

EVERGREEN ECHO

SOARING TO GREATER HEIGHTS

Principal's Message



Dear Parents and Friends,

Welcome to the 2022/2023 school year.

This is the first of our special edition newsletters that may go home throughout the course of the school year. We will communicate with parents on a regular basis using Edsby, a communication tool used across the Near North District School Board. We will continue to put out these newsletters 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/>.

We know you may have questions about your child's learning and experiences here at Evergreen. Please contact your child's teacher first to set a time to discuss your question or concern. If you are unable to resolve the issue or wish to speak with our Vice-Principal, Jane Rutledge, or me about a school-wide event or question, please contact the school office to make an appointment. We will work together to ensure our Evergreen Eagles experience academic success, a sense of security, and wellbeing this year.

We look forward to meeting many of you during our Welcome BBQ and Open House on Thursday, September 15 between 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Pamela Marshall Gray, Principal

Evergreen School Advisory Council - Elections Notice

Our School Advisory Council meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, September 29, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.** We invite all parents of Evergreen students to consider joining our School Advisory Council (S.A.C.) as parent representatives. The term of office for all S.A.C. members is one year. If interested in submitting your name for the role of parent representative or for one of the elected parent positions of Chair, Treasurer or Secretary, please complete and return a self-nomination form. These forms are available upon request from the school office (in print or electronic form), and will be available during our Welcome BBQ and Open House on September 15.

Elections will take place during the first meeting on **September 29, 2022.** We will meet in person at Evergreen Heights. You must be in attendance if seeking a position as a parent representative or one of the three elected executive positions.

If you have any questions about S.A.C. or are interested in a position and would like more information, please visit the Evergreen P.A.C. Facebook page, email evergreenparentcouncil@gmail.com, or contact the school office.

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 before buses depart.

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. Park in the designated parking spaces only, and do not drive beside the buses during loading/unloading times. 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 2022-2023;
- 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.

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.

The North Bay Parry Sound Health Unit continues to recommend that all staff and students (or parents/guardians on behalf of their children) complete the **COVID-19 self-assessment** screening each day before entering school. The screening tool can be found at <https://covid19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>.

Picking up:

Student pick-ups begin at 2:45 p.m. (dismissal time) at the side gymnasium doors. 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 necessary to pick up your child earlier than 2:30 p.m., notify the office through a phone call or email to our secretary, Mrs. Jessica Melick (Jessica.Davutovic@nearnorthschools.ca), to make the necessary arrangements.

Cyber Safety

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, the Internet is worldwide 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.

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 the 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, unpackageged 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.

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.

Scholastic Book Fair

Scholastic Book Fair will be set up and available to families during the Open House and Welcome Back BBQ. As well, classes will have the opportunity to visit the book fair during the day, as follows:

- Thursday, September 15: Grades 1, 3/4 and 4/5
- Friday, September 16: Grades 2/3, 3, 5/6, 6/7
- Monday, September 19: Grade 1/2, any students absent or without money on their scheduled day

The Grades 7/8 class is helping to run the book fair and will be able to purchase books on both days. The ELK teaching team will determine the best time for their classes to visit, and will communicate that time with families.

Terry Fox Run

This year, Friday, September 23 is designated as the 42nd annual Terry Fox School Run . Further updates will follow in the next few days and before September 23. We will keep you posted! In the meantime, save this date on your child's calendar and save a "toonie for Terry."

School Photos

Pictures will be taken this year on October 1st and October 4th. All photos will be taken outside to take advantage of our beautiful outdoor setting. Classes will have photos on the following dates:

1. October 6 = ELK-A, Grades 1, 2/3, 3, 3/4, 4/5, 5/6, 6/7 and 7/8
2. October 7 = ELK-B, Grade 1/2, Country Haven, virtual learners, and anyone absent on October 6.

National Truth and Reconciliation Day and Orange Shirt Day

September 30th will be the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation, as well as Orange Shirt Day. This day honours the lost children and survivors of residential schools, their families and communities. Public commemoration of the tragic and painful history and ongoing impacts of residential schools is a vital component of the reconciliation process. 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.

School Cash On-line

School Cash Online offers parents the convenience of making online purchases and is the only manner by which we can safely receive payments (e.g., for hot lunches, spirit wear purchases, field trips, etc.). It is a safe, secure and convenient way to pay for goods at school. Registering can be done quickly and easily via the link. You can register at: <https://nearnorth.schoolcashionline.com>.

If you have questions about School Cash Online, our office staff would be happy to assist you!

SEPTEMBER
15



OPEN HOUSE AND WELCOME BACK BBQ

Evergreen Heights 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

5:30 - 6:00 p.m.: Classrooms open to visit

6:00 - 7:00 p.m.: BBQ outside of gym (inside gym if raining)

The Perry Township Fire Department will be on site with a truck(s) for students to visit!

Scholastic Book Fair will be on the gym stage.

Evergreen Spirit Wear

To order please visit

School Cash Online

<https://nearnorth.schoolcashonline.com/>

If you need help with this please contact office

Price List:

Youth Hoods (print) - \$20	Adult Hoods (print) - \$25
Youth T-shirts (print)- \$10	Adult Zip Hoods (printed)- \$26
Youth Long (print) - \$15	Adult Hoods (embroidered)- \$40
Youth Track Pants (print)- \$20	Adult Long Sleeve (printed)- \$15
Youth Zip Hoods (print)- \$25	Adult T-shirts - \$11
Pom Pom Toques (Embroidered) \$12	Adult Track Pants - \$25
Beanie Toques (Embroidered) \$12	Adult Crewneck Sweatshirt (print)- \$25

September 2022

- CALENDAR -

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
September 19-23: Gender Equality Week					1	2	3
September 27-October 1: Truth and Reconciliation Week							
4	5	Day 1 6	Day 2 7	Day 3 8	Day 4 9	10	
		First Day of School 2022/2023		International Literacy Day			
11	Day 5 12	Day 1 13	Day 2 14	Day 3 15	Day 4 16	17	
		Library Day		Open House and Welcome BBQ 5:30-7:00 p.m.			
18	Day 5 19	Day 1 20	Day 2 21	Day 3 22	Day 4 23	24	
	Powley Day	Library Day	International Day of Peace		Terry Fox School Run		
25	Day 5 26	Day 1 27	Day 2 28	Day 3 29	Day 4 30		
		Library Day	Rowan's Law Day (concussion safety)	S.A.C. Meeting and Elections 6:30 p.m.	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.

Upcoming Events:

October 6-7: Picture Day

October 7: Grade 7 and 8 Immunizations