

September, 2021



THE PHOENIX FLARE

ESSEX PUBLIC SCHOOLS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

From the Desk of the Principal



I want to begin by expressing my excitement and enthusiasm as I begin my journey at Essex Public School as your new principal. My sincerest gratitude goes to Mrs. St. Germain and Mr. Pallotto for their support and dedication to the students of Essex through this transition.

It has been a very busy start to the school year already at Essex with the addition of two classrooms and the movement of several students into the school. A huge thank you to Mrs. Vickard and Mrs. Lichaa who have been working extremely hard to accommodate these changes.

We continue to adapt to changes regarding Covid 19 and I appreciate the conversations that I have already had with parents relating to this. Your child's safety is our foremost concern and details of the Board's Covid Safety Plan will be shared with you later this week. Many of the safety guidelines that our students followed last year will continue this year as well. Masks are mandatory for all students (including kindergarten students now) on the bus and in the school but no longer need to be worn while outside. Our students will continue to learn and play outside in their classroom cohorts although this is something that we will be evaluating as the year moves on. Students may now use equipment including balls outside. A major change this year for families will be the necessity to complete the online Covid 19 screening every day for all children at the school. This screening may be found at: <https://public.publicboard.ca/COVIDScreening/> This will need to be completed daily before any student can come to school.

All staff will begin the year with a focus on student mental health and well-being. We also look forward to continuing to focus on classroom instruction that will meet the needs of our learners. Our school reorganization day will be September 27th this year. If there are changes to student placements or teachers in classrooms, they will be made in the week prior to this Monday and communicated to parents. Please know that while change is difficult, when necessary, all decisions about student classroom placement are made in consultation with teachers in the best interest of students.

We are thrilled to welcome new staff to the school for the start of the 2021-22 school year. Mrs. Barrette is teaching the grade 2/3 class, Mrs. Merrifield will be teaching grade 4 and Mr. Davison will be a prep provider. We also welcome support staff including Mrs. Prsa, Mrs. Meloche, and Mrs. Crosby.

As your new principal, I look forward to meeting and working with the staff, students, and families at Essex Public School! I believe strongly in positive open communication so please do not hesitate to contact me at any time with any questions or concerns.

Mr. J. Oldridge
Principal, EPS

Welcome Back!

Child Care Options

Welcome to the start of the 2021/2022 school year! Below is the most current list of Child Care providers servicing Essex PS. Please contact the providers for more information.

Story Book Early Learning Centre

Essex Public School (on-site)
<http://www.storybookelc.ca>
 519-776-5044

First Steps Child Care

Essex (off-site)
 169 Irwin Avenue, Essex
 519-776-8699



Parent Council











Our first parent council meeting will be taking place on Monday, September 27th at 6 pm. This meeting will include elections for council positions this year. At this time, our meetings will be taking place over Microsoft TEAMS. This is a great opportunity for parents to get involved and new parents are always welcome. Please send an Edsby message to Mr. Oldridge or call the school if you would like to be part of this meeting.

SPIRIT WEAR RETURNS!

Spirit wear will be back this fall with two new designs. T-shirts and hoodies will once again headline this year's sales along with hats and beanies. Stay tuned to announcements and Edsby for more information next month!



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
SEPTEMBER 2021 			1 	2	3	4 
5	6 LABOUR DAY	7 (Day 1) First Day of School (Gr. 1-8) 	8 (Day 2)	9 (Day 3)	10 (Day 4)	11
12 	13 (Day 5) Kindergarten Begins 	14 (Day 1)	15 (Day 2)	16 (Day 3)	17 (Day 4)	18
19	20 (Day 5)	21 (Day 1)	22 (Day 2)	23 (Day 3)	24 (Day 4)	25 
26	27  (Day 5) Reorganization SAC Meeting (6:00pm)	28 (Day 1)	29 (Day 2)	30 (Day 3) Orange Shirt Day	