipment and we get cash for the ink jet cartridges, which help our fundraising efforts. Labels can also include Goldfish, V8, Prego, Habitant, Healthy Request and Pace. There is a red box in the front foyer for collection.

Board Update

At our last council meeting, Trustee Kathryn Cooper provided a board update including a new focus on eco-schools, art and culture, action learning programs and other enrichment programs. With the implementation of a new environmental policy, there are significant savings to be had on energy, waste management, photocopying etc. which can be transferred back to the board. For more information, please contact me or refer to our council minutes.

Next School Council Meeting

Monday, Jan. 30, 7pm School Library – Focus: Fundraising.

Thanks to all who attended the Dr. Karyn Gordon talk on Nov. 2 where we learned some valuable communication techniques as parents. More to come on plans for another speaker in the new year. See you at the Open House on Dec. 13!

Have a safe and happy holiday season!

Alana's Column

(Alana is a grade seven student in Ms Lower's class. She is a skilled writer. Each month her column will appear in our newsletter. Thanks Alana!)



Another eventful month has come and gone!

Some of our primary and junior students are involved in the Green Team, promoting waste-free Wednesdays and performing waste audits. Teacher supervisor, Ms. O'Shea, said that students are doing a great job reducing the school's waste impact on the environment. Keep up the good work and try to bring a waste-free lunch everyday.

In addition, the primary and junior students produced some beautiful artwork in November around the theme of Remembrance Day. These masterpieces are up in Rainbow Hall. Take the time to check them out if you haven't already seen them!

Our Remembrance Day assembly was a wonderful tribute to Canada's veterans and men and women in active service. Mr. Primeau's class performed a dramatic interpretation of the poem Dulce and Decorum est. The school choir sang beautiful renditions of "Shalom" and "Donna Nobis Pacem". The famous poem by Colonel John McCrae "In Flander's Field" was read in French and in English, and also signed in sign language. The slideshows that were made especially for that day by staff and students were poignant and the artwork and writing that covered the gym's white walls were very moving. Angela and Lori sang part of the songs "I Will Remember You" and "This is Just a Dream", accompanied by Adam (a former EPS student) on guitar. Mr. Snowball played Taps on the trumpet and the haunting melody echoed throughout the gymnasium, a fitting way to end an emotional assembly. A big "good job!" to everyone involved in the assembly - it was all in all a day to remember!

On November 16th, a group of students from our school were privileged to attend **We Day** in Kitchener. **We Day** is part of the **Me to We** social enterprise, and is a leadership concert that promotes how

just one person can make a difference in our world. Magic Johnson, Mia Farrow and Roméo Dallaire spoke about their experiences and challenges and how they help others who don't have access to clean water, health care, education or food. There were brilliant musical performances by Shawn Desman, Neverest and The Midway State! Ms. O'Shea, who accompanied the students to We Day, was impressed by the message from Desmond Tutu's third daughter, Naomi Tutu: "You are a gift. You have a gift. The world is waiting for the gift that you have." Everyone came back inspired to help the world and "Be the change."

Remembrance Day 2011 at EPS

On Friday, November 11, the students, staff, and community participated in a moving Remembrance Day ceremony. It was great to have our local Air Cadets joins us in full uniform. Many of our Pathfinders, Guides, Sparks, Beavers, and scouts also dressed for the occasion.



EWAG Hygiene Drive Ends Monday, December 19

Send Hygiene Items In and Place Them Under The Christmas Tree In The Lobby!