

EVERGREEN ECHO

SOARING TO GREATER HEIGHTS

THANK YOU!

Thank you to the members of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 276 for leading our Remembrance Day ceremony on November 9th. Thank you as well to all parents, family and community members, township and Lions representatives who attended the service to commemorate this day with us.

We also thank Peter Sanguinetti, who last week shared with our grades 6 to 8 students his experiences growing up in Britain during the time of war.

Soccer and Volleyball Teams

Congratulations to our Junior and Intermediate Soccer teams, who represented Evergreen during their respective tournaments in September and October. Our teams demonstrated good sportsmanship, effort and teamwork. Although they did not win every game, they played with enthusiasm, and supported each other throughout the tournaments. Way to go Eagles!

Community Partnership



During the past three weeks, a unique partnership between Evergreen Heights and the Perry Township library brought a fun introduction to coding and computational thinking to our school. Librarian Annette Gilpin and NNDSB Program Coordinator Anne Shillolo visited all classes for a *Learn and Play* opportunity with a range of STEM activities and robotics devices, including Ozobots, Spheros, Dash and Dot, Makey Makey and Cubelets. As well, teachers have attended follow up PD sessions and are beginning to integrate coding activities into their regular classes. Mrs. Gilpin and Mrs. Shillolo can return after the new year upon request to continue with this fun and relevant learning. The board also has numerous similar robotics devices that can be borrowed. The students are looking forward to this, as they were totally engaged with the introductory activities. In the meantime, the robots are all available for use at the Perry Township library!

Reminders from your P.A.C.

All Don's Bakery orders are due at the school on Monday, November 19th.

We are now accepting donations of gently used or new items for the Christmas Bazaar, as well as used, clean plastic bags or Christmas themed gift bags so the kids can bring all their presents home. Please drop off your items during school hours to the office.

KEEPING OUR EVERGREEN EAGLES SAFE!

Student Safety at Bus Times

During bus loading and disembarking times, no vehicles may pass the parked or departing buses. Bus loading times are between the hours of 8:10 a.m. - 8:20 a.m., and also 2:40 p.m. - 2:50 p.m. As well, buses arrive as early as 8:05 in the morning, during which time buses cannot be passed.

For parents dropping off or picking up students, you will need to wait in the parking lot during these times. If you arrive before these times, feel free to park beyond the south end of the school so you can leave as necessary. We appreciate your cooperation in keeping all of our students safe!

Safety in our Parking Lot

Please observe the “No Parking” signs in front of the school to keep the bus zone clear and safe for students. There are two designated parking spaces in the large parking lot for student drop-off/pick-up; you may also park in any other empty parking spaces in our lot. If you arrive before the buses and need to leave in a timely fashion, you may park on the shoulder beyond the south end of the school (in front of the buses). Please observe the one-way entry and exit of our school driveway to ensure the safety of all drivers and students. The entrance (north end) and the exit (south end) are clearly marked. As well, “Do Not Enter” signs are posted at each end of the driveway to remind us not to exit or enter the wrong way.

Evergreen Safety Protocols and Safe Schools Documents

The protocols and routines that we have in place at Evergreen to keep all students safe are outlined and described in the following documents:

- Evergreen Heights Family Handbook;
- Evergreen Heights Code of Conduct;
- Evergreen Heights Progressive Discipline Plan; and,
- Evergreen Heights Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan

Each of these documents were provided in print form to all families at the start of the school year. As well, electronic copies are posted online on the Evergreen website (<https://www.nearnorthschools.ca/evergreen-heights>), and are available in the school front office.

Safety reminders and additional information are also included in the monthly newsletters, which are sent electronically to families who have subscribed to email communications, and in print form to families who prefer paper copies. As well, all newsletters are posted on the Evergreen website, and print copies are available in the front office.

Safe Arrivals

Regular school attendance is vital for a successful school year. The school day starts at 8:25 a.m. Students are expected to attend class punctually and regularly.

Help us keep your child safe! Please call the Safe Arrivals phone line when your child is absent: **(705) 636-9023**. A message can be left at this number. This phone line is available 24 hours a day and receives messages.

If you are away, please inform the school of the names of the adults who will be caring for your children during your absence. Please ensure that you give the school their names and their contact information, as well as whether you give them permission to consent to school-based activities that may take place during your absence. If you wish us to continue to contact you directly during your absence, please leave a phone number at which you can be reached.

Keeping our School Secure

To keep all students safe, school entrances remain locked during the school day. To receive entrance to the school, everyone must enter by the front entrance, and request permission to enter the school by pressing the buzzer located to the left of the front doors.

Parents/guardian are welcome to visit our school but are asked to respect our concerns for the safety of students and the need for uninterrupted instructional time. Parents and other school visitors must report to the school office upon entering the school. If you wish to meet with your child during the school day please come to the office and your child will be called to the office by the school secretary. As per ministry regulations, all visitors must sign in and out at the office. Guest badges must be worn to help students and staff readily identify guests. This is a safety measure, allowing staff and students to quickly identify persons who are in the building without permission.

Picking up and Dropping off Students

The School day begins at 8:25 a.m., and attendance is taken promptly at 8:25 a.m. Any students dropped off after this time will be considered late, and must be signed in at the office.

If picking up your child during the school day or at the end of the day (instead of your child going on the bus), we ask that you sign your child out at the office, and wait for your child in the office or in the foyer outside the office.

Internet Safety at School

When it comes to preventing students from searching or accessing content that is not appropriate when connected to our NNDSB network, we rely on 3 specific practices:

1. Board Internet Content Filter – Our content filter is set up and configured to block content-based categories. It provides a means to prevent inappropriate content from being accessed or displayed from within our network. However we cannot rely on this technology 100%. The Internet is a big place and far too dynamic to be able to filter content successfully 100% of the time.
2. Student Supervision – There is no technology available that can replace supervision and careful monitoring of what is happening in the classroom. Although it is fully understood that not every student in a classroom can be monitored simultaneously when they are accessing technology, careful monitoring is another preventative measure.
3. Good Digital Citizenship – our teachers, parents, and school communities must continue to teach our students the value of "good digital citizenship" and explain the concepts of acceptable use. Students and parents play an important role in preventing the inappropriate use of technology.

When all 3 practices are put in place **together**, the possibility of inappropriate use is near impossible.

Allergies at Evergreen

It is the responsibility of parents of students with severe health concerns, including those who are endangered by anaphylaxis, to provide recent medical information, EPI pens or emergency medication as required, and to work with the principal in developing a plan that addresses the needs of the medically at-risk child within the school.

To ensure that every child experiences a safe environment in which to learn, Evergreen Heights is endeavouring to minimize the allergens within our school. We ask that students follow our Scent-Aware policy, and not bring in body sprays or wear anything with strong perfume or chemical odours.

We do have a full Nut-free policy in our building, which includes peanuts and all tree nuts. Please eat peanut butter/Nutella and nut products (e.g., products made from peanut oil, milks made from almond or other tree nuts, etc.) at home and do not bring them to school.

As well, we have a severe egg allergy in the school; no eggs or prepared egg snacks (e.g, boiled eggs, egg salad sandwiches) may be brought to school in a manner that a student could come into direct contact with the egg. In the grade 1 classroom, if students brings in a prepared product with egg, such as mayonnaise or Miracle Whip, we ask those students to immediately wash their hands after eating. Your support is appreciated in this manner.

In the ELK classrooms, we have a severe orange allergy; we ask that no ELK students bring oranges to school. As well, for students in other classes who may help out in the kindergarten rooms, we ask them to please ensure that they have washed their hands if they have eaten an orange in their own classroom.

We remind all students that no sharing of food is permitted. If for any reason your child is hungry and requires food, the breakfast club program is open to all students in the morning, and we do keep apples in the office fridge for those students who are still hungry throughout the day. As well, our Northern Fruits and Vegetables program will begin again in January, which will provide students with daily, healthy fruit and vegetable snacks during the middle block of the day.