



The Elkhorn Express

YOUR SCHOOLS' INFORMATION NEWSLETTER

WEEK OF MARCH 27, 2017

School dates for *March*

- 27** Monday – Day 3
- 28** Tuesday – Day 4
- 29** Wednesday – Day 5
- 30** Thursday – Day 1
- 31** Friday – Day 2
Elkhorn t-shirt day

From the principal

“Accept and Respect. We are all different.”
(Anonymous)

It has been a very busy week back at Elkhorn. It sounds like many students had a wonderful March break. The weather this week has been challenging with the extreme temperature changes. Announcements have been made for the students to try and avoid the field when muddy but that has not always been followed. Mud everywhere to say the least!

To date, ticket sales for the Blue Jays game have been great. We only have 35 tickets left that have been blocked. Please place your order as soon as possible if you wish to purchase tickets.

Thank you to all parents who have followed Elkhorn’s morning procedures and are not in the hallways during school time.

Have a good week.

Holly Richards

To report a student absence or late call 416-395-9505
or email the school at elkhorn@tdsb.on.ca

Happy Nowruz

Nowruz (pronounced no-rooz) is the traditional festival of spring and the start of the New Year for Persians and Central Asian communities. It starts at the exact moment of spring arrival, which usually occurs on March 20 or 21 of each year. It is simply the most important national holiday for Iranians regardless of their religion and dialect.



The term Nowruz is a compound word consisting of two words. The first word “Now” means new and the second word “Ruz” means day. Together they make “New Day”.

Nowruz has been celebrated for at least 3000 years and is deeply rooted in the rituals and traditions of the ancient Persians. Today Nowruz is celebrated in Iran (Persia) and some other countries that used to be a part of the great Persian Empire or are deeply influenced by its cultures and traditions. These countries include Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Albania, Georgia, some parts of China and more. Kurdish people of Iraq, Syria and Turkey as well as Parsis in the Indian subcontinent also celebrate this festival.

A typical Iranian family usually prepares for Nowruz a couple of weeks in advance. They start with a tradition called “Khaneh Takani” or shaking the house, which is a major spring cleaning of the home. It includes cleaning the walls, windows, carpets, curtains, chandeliers and basically everything in the house. Then the good part starts, buying new clothing and flowers (specifically hyacinth, daffodil and tulips), making delicious sweets, growing greenery, colouring eggs and setting the “Haft Seen” table.

The “Haft Seen” table is a traditional table setting which includes seven items starting with the letter S or “Seen” in Farsi and each item represents an important symbol of life.

1. Sabzeh (wheat or lentil sprouts grown in a dish) is the symbol of rebirth
2. Sib (apple) is the symbol of beauty and health
3. Sir (garlic) is the symbol of medicine
4. Serkeh (vinegar) is the symbol of age and patience
5. Sumac (a kind of berry) is the symbol of the colour of sunrise
6. Senjed (dried fruit of the oleaster tree) is the symbol of love
7. Samanu (a sweet pudding made from germinated wheat) is the symbol of affluence

The “Haft Seen” usually includes a holy or a well-known poetry book, flowers, a mirror, gold coins, decorated eggs, lit candles, a bowl of water with goldfish, dishes of sweets and mixed nuts.

“Saal Tahvil” is the moment that vernal equinox occurs and spring starts. A few minutes before family members put on their newly bought clothes and gather around the “Haft Seen” table. These are the moments of praying and wishing for happiness, health and wealth in the upcoming New Year. During this time the older members of the family start reading verses of the holy book or old Persian poetry books. After the “Saal Tahvil” people hug and wish each other a happy New Year. Then they exchange “Eydi” which can be cash, gold coins or other gifts. “Eydi” is handed from older members of the family, relatives and friends.

Celebrations last for 13 days. On the 13th day families go outdoors for picnics and at the end of the day young members of the families tie the leaves of the Sabzeh for every wish that they make and then throw it into the river hoping it will land on the bank of the river and continue growing.

-Excerpted from an article by Maryam Elmi from these references

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nowruz/Astronomy>

http://www.iranchamber.com/culture/articles/norooz_iranian_new_year

Trips Away

If you are planning a trip and will be away for an extended period of time please inform the office of your travel plans.

This will help to avoid needless callouts from the automatic system to you.



Staff Change

We would like to take a moment to welcome back Ms. Collins who is returning to Room 102 after a maternity leave and to say goodbye to Ms. Crane.

We would like to thank Ms. Crane for all her hard work and dedication that she has shown to both the students and the parents while she was replacing Ms. Collins. We wish her all the best in the future.

Student and Parent Census

The Toronto District School Board (TDSB) conducts its system-wide Student and Parent Census every 4-5 years to help the Board understand the demographic makeup, the in-school and out-of-school experiences, and the ongoing needs of its student population. The intent is to use the data collected directly from students and parents to help the system and individual schools develop strategies and adjust supports that further strengthen the school community and help every student succeed.



April 2017 is Census Month at the TDSB! We will conduct our third Student and Parent Census, which will include Grade 4-6 students for the first time. Students will complete the Census in class. Parents of JK-Grade 6 students will also be invited again to fill out the Parent Census form. Their forms will come home with students this week.

The participation of all students and parents in this third Census is **crucial** to ensure the continued success of our Census efforts, but more importantly to assure that the data collected represent the voices of our all students and parents so that we can continue to provide the right supports for every student to achieve their full potential. Please complete and return the survey – **your voice counts!!**

Grade 5 Girls Volleyball Tournament



On March 2nd 2017, our Grade 5 girls' volleyball team went to our first Volleyball tournament to compete against Dallington and Forest Manor!

We went to Forest Manor Public school to compete with those two teams. Their gym was about double the size of our own gym but we only used half the gym to play with.

We went there by TTC, using the Subway, and walked the rest of the way. It felt good and we were all excited that we were going.

We played two games and there was two sets in each game. The first game we did a really good job bumping, serving and volleying and for that we won 1 set out of 2. In the second game, our team again did a great job serving for the other team and we didn't win a set in that game. Overall we won 1 out of 4 sets in the tournament. But that's ok! We had really good serves, bumps and volleys throughout the games, so that made our games a lot more competitive. We had 12 players on the team.

This is the names of the girls on the team: Sara, Mansi, Golshid, Golsa, Annely, Andrea, Tessa, Anastasia, Errita, Meri, Chaehyeon and Jessica.

Before the game we had some practices and warm ups to do with our partner for example bumping, volleying and also just serving alone.

We were proud of ourselves at the end of the game because although we lost, we felt good about how we played and the way we demonstrated good sportsmanship with the other teams.

We had a great time in our games and even though we lost, we had a lot of fun competing. Our most memorable part of the games was when we had very good serves for the other team.

We will hopefully be on the volleyball team next year and the year after (probably forever). We will keep serving, bumping and volleying throughout our games...

By: Sara A. & Mansi P.

Grade 5 Boys Basketball Update

On March 1st, the Grade 5 Boys Basketball team competed in the conference finals.

They played with determination, drive and showed amazing sportsmanship. They unfortunately did not advance, but a huge congratulations goes out to entire team for an absolutely amazing season.

-Your coaches



Elkhorn Idol

WOW! Elkhorn students are talented! On March 8th over 50 brave students participated in 2017's Elkhorn Idol, showcasing their skills in everything from singing and piano to magic tricks and Tai Kwon Do.

Thanks to all of our performers who did an amazing job!

