

EVERGREEN ECHO

SOARING TO GREATER HEIGHTS

Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Friends,

Welcome to the 2021/2022 school year.

This is the first of special edition newsletters that may go home throughout the course of the school year. As information is changing so rapidly and it is often critical to communicate quickly with families, last year we transitioned our Evergreen Echo newsletter online to our Edsby site, where we can upload important information in a timely fashion. We will continue to put out these special edition newsletter as the need arises, and to ensure that families without electronic access receive important updates and celebrations at Evergreen. Please see the Parent Support page for Edsby if you need assistance logging into the platform: <https://www.nearnorthschools.ca/edsby-parents/>.

Although we cannot meet in person in the same way that we have in the past, feel free to make an appointment to speak with Jane Rutledge, our Vice-Principal, or me about any questions, comments or concerns that you may have. We will work together to ensure our Evergreen Eagles experience academic success, a sense of security, and wellbeing this year.

Pamela Marshall Gray, Principal



Evergreen School Advisory Council - Elections Notice

Our School Advisory Council (at Evergreen called Parent Advisory Council - P.A.C.) meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, October 5th at 6:30 p.m.** This year we will meet virtually using the Teams platform. We require all attendees to register for the meeting by contacting our school secretary by phone at (705) 636-5955 or by email at Jessica.Davutovic@nearnorthschools.ca.

During this first meeting, elections for the positions of P.A.C. Chair, Treasurer and Secretary will be held. All nominees must be in attendance at this meeting in order to run for a position. The term of office for all P.A.C. members is one year. Nomination forms will be sent by School Messenger to all parents receiving emails, and will also be available online at the school website, the Evergreen P.A.C. Facebook page or by contacting the school office.

We encourage parents to attend and join us at P.A.C. this year. We welcome new members to the committee. If you have any questions about P.A.C., or are interested in a position and would like more information, please contact the school office, visit the Evergreen P.A.C FaceBook page or email evergreenparentcouncil@gmail.com.

KEEPING OUR EVERGREEN EAGLES SAFE!

Student Safety at Bus Times

During bus loading times and to keep students safe, no vehicles may pass the parked or departing buses between the hours of 8:05 a.m. - 8:20 a.m., and also 2:30 p.m. - 2:50 p.m.

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 so we can keep the bus zone clear and safe for students. Please park in the designated parking spaces only, and do not drive beside the buses during loading/unloading times. There are two designated parking spaces in the large parking lot for student drop-off/pick-up, as well as other available parking spots. You may also park on the shoulder beyond the south end of the school (in front of the buses) if you arrive before the buses and need to leave in a timely fashion.

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 or electronic 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 will be included in the Edsby updates, special edition Evergreen Echo newsletters and by School Messenger.

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. Please call the Safe Arrivals line when your child is absent: **(705) 636-5955 extension 1**. A message can be left at this number 24 hours a day.

The Safe Schools Act requires us to contact those parents of students who are not in school when the school has not been notified. The new automated NNDSB call system will contact parents/guardians in order of preferred contact as per your “office Index Card,” and will continue to call until answered. At the end of the call you will be able to respond to confirm your child’s absence.

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. Please leave a phone number at which you can be reached, if you wish us to continue to contact you directly during your absence.

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.

As per the *NNDSB Reopening Guidance for Schools 2021/2022*, at this time only essential visitors will be permitted in schools. Any visitor to a school is required to self-screen and to wear a medical mask while on school premises. A medical mask will be provided by the school if needed. In addition to the requirement for visitors to perform daily self-screening, schools are expected to confirm that visitors have completed their daily self-screening prior to or upon their arrival at school. All school visits are by appointment only and for essential reasons. Regular essential visitors require proof of vaccination.

Dropping off and Picking up Students

Dropping off:

To ensure the safety of all students as buses unload and depart, we request that students be dropped off no earlier than 8:15 a.m. Students being dropped off should enter the entrance assigned to their grade.

If dropping off your child after 8:25 a.m. (the start of the school day), you are welcome to walk your child to the second set of doors only. Please buzz the office for your child to enter the school. Your child will sanitize, check in at the office, and go directly to their classroom.

All students must complete and pass the COVID self-assessment before riding the bus or being dropped off at school.

Picking up:

Student pick-ups will begin at 2:45 p.m. (dismissal time) at the side gymnasium doors. Parents/guardians will be asked to sign out their child(ren) before they will be dismissed to you. Please respect social distancing of 2 metres outside the school building while waiting to sign out your child. As well, to ensure the safe loading and departure of our buses, we ask that there be no student pick-ups between 2:30 and 2:45 p.m.

If it is necessary to pick up your child earlier than 2:30 p.m., you will need to notify the office through a phone call or email to our secretary, Mrs. Jessica Melick (Jessica.Davutovic@nearnorthschools.ca) to make the necessary arrangements.

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.

It is the responsibility of the entire school community to assist in safeguarding the welfare of every child. We simply cannot run the risk of any student or staff member being exposed to following identified allergens as this may cause a severe allergic reaction and unacceptable risk.

Scent-Aware Policy

To ensure that each 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.

Nut-Free Policy

We 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.

In the Near North District School Board, unpackaged and unsealed peanut butter substitutes are NOT allowed. These products look, smell and taste like peanut butter. An example of this type of product may be a sandwich made with WowButter, or a homemade energy bar made with a peanut butter substitute such as School Safe Soy Butter. It may be too difficult to distinguish the difference between this product and the nut allergen for staff and students, thus causing a potential risk in its use in our schools.

These products will be allowed ONLY if the following two criteria are met, so we can be reasonably assured that the product contains only the ingredients stated on the packaging:

- the product is contained within clearly labelled and original, individualized packaging; and
- the product is sealed upon entry into the school.

Two examples of the above type of acceptable product is an individual packet of WowButter that is labelled and sealed, and Bear Paws with WowButter in their original, sealed packaging.

Orange-Free Policy in Grade 1

In the Grade 1 classroom, we have a severe orange allergy; we ask that grade 1 students do not bring oranges to school.

Sharing of Food Not Permitted

We remind all students that no sharing of food is permitted. If for any reason your child is hungry and requires food, our student nutrition program will be open to all students, and we do keep individually packed snacks in the office fridge for those students who are still hungry throughout the day.

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.

UPDATES AND EVENTS

Outdoor Learning

Outdoor learning will be encouraged this year, not only for our physical education classes, but also for other subjects. At Evergreen, we have an amazing outdoor space and we look forward to taking advantage of the incredible opportunities available in this space.

As we will be outside as much as possible, students are reminded to dress appropriately for the weather each day.

Terry Fox Run

This year, Wednesday, September 29th is designated as the 41st annual Terry Fox School Run . Further updates will follow in the next few days and before September 29th if we feel we can safely organize the run on this date. In the meantime, save this date on your child's calendar, and we will keep you posted!

School Photos

Pictures will be taken this year on October 1st and October 4th. All photos will be taken outside, by cohorts and with physical distancing and health and safety protocols in place. Classes will have photos on the following dates:

1. October 1st = ELK-B, Grades 1, 1/2, 2/3, 3, 3/4, 4/5, 5/6, 8 and remote learners
2. October 4th = ELK-A, 6/7, and anyone absent on October 1st.

National Truth and Reconciliation Day and Orange Shirt Day

September 30th will be the first National Day of Truth and Reconciliation, as well as Orange Shirt Day. Throughout the school year, students at Evergreen will be learning about Indigenous perspectives and stewardship of land, treaties, the Indian Act, residential schools and Canada's current relationship with Indigenous Peoples. During Truth and Reconciliation Week (September 27th to October 1st), Evergreen students will have the opportunity to view some videos created by Indigenous story-tellers, followed by conversations with Elders, Knowledge Keepers, Survivors and the children of Survivors of residential schools. On September 30th, we will wear orange shirts to recognize the tragic history and long-standing effects of residential schools in Canada, and to honour those impacted by residential schools.

September 2021

- CALENDAR -

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
September 20-24: Gender Equality Week September 27-October 1: Truth and Reconciliation Week			1	2	3	4
5	6	Day 1 7	Day 2 8	Day 3 9	Day 4 10	11
		First Day of School 2021/2022	International Literacy Day			
12	Day 5 13	Day 1 14	Day 2 15	Day 3 16	Day 4 17	18
		Library Day				
19	Day 5 20	Day 1 21	Day 2 22	Day 3 23	Day 4 24	25
Powley Day		Library Day International Day of Peace				
26	Day 5 27	Day 1 28	Day 2 29	Day 3 30		
		Library Day	Terry Fox School Run Rowan's Law Day (concussion safety)	Orange Shirt Day National Day for Truth and Reconciliation		

Please note that dates and times for all activities are subject to change, and that new events may be added to the calendar.

October 2021

- CALENDAR -

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY					
October 18-22: National School Bus Safety Week					Day 4	1	2				
3	Day 5	4	Day 1	5	Day 2	6	Day 3	7	Day 4	8	9
		Library Day									
10	11	Day 5	12	Day 1	13	Day 2	14	Day 3	15	16	
	BOARD HOLIDAY	P.A.C. Virtual Meeting and Elections 6:30 p.m.	Library Day								
17	Day 4	18	Day 5	19	Day 1	20	Day 2	21	Day 3	22	23
			Library Day								
24/ 31	Day 4	25	Day 5	26	Day 1	27	Day 2	28	Day 3	29	30
			Library Day								

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