



Principal: Mitch Zuk

Vice-Principal: Sean Singh

STUDENTS, PARENTS AND STAFF WITH PURPOSE

November 2011

Greetings,

The Ontario Ministry of Education's Progress Report will be distributed on November 11. It's important to remember that the Progress Report is not evaluative. Achievement marks and grades will not be present until a formal achievement report is created in February and June. Parent teacher interviews are also scheduled later in the month. Please see the article below for specific details. Parents will be expected to call the school to set up an interview.

Watch for more information regarding our school's participation in the Erin Santa Claus Parade (Nov 26). School Council will have more information coming. Thanks to Mark Freure who will, once again, be providing us with a tractor and trailer. Mr. Snowball and the Band will be riding the float.

Primary and Junior parents are encouraged to participate in one of the after-hours Family Literacy programs we are offering. EPS teaching staff will be offering evening literacy "How-To" sessions to primary and junior parents while their children work with a teacher in the library setting. This is a great opportunity to learn how to improve your child's literacy skills. See the insert for more information (primary and junior families only).

Last but certainly not least...each year EPS undertakes a sincere, touching, tribute to those who participated in wars. Our annual Remembrance Day Assembly is on Friday, November 11. There will be songs, testimonials, drama, videos, and a moment of silence to pay respect to those affected by war. Please join us for this moving event.

Please encourage families to sign-up for electronic newsletter notification at <http://www.ugdsb.on.ca/erinps> Click on the "Subscribe" icon.



The Erin School Choir participated in the singing of the national anthem at the October 14th Guelph Storm game.

Parent-Teacher Interviews

- Thursday, November 17 from 3:30-8:30
- Friday, November 18 from 8:30-3:30

Please contact Mrs. Atkinson in the office at 833-9685 ext. 221 to book an interview time. It's best if you can call after 9:30 am as Mrs. Atkinson is completing safe arrival responsibilities.

Interviews are offered on a first call-first serve basis, so those who call early are likely to receive a preferred time. Through the interview process, teachers will work



with you to discuss your child's achievement and plans for improvement. Progress reports are different than Report Cards and enable both home and school to collaborate on the specifics of how your child is progressing. Note: There will be no JK/SK reports, only interviews. See page two for further information.

Earth Hour at EPS

Having an Earth Hour every Spring has become an important annual tradition all over the world. Once a month we are going to have an Earth Hour where all the classroom lights and computers are shut off. Every little bit DOES make a difference and we want to teach our students how to be good planet ambassadors. Our next Earth Hour will be November 17th at 1:35 pm. Perhaps you would like to start having an Earth Hour in Home every week or month. Break out the candles and the games for a great family time.

Environmental Tips: What More Can I Do?

- Use less and buy less,
 - Choose products with fewer layers of packaging,
 - Buy only the food you'll eat-shop in your own refrigerator first,
 - Replace parts, not products (is a faster computer what you need or a faster processor?),
- Enjoy magazines, newspapers, and books at the library and online.

Waste Free Wednesdays

Every Wednesday, our school is going to encourage all of the students and adults to be waste-free all day long. We will be weighing and graphing our results throughout the year, so watch the bulletin board in the front hall to see our progress. Please avoid: Plastic Bags, Plastic wrap, Foil, Cans, Bottles, Cartons, and Snacks with packaging. Please bring: Re-useable containers, Re-useable lunch bags, Re-useable drink bottles, Cutlery to reuse.

School Council

QSP

Thank you to all families who supported our QSP fundraiser from which we raised over \$2200! Special thanks to program manager, Miki Ackerman, for her strong organization and promotion at the school. QSP prizes will be awarded at the end of November.

Hot Lunch

We are looking for more volunteers for the grade 7's and 8's to help serve the hot lunch. If you are available on Thursdays please contact Carrie Cote at carrieonthebeach@gmail.com. We have heard mixed reviews of the new 'healthy' pizza and are

working with our supplier to improve the crust/dough. Please feel free to submit your comments to School Council

(accuthbert@rogers.com) as we are trying to work with the new healthy eating guidelines from the Ministry.

How to Motivate Your Kids

Reminder - Come on out on **Wed. Nov. 2, 7-8:30pm** to hear **Dr. Karyn Gordon** on kid and teen motivation. Dr. Karyn is the resident parent expert at City Line and Chatelaine magazine. Babysitting is provided in the library, complements of our local Pathfinders.

Christmas Parade

Once again, Erin School Council along with Mr. Snowball's band will have a float in the Erin Christmas Parade on Nov. 26. If you would like to come out that morning and help decorate the float, please contact Shannon Smith at lan_shannonsmith@bell.net.

Class Parent Reps

Thank you to all who have volunteered to be a parent class rep. Your class parent rep will get in touch with you for upcoming class activities or events where parent participation is needed. Our class reps are listed below. We are missing some class reps – if you see your class is missing below, please consider volunteering!

Teacher

Ms. Marini
Ms. Lebon
Mrs. Barth
Mrs. Hansen
Mr. Quick
Mrs. Ly
Mrs. Normore
Ms. Lower
Mr. Wain
Mrs. Root
Mlle. Girard
Mlle. Gibson

Rep

Jennifer Quinn
Lindsay Basteed
ElayneMcSkimming
Andrea Cuthbert
Nikki Greer
Shelley Broderick
Ken Davies
Jen Tutt
Nikki Greer
Christine Hyder
Miki Ackerman
Penelope Sweeney

Next School Council Meeting

Monday, Nov. 21, 7pm School Library – Trustee, Kathryn Cooper will be giving a Board Update. All welcome to attend. Hope to see you there!

Andrea Cuthbert

School Council (continued)

Save the Date

On **November 2 at 7pm**, Dr. Karyn Gordon will speak to our school on "How to Motivate your Kids/Teens".

Dr. Gordon is the resident parent/relationship expert on City Line and for Chatelaine Magazine. She was also on the "Mom



Show" for 5 years and has a doctorate in marriage and family. Babysitting will be provided in the library.

Andrea Cuthbert

Progress Reports

The progress report will go home on November 11. Parent-teacher interviews will be held on Thursday Nov. 17 from 3:30 to 8:30 and on Friday, Nov. 18 from 8:30 to 3:30 (PD Day).

The progress report is part of Growing Success, the government's updated policy on the assessment, evaluation and reporting of student achievement.

What role do I have as a parent?

We know that you, as a parent or guardian, are vital partners in your child's education and that children do better at school when their parents are involved. We know that you want clear, meaningful and understandable information about how your child is doing at school. We know you want to hear from your child's teacher regularly throughout the school year.

What is different for elementary students?

As was the practice last year, elementary students in Grades 1 to 8 will bring home a new fall progress report card and two revised provincial report cards, one in winter and one at the end of the school year. The fall progress report card:

- encourages early and ongoing communication between you and your child's teacher tells you how well your child is developing the learning skills and work habits we know are essential for success
- continues to report on all academic subjects — such as language, math, social studies, science and technology — but instead of assigning a grade or mark, it will tell you how well your child is progressing: "very well", "well" or "with difficulty"
- highlights strengths and areas to improve before evaluations are completed
- includes comments from your child's teacher that are personalized, clear and meaningful. For more info see:

www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/reportCard.html

School Council Presents MADD

A special thanks to School Council for sponsoring the Mothers Against Drunk Driving presentation of "Damages." Our grade six through eight students saw the 45 minutes video that depicted a fictional scene where-by the lives of many are affected by a teenager's choice to drink and drive. After the presentation, teachers discussed the video, focusing on how drug use and decision-making skills are affected. Teachers encouraged all students to continue the discussion at home.



Alana's Take!: A New Monthly Feature

Hi, I am Alana, a grade 7 student. I love Harry Potter and reading, I am a public relations rep on Student Council and I LOVE to write. I'll be writing articles for the school newsletter this year and I'm very excited! This is my first article - enjoy!



October has been a busy month at Erin Public School. Our students participated in a cross country meet, fundraisers, food drives, volleyball tryouts, a soccer tournament, student council elections and so much more! One of the most memorable events in October was the **Me to We** day. **Me to We** is an enterprise founded by Craig and Marc Keilberger to encourage youth to make better choices for a better world. It supports **Free the Children**, the world's largest network of children helping children through education. On Friday, Oct.7, the intermediate students

participated in a fun-filled day of sports to raise money for **Free the Children**. The students brought loads of pocket change to school and were fined by Mr. Zuk and Mr. Singh for silly things like having three rips in their pants or wearing white shoelaces. The students were encouraged to bribe the referees of the sports games with money to get penalties for the other teams or more points for their own teams. The highlight of the day was a stellar lipsync performance of Lady Gaga's *Born This Way* by Mr. Primeau, Mr. Singh, Mrs. Reilly and Mr. Wain. The teachers wore sparkly disco pants and crazy curly wigs except for Mr. Primeau who wore a blonde wig and pretended to be Lady Gaga! They put on such a good performance that they had students shouting for an encore, and anyone who saw it would definitely say they were better than Gaga herself! A soccer game between the staff and the intermediate soccer team was a perfect way to end a perfect day. Our Me to We day raised \$ 250!

On Friday, October 14th some of our grades 5,6,7 and 8 students got the chance to sing *O Canada* at a Guelph Storm hockey game. "They sang really well!" Mr. Snowball, the director of the choir, reported. To celebrate their hard work, the choir members got to watch the game! (Sadly, the Guelph Storm lost to the Peterborough Petes!)

Thanks for reading and stay tuned for more because it will only get better from here! Alana

In-Class Anti-Bullying Workshops

During the months of October and November all junior classes will participate in a three session Bullying Prevention Workshop presented by Tamara Zappia, Child and Youth Counsellor. These include Mrs. Dykstra's, Mrs. Normore's, Mrs. Ly's and the grade 4 students from Mr. Quick's and Mrs. Hansen's classes.

The workshops will include the definition of bullying, recognizing the difference between bullying and conflict, developing empathy for the victims of bullying as well as strategies to address bullying. Different forms of bullying including physical, emotional/verbal, cyber and social are discussed. Students will learn the importance of the role of the bystander in preventing bullying. Assertively standing up for yourself through the use of effective communication techniques and body language will be practiced.

Parents play an important role in bullying prevention. Families that are nurturing and caring and set clear limits can prevent bullying as well as victimization. Some strategies to prevent your child from becoming a bully or a victim include:

- teaching your child to be both strong and kind,
- encouraging your child to be a good friend because good friends don't bully,
- knowing your child's friends and making sure everyone understands your view of teasing and violence,
- teaching your child not to hit or fight back as it only makes it worse,
- making sure your child understands there are consequences for aggressive behavior,
- allowing your child to feel what they feel but help them find ways to express their anger without hurting others,
- monitoring your child's television, video and internet viewing.

Please contact Mrs. Zaapia, Mrs. McMillan or Mr. Zuk if you have any questions.

Don't Forget: Optimist Club of Erin is sponsoring Self-Esteem workshops for kids. See our website!

We're listening!

Comments:
