



# The Elkhorn Express

YOUR SCHOOLS' INFORMATION NEWSLETTER

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 8

## school dates for *february*

- 16** Monday – FAMILY DAY
- 17** Tuesday – Day  
Law Buddies 1:30 pm  
Boys' Basketball practice 3:30 pm
- 18** Wednesday – Day 1  
Girls' Volleyball tournament PM only  
Walk to school
- 19** Thursday – Day 2  
Lunar New Year  
Boys' Basketball practice 8:00 am
- 20** Friday- Day 3

## Elkhorn expressions...

*We would like to wish all of those in our community who will be celebrating Chinese / Lunar New Year starting Thursday a safe, healthy and prosperous New Year.*

*Congratulations to our Grade 5 Boys' Basketball team who successfully won all four of their games in their tournament on Tuesday. The team will now be advancing to the City semi-finals. Let's hope that they can continue their winning streak in the semi's.*

*Our girls' volleyball team will be competing in a tournament this Wednesday. We wish them best of luck in their competition.*

*Happy Family Day to all of our Elkhorn families. Check in this issue for a list of some fun family events that are occurring in the Toronto area.*

*Have a safe and enjoyable weekend.*

Want to report a student absence? Need a copy of a field trip form? Email Kim or Carolyn in the office anytime at [Kimberley.daley@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:Kimberley.daley@tdsb.on.ca) or [Carolyn.klaussen@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:Carolyn.klaussen@tdsb.on.ca) or give us a call at

**GRADE 5 BOYS****BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT**

A huge **congratulations** to the Elkhorn boys' basketball team who competed in their area tournament and finished undefeated winning all 4 of their games.

The boys showed incredible spirit, determination, and heart as they played together to advance as the 1st place team.

They will participate in the semi-finals for the City Championship at the end of Feb/early March.

Coach Doherty and Coach Rawlins could not be more proud of the team and want to **THANK all the boys** for their hard work and dedication to Elkhorn Sports.

More details will be passed on regarding semi-finals as they are finalized.

Practice will begin again next week at the same times  
 Tuesday: 3:30 pm - 4:55 pm and Thursday: 8:00 am - 8:45 am.

***Best of luck in the semi-finals boys!***  
***From the staff and students of Elkhorn***

**KINDERGARTEN  
REGISTRATION****STARTS NEXT WEEK**

We are now booking appointments for registration for our Junior/Senior Kindergarten program for next September 2015.

If you have a child or know of a neighbor with children ready for JK in September 2015 please read and pass on the information below.

***Registration will begin on Monday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> and run all week to Friday, February 27<sup>th</sup>***

Please phone the Elkhorn P.S. office at **416-395-9500** to book an appointment time. You may also email Carolyn at [Carolyn.klausen@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:Carolyn.klausen@tdsb.on.ca) or Kim at [Kimberley.daley@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:Kimberley.daley@tdsb.on.ca) to book an appointment.

Children who will be four years old by December 31, 2015 (born in 2011) may enter Junior Kindergarten this September 2015.

**On registration day, please bring:**

- Child's birth certificate/passport
  - Child's Health Card
  - Child's record of immunization
- Two of the following as proof of residency – valid Ontario's driver license, bank statement/household bill, purchase agreement/lease

***Children who will be four years old by December 31, 2015 (born in 2011) may enter Junior Kindergarten this September 2015.***

## **REMINDERS FOR PARENTS WHO ARE BRINGING YOUR CHILDREN TO SCHOOL LATE OR PICKING UP YOUR CHILDREN DURING THE DAY**

Parents please note that when you are bringing your children to school please do not walk them to their classroom. The students should be lining up with their classmates and entering the school with their teachers.

*If you are bringing your child to school late please check in at the office with your child and get an admit slip which your child can bring to their teacher.*

For the safety of all students and staff we cannot have parents wandering around the hallways.

**\*\*This also applies to after school. Parents are asked to not wander into the classrooms unless you have booked an appointment with the teacher. Please check into the office first before proceeding to any of the classrooms.\*\***

This also applies to parents bringing their children to the portables.



## *Upcoming Character Trait Assemblies*

March 6 <sup>th</sup> - Honesty	Grade 5
April 2 <sup>nd</sup> - Co-operation	Grade 2
May 1 <sup>st</sup> - Integrity	Grade 4

## *Upcoming Spirit Days*

### *March 12th*

- Crazy Hair Day

### *April 23rd*

- Jersey/ Hat Day (Wear your favourite team's jersey/hat)
- Plant a Flower (each student is given a simple local flower/plant to plant in a specific location in the school)

### *May 14th*

- Rainbow Day (each grade is assigned a different colour and the whole grade wears that colour)
- Day of Visual Art (turn the school entire school in an art gallery)

### *June 18th*

- Backwards Day (Wear all of your clothes backwards)

*For the Spirit Days when there are two choices a vote will be taken to see which one will be the theme for that day.*

## FAMILY DAY WEEKEND 2015

Celebrate Family Day all weekend long (Friday, February 13 – Monday, February 16, 2015). Here are some of the events going on this weekend. Check out these events for a memorable family getaway. For more information on these events and others check out the link: [http://www.seetorontonow.com/family-day-weekend-2015/?cid=pds\\_ThingsToDoqyk6tC1T&gclid=CNSFgrn82cMCFYQ9aQod6SwACg](http://www.seetorontonow.com/family-day-weekend-2015/?cid=pds_ThingsToDoqyk6tC1T&gclid=CNSFgrn82cMCFYQ9aQod6SwACg)



Sears Great Canadian Chill Monday February 16 at Yonge Dundas Square. One of the largest polar bear dips in Canada. Brave participants will run into freezing cold water to help raise money for children afflicted with

cancer. This event also features hot tubs, kid's activities and live entertainment. More: Sears Great Canadian Chill.



Family Day on Toronto's Waterfront Monday February 16, with indoor and outdoor activities along the waterfront. PawsWay hosts a Paws & People Family Day! Bring a four-legged family member to PawsWay

Discovery Centre for Family Day festivities courtesy of Purina Dog Chow® including, The Woofjocks Canine Performance Team. At Queen's Quay Terminal (207 Queens Quay West), enjoy FREE Crafts and magic shows for a fun-packed afternoon together with your children!



Family Fun Fest February 14 – 16 at Downsview Park. Enjoy an indoor family fun zone with over 20 rides, activities and attractions including jumping castles, giant slides, interactive games, and a stage show.



Family Day Weekend at the Toronto Zoo February 14 – 16. For the Love of Family! Visit with some of the zoo families including polar bear Mom Aurora and her cub Humphrey, western lowland gorilla Dad

Charles and his newest addition Nneka, Mstari and her mom Twiga in the new indoor giraffe viewing house and more.



Family Day Weekend at the Ontario Science Centre February 14 – 16. Celebrate Family Day all weekend long at the Ontario Science Centre with its new exhibition, Brain: The Inside Story. Take an unprecedented journey through the essential bundle of neurons that is the human brain. Get your feet moving and

your heart pumping with JiggiJump, the musical aerobic adventure, or relax under our dome screen for a larger-than-life IMAX® film like the family favourite Island of Lemurs: Madagascar. Walk on the wild side with Safari Jeff and see living creatures up close and personal like never before.



Hockey Hall of Fame Monday, February 16. Kids FREE on Family Day! New at the Hall of Fame is NHLPA GAME TIME where guests can face-off against life-size, animated versions of today's top players in this revitalized model rink. Up to a maximum of 4 youths (13yrs & under) will be admitted FREE

with the purchase of one regular price adult admission. Admission must be purchased onsite. Offer cannot be combined with any other promotional offers.

*This information was taken from the City of Toronto website*

## FAVORITE TORONTO SKATING PLACES

Here are some popular skating places where you can lace up, or Velcro down, enjoy some exercise and fresh air, and skate through the winter season.



### The Natrel Rink, Harbourfront Centre

With over 100 skating classes for kids, teens and adults and skate and helmet rentals, you can lace up and skate along the beautiful lakeside scenery on Canada's largest artificial outdoor rink. The rink has DJ Skate Nights every

Saturday with rock, soul, soca music and more. It's great for anyone who wants to 'rock' on skates. Insider Tip: Rubber mats lead the way from the rink to adjacent buildings so you can walk indoors on your skates for food treats, hot cocoa and a warming fire. Open November 16 to mid-March. Annual HarbourKIDS Skating Festival: Feb 17th & 18th, 2014.



### Evergreen Brick Works Nature Immersion: The Evergreen Brick Works Ice Trail

Skate along the Ice Trail (chairs available for tots) or hike the uphill trails, it's urban nature immersion at its best. Add bonfires, hot chocolate and marshmallows, twinkling lights, farmers selling their wares on

Saturday mornings—and the experience here is reminiscent of a Currier and Ives postcard. Skate rentals in all sizes; free skate sharpening. Insider Tip: Yes, you can take TTC to the Brick Works—free shuttle buses run daily from just north of Broadview Station:



### Nathan Phillips Square, Toronto City Hall

Parents and kids often head to the expansive ice surface outside our spaceship-like City Hall. It's always busy, especially when lit up at night or on weekends. Zambonis keep the ice smooth, and benches alongside allow for

rest breaks—a terrific opportunity to watch diverse crowds testing their skills. Insider Tip: The square's new Skate Pavilion and Concession building offers rentals, change rooms, snacks, hot chocolate and a roof terrace for superb viewing. November — March, rink guards daily, 9:00 am to 10:00 pm

### The Skating Oval at The Shops at Don Mills

While moms are shopping for dashing duds at Toronto's upscale open-air mall, why not bring your skates and work your muscles on Canada's only outdoor shopping mall ice surface?

Insider Tip: This small rink great for kids Mid-November to March

### Downtown Diversion: Lake Devo, Ryerson University

When studying at Ryerson, the small but quirky Lake Devo rink, appointed with huge granite boulders from Muskoka, provides a welcome break from technology and deadlines. This two-timing rink (a small pond in warm weather) is especially beautiful at night when lit up by the new Ryerson Image Centre; Devonshire Square at the corner of Victoria and Gould Streets.

Insider Tip: Bring your hockey stick to evening class. A city Zamboni makes regular trips to clean the ice surface —and evening games of pick-up shinny hockey happen spontaneously. From daylight until evening, weather permitting. Ryerson.ca Note: Be sure to check weather conditions before heading out to any of these skating places, as hours and openings are always 'weather permitting.'

*-Excerpts from an article by Kate Pocock*

*Kate is a Toronto-based writer who specializes in Family Travel*

## ELKHORN SCHOOL'S ROOF PROJECT



We are excited to tell you that the roof at Elkhorn PS is going to be repaired/replaced this year.

Construction will begin on approximately March 16, 2015 and be completed within approximately 3 weeks. The start date for construction and the completion time for the construction are subject to change,

depending on weather conditions.

Over time, this roof upgrade will ensure a continued safe learning environment for our students. This is part of a major roof repair initiative that's happening in the TDSB this year. Because of the volume of school roofs being repaired this year, work must continue throughout the school year during daylight hours however, we are making every effort to do as much work outside of regular school hours as possible.

The roofing process can cause strong and unpleasant odours, which, at times, may enter the building. Please be assured that there is no risk to our students and we are working with our facilities and health and safety teams to reduce discomfort including keeping windows and doors closed, ensuring all air intake openings are closed and that the building's ventilation system is on recirculation mode to ensure no outside air is introduced. Alternate accommodations will be made for students in the event of sensitivity to the fumes.

You can also find more information about the initiative at [www.tdsb.on.ca/AboutUs/FacilityServices/RoofRepairs.aspx](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/AboutUs/FacilityServices/RoofRepairs.aspx).

Should you have any concerns about your child's health and safety related to this work, please do not hesitate to contact the school with your concerns and we will try to have them addressed.

## CHINESE NEW YEAR

Chinese New Year, also called Spring Festival, has more than 4,000 years of history. Being one of the traditional Chinese festivals, it is the grandest and the most important festival for Chinese people. It is also the time for the whole family to get together, which is similar to Christmas Day to the westerners. Originating during the Shang Dynasty (about 17th - 11th century BC), it celebrates family reunion and the hopes of the advent of spring and flowers blossoming rich with full colorful activities. People from different regions and different ethnic groups celebrate it in their unique ways.



It is said that the custom of Chinese New Year started in when people offered sacrifice to ancestors in the last month of the Chinese lunar calendar. At that time, people prepared the sacrifice by doing thorough cleaning, having bathes and so on. Later, people began to worship different deities as well on that day. It is the time that almost all the farm works have been completed and people have free time. The sacrificing time changed according to the farming schedule and was not fixed until the Han Dynasty (202BC-220AD). The customs of worshipping deities and ancestors remains even though the ceremonies are not as grand as before. It is also the time that spring is coming, so people held all kinds of ceremonies to welcome it.

There are many legends about the Spring Festival in Chinese culture. In folk culture, it is also called "guonian" (meaning "passing a year"). It is said that the "nian" (year) was a strong monster which was fierce and cruel and ate one kind of animal including a human being a day. Human beings were scared and had to hide on the evening when the "nian" came out. Later, people found that "nian" was very scared of the colour red and also of fireworks. After that, people used the colour red and fireworks or firecrackers to drive away "nian". As a result, the custom of using red color and setting off fireworks remains.

Every family does a thorough house cleaning and purchases enough food, including fish, meat, roasted nuts and seeds, all kinds of candies and fruits, etc. for the festival period. Also, new clothes must be bought, especially for children. The Chinese character 'Fu' is pasted on the center of the door and picture cut out of paper adorn windows.

People have many taboos during this period. Many bad words such as "death", "broken", "killing", "ghost", "illness" or "sickness" are forbidden during conversations. In some places, there are more specific details. They consider it unlucky if the barrel of rice is empty, because they think they will have nothing to eat in the next year. Taking medicine is forbidden on this day, otherwise, it is believed that people will stay sick for the whole year and have to take medicine constantly.

Food eaten during this happy festival is representative of the Chinese culture. Dumplings and the reunion dinner are indispensable at this time. Cold and hot dishes are all served. Fish is always an important dish at this time, which expresses people's hope of having a wealthy year.

