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Elementary
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ELMER ELSON ELEMENTARY

Newsletter - September 2019 Vol. 1, Issue 2

Principal's Corner



Hello again! We are now through two weeks of school and things are moving along smoothly.

Our current enrollment is 277 students. This what we had originally projected last June.

We are continuing our leadership journey again this year. On Friday, September 6th, we had a school wide pancake breakfast followed by a synergizing activity. The students were buddied up and the older students showed great leadership while assisting the younger students. Check out our completed activity on the bulletin board in the library.

Our student showcase in the front entrance has been updated with a new slogan "EEE Inspires Possibilities". Student pictures have once again been added. Please stop by and check out this amazing display the next time you are in the school.

We welcome these new students to EEE: all ECS students, Shelby Andrusiak in grade 1, Keaton Andrusiak, Eastyn Jeffreys, and Serenity Johnston-Rivers in grade 4, Owyn Jeffreys, Alex Roth and Leland Van Dijk in grade 5, and Jaxson Moon in grade 6.

Yours in Education,
Nolan Andriuk

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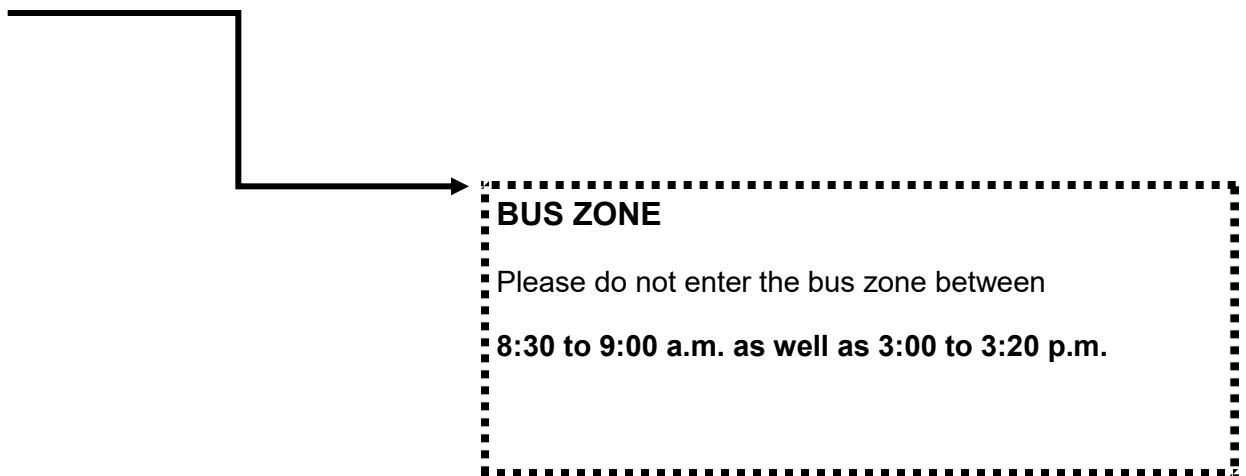
Northern Gateway
Public Schools

STUDENT SAFETY

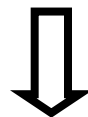
As parents, you play a key role in ensuring student safety around the school when you are dropping off or picking up your children. Please use the north side of the school for this.

Here are a few key points to ensure everyone has a safe arrival or departure.

- 1) Students and parents should cross at the crosswalks
- 2) If you park on the west side of the school towards the hospital, please walk down to the corner to cross. **Please do not walk between the buses to get to or from your vehicle, as this is unsafe.**
- 3) **Please do not park 2 or 3 deep along the road on the north side of the school.** This makes it too dangerous for the students as they are often hidden behind vehicles.



Please note these dates:



- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| September 17th | Meet the Staff Night @ 7:00 p.m. |
| September 23rd | School Council Organization Meeting @ 5:30 p.m. |
| September 24th | Volunteer Meeting @10:30 a.m. |
| September 26th | Meal of the Month (all grades) |
| September 24th | Terry Fox Run |
| October 3rd | Photo Day for all students |

SCHOOL FEES

Instructional school fees that have been charged in the past (\$60.00 per student) will no longer be collected. There are no mandatory instructional fees for textbooks, workbooks and photocopying this year due to changes in government regulations. However, there may be additional charges for special activities or projects throughout the year. A listing of these additional fees can be found on our school website.

STAFF PARKING



Each of our staff members have an assigned parking stall in the parking lot west of the school. To ensure that all staff parking stalls are available to them, please park on the north side of the school.

Of course, during the day if you visit the school for a short period of time, you may park in front of the school. However, the bus zone must be free of all vehicles by 8:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

We have two parking stalls straight west of our main entrance designated for handicap parking.



olunteer Meeting

Volunteers are very important at EEE. We are planning an information/ training meeting for all parents who would like to volunteer at our school this year.

Please plan to attend this meeting on Tuesday, September 24th at 10:30 a.m.

SCHOOL CASH ONLINE

You can register to pay all fees for your child online. This would include payment for milk, field trips, Meal of the Month, etc. Please call the school if you would like assistance with this program.

To register please go to:

<https://ngps.schoolcashionline.com>

SCHOOL COUNCIL REPORT

All parents are invited to attend our School Council Kick-off B-B-Q on Monday, September 23rd, at 5:30 p.m. The new executive for the year will be elected. This is an excellent way to be involved in your child's schooling. We will be providing free babysitting during the meeting. Please come with your ideas, thoughts, suggestions, etc. and let your voice be heard.

To assist us in planning for the B-B-Q and babysitting, please return the section on the last page of this newsletter.

RECORDERS FOR MUSIC CLASS

Children in grades four, five and six need a recorder as part of their Music curriculum. We are starting our recorder unit now, so students are urged to purchase a recorder from the school. The cost is ten dollars, and as their recorder will be used for the next few years, this should be considered a good investment. Grade 5 and 6 students who have a recorder from a previous year do not need to purchase a new one. If you are paying by cheque, please make it payable to Elmer Elson Elementary. This can also be paid by using school cash online.

The school discourages purchasing a recorder from other sources for several reasons. Safety and durability is guaranteed with a recorder purchased from the school. Tone quality is a **huge** factor: would you enjoy playing an instrument that was not capable of producing good sound? Also, recorders sound much better together when all are of the **same** quality. Please consider purchasing a school recorder in the best interest of your child's musical development.

THINK TANK

Two years ago, our staff began to notice a decline in overall student behavior. As such, we struck a committee to investigate ideas on how to proceed for this school year. Out of that work we decided on something called "Think Tank". In the process of our work we identified three main behaviors that we wanted to address: Physical Aggression, Disrespect/Bullying and Disruptive/Defiant Behavior. Students who are not meeting our behavior standards/expectations may be referred to the Think Tank. While at the Think Tank, students work on proactive measures and strategies related to a certain behavior. This will continue into this school year. We saw a lot of positive gains in many students last year with the Think Tank model.

TECHNOLOGY ACCESS AND MAINTENANCE FEE

In recent years technology has been playing a larger and larger role in education. Keeping up with advances and ensuring all students have access to devices is expensive. As such, a technology and maintenance fee will be charged this year. It will be \$30.00 for full time students and \$15.00 for ECS. This fee was set by Northern Gateway and it is for all students across the division.

STUDENT SNACK SHOP

The student snack shop will be open every lunch break at 12:02, except on Meal of the Month days. All items are fifty cents each. Choices may vary at times, but they will include such things as: juice boxes, cheese and breadsticks, hot rods, cheese strings, Special K bars, puddings, jello, nutrigrain bars, Famous Amos cookies, mini Ritz Bits and yogurt tubes.

The snack shop is not intended to provide the students' lunches but rather add to them. Therefore, we have a limit of a toonie as the amount that any child can spend on a given day. Mrs. Rizzoli, with the assistance of the grade five students, operates the snack shop.



CO-OP TILL TAPES

For the past few years, our Parent Fundraising Society has been collecting Co-op till tapes as a fundraiser for our school. This money is used toward school projects. If you shop at the Co-op store and would like to help us with this fundraiser, please bring your till tapes to the school and place them in the container on our office counter. Your support of this project will be much appreciated. The next collection period will end on December 15th.

STUDENT LEADERSHP

As mentioned earlier, we are continuing with our student leadership journey. Each class has written mission statements that are displayed in the classrooms. As time goes on we will develop additional mission statements for other areas of the school such as the playground, boot rooms, etc. This will give the students ownership and accountability.

Developing student leadership and empowering our students is a primary focus within our school. Many opportunities currently exist to allow students to use and grow their leadership skills. House Leagues, Students' Union, Snack Shop, Recycling program, Options and Milk program, to name a few. We intend to continue our leadership groups and offer students more input in this area. Additionally, our student MC's and greeters will be an area that we continue to develop.

“Before you are a leader, success is all about growing yourself. When you are a leader, success is all about growing others.” Jack Welch

STUDENT AGENDAS

Each student in our school has been given an agenda. This is an excellent way to communicate between home and school. It also helps students take responsibility for organizing homework and remembering important dates and schedules.

BREAKFAST PROGRAM

Breakfast is available for students who have not eaten before they come to school.

Students wishing to have breakfast can go to the community kitchen when the 8:45 bell rings. It is important for them to be prompt so they are ready for classes at 8:53.



Thank you to Mrs. Rizzoli, Mrs. Miner, Mrs. Beverly, Mrs. Mosher and Mrs. Hornberger for helping with this program.

MEAL OF THE MONTH

The first Meal of the Month will be on Thursday, September 26th. In general, they will be on the last Thursday of the month.

We wish to thank our wonderful volunteers for their hard work, to make this event happen for our students.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

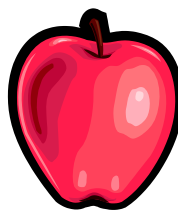
Regular attendance is the key to success for students to reach their potential and be as successful as possible at school. With the new teaching styles and the use of technology to leverage learning, it is very difficult for students to catch up when they are absent. We have developed an attendance policy to guide us and you, in our expectations for student attendance. This policy is posted on our school website.

PLEASE SIGN YOUR CHILD OUT



Students who are leaving the school during the day must be signed out at the office. All students who are going home for lunch must advise their teachers of this.

If your child is not returning in the afternoon we must be informed.



applEs for EveryoneE

Our applEs for EveryoneE program is off to a great start!

We thank all individuals and businesses who have contributed to our program.

Thank you to our local Co-op store for supplying us with apples this month.

IN TOWN BUS FEES



If your child is being picked up by the bus in town please be reminded that a transportation fee is required for this service. This does not apply to students that live in the Paddle Heights Trailer Park by the High School or students north of the tracks by the welding shop, but is in effect for all other students in town. The fee, set by Northern Gateway, is **\$336.00 per student, or \$168.00 for ECS. The family rate is \$840.00.**

SCHOOL WEBSITE

Please be sure to check the Elmer Elson website regularly. This is invaluable for keeping you up to date on the happenings in the school and division.



Also, be sure to check us out on Facebook and Twitter. We will be using these for communicating school events all year.

REMIND APP

Thank you to those parents who have already signed up for this app. We will be using it to remind you of school events and activities. If you have not signed up yet, you still can join. This will certainly enhance school to home communication and keep you informed about school happenings.

Classroom teachers will also have given you information for joining their classroom. Please be sure to join so you don't miss out on key information.

STUDENT RECOGNITION

Our first Student Recognition Assembly will be on Thursday, October 17th at 10:35 a.m.

Throughout the school year each child will be recognized once. Generally this recognition relates to leadership, personal growth and work habits. Parents will receive a letter to let them know when their child is being recognized. In general these assemblies will be on the first Thursday of the month at 10:35 a.m.



TERRY FOX RUN

On Tuesday, September 24th, 2019 students in kindergarten to grade six will be taking part in the annual Terry Fox School Run.

Students will have the opportunity to discuss the heroic efforts of Terry Fox over the next few weeks and raise much needed funds for cancer research. Through their participation in the annual School Run, we hope that our students will view

themselves as positive agents of change giving the best of themselves to Canada, just like Terry did. This year, our school goal is to raise \$100.00 per grade, for a total of \$700.00, and we know we can do it!

Any amount of donation is greatly appreciated. Donations of \$20.00 or more that are listed on a Terry Fox pledge sheet (with a full name and address) are automatically receipted. Cheques and cash will both be accepted. Please make any cheques payable to the Terry Fox Foundation. All monies raised will be forwarded to the Terry Fox Foundation. Those students unable to bring in donations are welcome to participate in the event as well.

All forms and donations are due back to the school on September 27th.

we're on the web
www.elmer.elson.ca

IMPORTANT DATES... 2019-2020

September 17	Tuesday	Meet the Staff Night @ 7:00 p.m.
September 23	Monday	School Council Meeting 5:30 p.m.
September 24	Tuesday	Volunteer Meeting 10:30 a.m.
September 24	Tuesday	Terry Fox Run @ 2:10 p.m.
October 3	Thursday	Photo Day (all grades)
October 11	Friday	Staff Planning & Development Day (no school for students)
October 14	Monday	Thanksgiving Day
November 5 & 6	Tuesday & Wednesday	Parent-Teacher Conferences 5:00 – 7:30 p.m.
November 8	Friday	Day in lieu for teachers
November 12	Tuesday	No School
November 13	Wednesday	Day in lieu for teachers (No School)
December 12	Thursday	Christmas Concerts afternoon and evening 1:00 & 7:00 p.m.
December 20	Friday	Last day of school before Christmas Holidays
January 6	Monday	First day of school in 2019
January 31	Friday	Staff Planning & Development Day (no school for students)
February 6 & 7	Thursday & Friday	Teachers' Convention (no school for students)
February 17	Monday	Family Day

IMPORTANT DATES... 2019-2020

March 4 & 5	Wednesday & Thursday	Parent Teacher Conferences 5:00 – 7:30 p.m.
March 20	Friday	Staff Planning & Development Day (no school for students)
April 3-9		Spring Break
April 10	Friday	Good Friday
April 13	Monday	Easter Monday (No School)
April 14	Monday	First day back for Students
May 15	Friday	Day in lieu for teachers
May 18	Monday	Victoria Day
June 26	Friday	Last Day of School for Students
June 29	Monday	Staff Planning & Development Day

SURVIVING THE RETURN TO SCHOOL (for parents!)

I saw this sign at a hockey rink the other day and I thought how relevant it is in regards to our children returning to school. We all want our children to be successful and success is measured in many ways, not just academically.

“Your child’s success or lack of success in sports doesn’t not indicate what kind of parent you are. But having an athlete that is coachable, respectful, a great teammate, mentally tough, resilient, and tries their best *IS* a direct reflection of your parenting”
~author unknown

It’s that joyful, stressful, exciting, anxiety inducing time of year again for all of us: BACK TO SCHOOL. I have heard it said, students returning to school after 2 months of vacation is like trying to run a marathon after lying on the couch all summer! Children are often completely off their regular routines, diet, nutrition, sleep, activities, not to mention, they are likely not reading a lot or practicing math! There may be some jitters: new friends, new teachers, challenging school work and anticipating new transitions. We parents can have similar jitters: new teachers, maybe new school, new parent friends, etc. We feel panic at how we are going to do it all and vow that “this year it will be different!”.

I am sharing with you some tried and tested (by me, a super busy mom of 4) that may help you survive the return to school. But first I need to say this, for all you exhausted and frazzled parents trying to do everything on your own (and I cannot emphasize this enough!): ***get your children on board to help you! I am a firm believer of the notion “Do not do for your child what they can do for themselves”. If your child is old enough to go to school, they are old enough to take on some responsibilities.***

- Save panic by ***downloading school supply lists*** on line and having the local stationary store prepare it for you. What a stress relief!
- Find ***lunch box inspirations***: think roll-ups, wraps, Bento boxes (just a healthier, fancy Lunchable), left overs in a thermos, cheese/crackers/pickles. With encouragement and guidance, by age 7, (in my humble opinion) children should be able to make most of their lunch on their own.
- Talk a lot about your child’s school friends***. It will get them excited about who they haven’t seen for a while.
- Go to the school, play in the playground, and walk around the building to ensure they know the doors to go in and out of.
- Keep a ***family calendar***, either digital if all your children can access it, a whiteboard or an old fashion paper one. It helps prepare children for what is coming, so they know what to expect and hopefully provide smoother transitions.
- Create an ***accessible*** and ***convenient*** routine for all the paper that comes into your home: hanging file folders, individual storage boxes or crates, wall folders. Whatever works for you, your family and the space in your home.
- Go through the letters, notes and agenda items ***each and every day***. Many tears have been shed in my house over missed permission forms and upcoming activities that they were not able to attend because we did not complete the forms!
- Help your children organize their tasks, chores and responsibilities*** by creating a chart, lists or reminders throughout the house. I am talking signs or notes taped to doors, TV’s, mirrors, etc. on things such as what to pack in their backpack, their jobs, chores or homework after school.
- Bring closure to the end of summer by doing a ***memorable family activity***: picnic, going for ice cream, playing board games, visit a museum, have a different dinner (fondue, indoor grill, make your own pizza). Talk about some of the memories you created over the summer and what you are all looking forward to in the new school year.
- Screen time*** is a constant battle in my household. It wreaks havoc on proper exercise, homework and sleep. If you have this issue as well, consider contacting your Wi-Fi provider about available options to set time limits for devices. Utilize “Apple Screen Time”, “Google Family Link” already on your smart phone or download an app such as “Our Pact”, “Questodio” or “Mobicip” which are all very effective at a minimal cost.

If you're really organized (I have never actually done this, but it sounds like a sweet and thoughtful idea), print off "My Teacher's Favorite Things" at www.likeabubblingbrook.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Teacher-Favorite-Things-Printable.pdf

I have to admit, I begin each school year with good intentions and enthusiastic optimism of staying organized and in control - only to feel like I am losing my grip on everything by October 1st. But like we teach our children: every time you fall, get back up again! Welcome back to Northern Gateway Public Schools! We are all in this together, we got this, and we are just getting started!



This article was submitted by Tammy Charko BA, BSW, RSW. Student Support Facilitator at Northern Gateway Public Schools. Tammy advocates for students and parents, providing a link to other supports within the community. Tammy has been a social worker for over 20 years and is a mother to 4 children, 3 of which are teenagers.

SEPTEMBER 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Labor Day	3 First Day of School	4	5	6 Pancake Breakfast	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 Meet the Staff Night @ 7:00 p.m.	18	19	20	21
22	23 School Council Meeting @5:30	24 Terry Fox Run @ 2:10 p.m.	25	26 Meal of the Month	27	28
29	30					

OCTOBER 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 Drive Away Hunger	10 Illustrator Visit Georgia Graham	11	12
13	14	15	16	17 Student Recognition Assembly @10:35 a.m.	18	19
20	21 School Council Meeting @5:30	22	23	24 Meal of the Month	25	26
27	28	29	30	31 Halloween		

FEEDBACK FORM

Detach from the newsletter and return to school with your child.

**SCHOOL COUNCIL B-B-Q
September 23rd, 2019**

_____ **Yes, I am planning to attend the School Council B-B-Q on September 23rd**

_____ **Yes, I would like to have babysitting provided for my child(ren)**

_____ **Number of children** **Parent(s) Name** _____