

Insider's Guide to Elkhorn, 2016-2017

HISTORY

In 1955 Sheppard Avenue was a dirt road with just a few homes along each side of Bayview Avenue to Leslie Street. Bayview Village was nothing more than a farmer's field. On the north side of Sheppard Avenue, west of Burbank, stood rows of raspberry canes. As the area began to grow, the Board of Education planned the building of a new school – Elkhorn. Groundbreaking ceremonies took place in 1956 and the school was officially named Highland Hill Public School.

In September of 1956, the school's name was changed to Elkhorn Road Public School, now known as Elkhorn Public School.

The official opening of Elkhorn Public School took place on May 5, 1958. Oriole Public School closed and its students moved to Elkhorn.

In June of 1985, due to declining enrolment, Elkhorn's doors closed, marking the end of 27 years of education at the school. Students moved to nearby Bayview Elementary and Middle School, housing students from kindergarten to grade eight.

In September 1996, Elkhorn proudly reopened its doors and the elementary population has continued to grow to more than 430 students, representing almost 20 different language groups. Our graduating grade 5 students move on to Bayview Middle School for grades 6, 7 and 8.

Our school community continues to see enrolment changes following the completion of the Sheppard subway and as proposed building developments along Sheppard Avenue progress.

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Welcome to Elkhorn Public School! Approximately 430 students from junior kindergarten to grade five attend classes here. In addition, the YMCA Child Care Offers before and after school programs, ages 4 to 10 years old. We also offer full day child care for ages 2 and a half (2.5).

The vibrant community school is the result of dedicated staff working with eager students in a supportive and involved community. Each Elkhorn student is encouraged to achieve his or her personal best. We set high standards for our students and work with the students to achieve their goals. Our programs help children grow emotionally, socially and academically so that they can be productive, successful citizens in the global community. The academic program is balanced in all areas of the Ontario Curriculum: English (literacy), mathematics, science and technology, social studies, visual arts, music, health and physical education and for students in grades 4 and 5 – French.

Extra-curricular activities may include sports and choirs.

Working together - school and community - we provide the positive and caring environment that helps our students grow and flourish. When we all work together the possibilities for what we can accomplish are endless.

I invite you to explore this handbook to discover the extent and variety of information it includes. The handbook is updated annually to reflect frequently asked questions.

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ELKHORN SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL (SAC)

Elkhorn Public School has a very involved parent community. Parents and other community members volunteer in the classroom, on class field trips, in the library, at school events and many other areas of our school. The focal point for this parent participation is our School Council.

Why should I get involved with my child's school?

Studies show that when parents are involved in their children's education, the children's attitude towards school improves and their level of achievement increases. Studies also show that when parents are involved, students' school performance increases – from arriving at class on time and behaving well to staying in school until high school graduation. At the same time, parents' involvement in schools usually increases the success of school programs and the effectiveness of schools themselves. The success of many of Elkhorn Public School's programs depends on parent volunteers. Participation on Elkhorn's School Council is a good place to start.

What is a School Advisory Council?

In 1995, the provincial government mandated that every school have a School Council comprised of parents, teachers, the principal, and community representatives. Elkhorn's School Council is a very active and vital one.

What does a School Advisory Council do?

A School Council is a body of volunteers who work together to provide ideas and opinions to help the principal and sometimes the school board to make the school a better place for learning. The mandate of the School Council is to provide a system of accountability to parents. It gives parents opportunities to discuss educational issues and respond to local educational needs that are affecting our children at our school. Our Council meets 5 to 8 times a year. As a School Council, we developed our own

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mission statement to indicate our purpose or philosophy. Our mission statement is as follows:

“The Elkhorn School Council, in partnership with the school community, is dedicated to providing the best learning environment, enabling all students to reach their potential.”

How do I get onto the School Council?

All of our Council meetings are open to the public. Please feel free to attend. Bring a neighbour. Anyone may voice their opinion or have an item added to our meeting agenda.

Getting involved in your child’s school is a rewarding experience. Come and join us!

School Council Meeting Dates

Meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. in the Gymnasium.

Monday, September 19, 2016

Monday, October 17, 2016

Monday, November 21, 2016

Monday, January 23, 2017

Monday, March 20

Monday April 24, 2017

Monday, May 15, 2017

Monday, June 19, 2017



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SAFE ARRIVAL PROGRAM

The Safe Arrival program is a procedure to help ensure the *safe arrival* of Elkhorn students to school. This is a **24-hour call-in system** where parents can leave a message to let the school know that their child/children will be absent. Here is how it works.

- ◆ Call the SAFE ARRIVAL telephone number:
- ◆ Leave the following information:



- ✓ your child's name
- ✓ your child's grade and teacher
- ✓ reason and length of absence
- ✓ date of your call

416-395-9505

TDSB has now moved to an automated call-out system for our Safe Arrival Program. This system will mean that you will be contacted more quickly than is currently possible with a manual system.

Parents/guardians of students who have an unexplained absence (one where the school has not been previously notified) will be contacted to verify the reason for the absence.

The system call-out will work as follows:

Parents/guardians identified in TDSB's Student Information Systems who has access to student records, and emergency contact with priority 1 or 2 will receive a call.

When you receive the call, you are **required to listen to the entire message and follow the prompts accordingly.**

You will be asked if you are aware or unaware of your child's absence. If unaware, you will be asked to call the school immediately.

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If you are aware of the absence, you will be asked to enter the reason for your child's absence. The following options will be provided for you:

1. Illness
2. Doctor Appointment
3. Dentist Appointment
4. Family Matter
5. Weather
6. Other

At the end of the message, you will have to press 2 to confirm you received the message. If you do not confirm receipt, you will receive a call on your mobile phone.

If there is no response from a Priority 1 contact, this same process will be followed for Priority 2 contacts. If there is no contact with either Priority 1 or Priority 2, this entire process will be repeated 3 times in 10 minute intervals.

This same process will be followed for the afternoon attendance.

In the evening, all parents/guardians of students who were late that day will receive a call informing them of their child's tardiness.

With this in mind, it is important that your contact information on file at the office is up-to-date. Please let the office know immediately if your contact information changes at any time throughout the school year.

We recognize that regular attendance is essential to the safety, academic success, and well-being of all students. Thank you for your continued cooperation with keeping your child safe and accounted for.

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SCHOOL DAY - CLASS SCHEDULE

8:55 a.m.	Students enter school and go to class
9:00 a.m.	Classes begin
10:10 – 10:25 a.m.	Morning recess
11:45 a.m.	Lunch begins
12:45 p.m.	Afternoon classes begin
2:05 – 2:20 p.m.	Afternoon recess
3:30 p.m.	Dismissal

SUPERVISION

Teachers supervise the playground in the morning from 8:45 – 8:55 a.m., at recess time and from 3:30 - 3:45 p.m. at the end of the school day. **Parents are responsible for their children before 8:45 a.m. and after 3:45 p.m.**

LATE ARRIVALS

Students are considered late for school if they are not **in their classrooms** by the second bell at 9:00 a.m. **If ‘O Canada’ and the announcements have started they will need to go to the office for a late slip.**



DEPARTURE

Students leaving the school during the school day must be picked up by an adult and signed out at the school office. In the interest of children's safety, students do not leave the school unescorted during times that are not regular dismissal times. If you will be picking up your child during the recess times (10:10 – 10:25 a.m. or 2:05 – 2:20 p.m.), please arrange for them to wait for you in the office rather than go out for recess.

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PICKING UP YOUR CHILDREN

Many of our children are picked up by their parents. If your child is to be picked up by someone other than a parent, their usual babysitter, or a sibling, please notify the office AND provide a note to the classroom teacher.

***Children in grades K-2 must be picked up by an adult.**

ATTENDANCE

It is important that students maintain regular attendance and arrive at school on time.



Similarly, when a child is late s/he is required to sign in at the office. Students will be considered late for school if they arrive after the Playing of O'Canada and the morning announcements (9:00 a.m.) and after the lunch time (12:45 p.m.). Students who arrive after these times must sign in at the office and receive an admit slip before going to class.

“Lates” will be recorded on the Ontario Report Card. If you take your child home for lunch, please time your child's return in the afternoon to arrive for the beginning of classes. Students must sign in and out at the office if they are going home for lunch.

Students who must leave the school early for appointments, etc., are also required to bring a written request and sign out in the office. For your child's protection, students will not be dismissed early unless signed out by a parent. For their own safety, children under the age of 12 are not sent home unescorted during the middle of the school day.

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STUDENT DATA

It is very important that the school be informed when there is a change of address, telephone number (home or business) or emergency contact person. **Please advise the school immediately of any changes.** It is most important that we have up-to-date information so that we can communicate with you effectively.

EMERGENCIES

If a child has a serious accident at school, the Toronto District School Board procedure will be followed and parents will be notified immediately. *****It is important that we have all your current telephone numbers – home, work and cell phone.*****

ILLNESS

If a child becomes ill at school, the teacher will notify the office and staff will care for the child until the parents are contacted and arrangements are made to have the child taken home.

ALLERGIES

Elkhorn P.S. is NUT-FREE.

If your child has an allergy, especially to food, please be sure that the school office has been notified. More and more children have extreme sensitivities to nuts and nut products.

Therefore, Elkhorn strives to be a “nut-safe” environment.

Please do not send peanuts, peanut products, **or any other nuts and nut products** with your child’s lunch, snacks, or class treats.



MEDICATIONS



Whenever possible, physicians should be requested to prescribe medication which can be administered outside of school hours. In the event that medication must be given during school hours, please contact the school. A specific procedure must be

followed which requires written requests by both the parents and the physician. Please see the Office Administrator in the school office for the required forms. If your child has an inhaler or an epi-pen, please make sure you arrange to have one in the office and one with the child.

HEALTH SERVICES

A Public Health School nurse is available for consultation on an as-needed basis at Elkhorn. For further information, please contact the Public Health Department at 416-338-8732.

The Public Health Nurse:

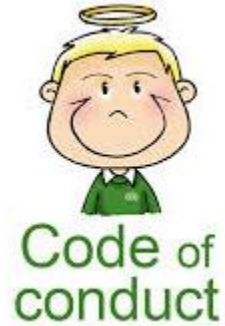
- counsels children and parents in the school and at home visitations
- identifies health problems at an early stage and helps parents obtain medical care
- identifies communicable disease and advises on referral facilities
- provides education and support workshops for parents

Public Health Dentist:

Dental screening may be done at Elkhorn P. S. by the Public Health Dental Team. For information about their schedule, please call the Toronto Public Health Dental and Oral Health Department at 416-338-8399.

CODE OF CONDUCT

All students at Elkhorn Public School are expected to:



- Demonstrate self-respect.
- Respect all others.
- Respect personal and school property.
- Demonstrate awareness of and respect for the environment.
- Display a positive, supportive attitude.
- Behave appropriately during all school activities both in and out of school.
- Use acceptable language.
- Arrive for school and all classes punctually.
- Observe and follow school and classroom routines.
- Act and play safely.
- Solve problems through discussion.

In order to maintain behaviour consistent with our code, the following **Consequences for Inappropriate Behaviour** may be taken:

- loss of privileges
- telephone contact with parent
- discussion with principal
- performance of community service
- parent/teacher conference
- supervised temporary withdrawal from class
- detention
- repayment of loss
- suspension from school

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DRESS CODE

The dress policy of Elkhorn Public School is based on principles of respect, safety and diversity. In keeping with the Toronto District School Board's Equity Foundation Policy, the dress policy attempts to integrate the principles of fairness, equity, and inclusion.

Students at Elkhorn Public School are expected to come to school dressed appropriately, respectfully, and prepared to participate in a variety of learning activities.

It is expected that, subject to the discretion of the principal to permit exceptions regarding compliance in appropriate circumstances, every student in the school will comply with the Dress Code.

If there is an infraction, the parent will be contacted to review the Dress Code and may need to bring the appropriate clothing to their child at school.

The dress code for Elkhorn is as follows:

- ◆ All articles must be neat and clean
- ◆ Students must wear appropriate footwear
- ◆ Students will not wear hats or headgear (including scarves & bandanas) in the school except for religious reasons
- ◆ Pants & shorts must be worn at waist level
- ◆ Tops are to overlap bottoms
- ◆ T-shirts and tops must have a sleeve or strap(no spaghetti straps, strapless or tube tops)



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- ◆ Attire must not reveal the child's mid-section, lower abdomen or navel
- ◆ Shorts and skirts must be at least finger length when arms are at the side and fingers are extended
- ◆ No clothing will be permitted that displays profane, vulgar or obscene words, slogans or designs
- ◆ No clothing will be permitted that displays words, slogans and/or designs that might offend another person's religion, culture or ancestry
- ◆ No clothing will be permitted that has a reference to "gang colours or affiliation" real or imagined

At Elkhorn, we have an indoor shoe policy. Indoor shoes are essential to ensure the safety of all students and to maintain the cleanliness of our school. Indoor shoes should be clearly marked, easy to slip on and take off, and allow for participation in the gym. They should also be left at school.

SNOWBALLS (WINTER TERM)

For safety reasons **snowball throwing is not permitted** as it can cause serious injury. Children are free to build snowmen and snow walls. Our motto at Elkhorn **"Snow stays on the ground. At no time should snow be thrown or kicked."**



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LUNCHTIME PROCEDURES

All students who are eating lunch at school must have their lunches with them before 11:45 a.m.

If a child is going home for lunch please use the binder in the office to sign in and out daily.

JK/SK students eat their lunches in their classroom during these times.

11:45 a.m.	On Indoor Lunch (rainy or extreme cold) Days, all students eat at 11:45 a.m. and need to have their lunches available before 11:45 a.m.
11:45 am.-12:10 pm	Regular Day Lunch begins in the gym for Grades 1-2 Grades 3 -5 go outside for the first half of lunch
12:10 pm -12:40pm.	Regular Day Grades 3 – 5 come inside and eat in the gym Grades 1 – 2 go outside to play
12:45 pm	Students return to classes

- ◆ Store all lunch bags and food containers in the large buckets outside your classroom.
- ◆ Be seated at all times while eating your lunch – no walking with food in your mouth or in your hand and talk quietly.
- ◆ Respect and obey the lunchroom supervisors.
- ◆ Respect those children with food allergies and help maintain safety for them. ***Please do not bring nuts or nut products to school.***
- ◆ Pack up non-recyclable materials to take home with you.
- ◆ Use the recycling bin for your cans and drinking boxes. (Empty extra liquid into the special tub then throw out cans in the designated recycling bin.)
- ◆ All students are expected to go outside for fresh air and exercise after eating except in very cold or rainy weather.
- ◆ All food must be consumed while in the gym and no food is to be taken outside
- ◆ Dress appropriately for weather, i.e.; COLD: hats, coats, mittens, boots, etc. HOT/SUNNY: hat, sunscreen

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LUNCH LADY



“The Lunch Lady” is a service introduced through the Elkhorn School Council that allows parents to order hot lunches for their children, to be delivered to the school at lunch time. An information flyer will go home at the beginning of the school year, and also monthly. Lunch Lady menus will be sent home within the first two weeks of school.

The Lunch Lady delivers lunches on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, except for School Advisory Council fundraising Pizza Lunch Days. Lunch Lady Order forms are sent home each month.

It is the responsibility of the parents to make the necessary alternate arrangements and notify the Lunch Lady, should their child be participating in an out of school event.

ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES

The staff and students at Elkhorn are committed to doing their part to protect our environment. Our initiatives focus on:



Recycling: The school recycles paper, tin cans, bottles, etc.

Reusing: Making good use of materials that may be reused before recycling the rest

Reducing: the school staff and classrooms use green bins and are always looking for ways to reduce the amount of waste

Litterless lunches & Snacks: We encourage staff & students to bring litterless lunches/snacks to school. We appreciate the effort of parents who help us in promoting litterless lunches and snacks.

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FUN LUNCHES



Fun lunches are usually offered on 2 Thursdays during each month. Watch your monthly calendar for confirmation of dates. On Fun Lunch days, students eat in their classrooms in order for our parent volunteers to be able to distribute the orders as easily as possible. Consider volunteering to help the Fun Lunch Coordinator on Fun Lunch days! (The Lunch Lady is not available on Fun Lunch days.)

Fun Lunch dates are subject to change. For this school year, they are tentatively:

- Thursday, September 29th
- Thursday, October 13th
- Monday, October 31st
- Thursday, November 10th & 24th
- Thursday, December 8th and 22nd
- Thursday, January 12th and 26th
- Thursday, February 9th and 23rd
- Thursday, March 9th & 23rd
- Thursday, April 6th & 20th
- Thursday, May 4th & 18th
- Thursday, June 1st & 15th

BIRTHDAYS

Due to the fact that many children in our school have severe food allergies no food is to be brought into the classroom for safety reasons.



You may however choose to celebrate with alternative methods such as handing out pencils or erasers, etc. at the end of the school day.

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BICYCLES

Cyclists are required to walk their bicycles once on school property.

All bicycles should be securely locked; unfortunately, Elkhorn cannot take responsibility for bicycles left on school property.



Once students have arrived on school property they should *walk* their bikes to the area where they will lock them. Bicycle racks are located just inside the gates at the bus loop and at the north end of the playground by walkway. Bicycle helmets are required by law for all children under age 18 riding bicycles on public roads.

SPORTS EQUIPMENT

The following equipment is not to be used on school property: hard ball baseballs, roller blades, wood or metal (aluminum) bats, scooters, skateboards, and slingshots. The school will provide softballs and baseball bats for organized game activities.

COMMUNICATION

Communication between home and school is critical to a successful partnership. Students in grades 2 – 5 have planner books in which notes to the teacher can be written. Teachers regularly contact parents through the planner. Student work is sent home regularly. Please contact your child's teacher about any questions, concerns, or information you may have to share. We welcome your participation in your child's education. Messages can also be left for teachers through the school office. Every Friday, the Express is sent out by email to our community informing everyone of the events of the past week and upcoming events. If you wish to be added to the mailing list please contact the office.

Our school website is also updated weekly and full of useful information.

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CLOTHING

Students should be dressed appropriately for the learning environment. For safety and health reasons, students **need to wear shoes in class at all times** – in all seasons.



In the winter, students should wear boots to and from school, at recess and lunch times. Running shoes for gym can be left at school. This will ensure that every student has a pair of shoes to wear at school. Students should not be wearing their boots all day and walking around in socks is not safe.



Throughout the year Elkhorn's students participate in many fundraising events to bring awareness to the needs of others and our community. Global citizenship is an important part of our students learning and growing experience.

We are fortunate that our community and students participate in these events with great enthusiasm and continue to look forward to supporting these events.

Some of the charities that have benefited from our fundraising include:

Terry Fox Cancer Foundation

Heart and Stroke Foundation

Daily Bread Food Bank (Toronto)

Daily Bread Food Bank (North York)

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DATES TO NOTE

Dates are all tentative and subject to change. Please consult the monthly school calendar for confirmation.



SEPTEMBER 2016	
Monday, September 5	Labour Day
Tuesday, September 6	First Day of School
Friday, September 9	Welcome back BBQ
Tuesday, September 13?	International Languages Registration Gym 3:30 – 6:30 PM
Monday, September 19	School Council Meeting
Thursday, September 29	Terry Fox Run
Thursday, September 29	Fun Lunch
OCTOBER 2016	
Friday, October 7	PA Day
Monday, October 10	Thanksgiving – No School
Thursday, October 13	Fun Lunch
Friday, October 14	Picture Day
Monday, October 17	School Council Meeting
Monday, October 31	Fun Lunch
Monday, October 31	Dance-a -thon
Monday, October 31	Halloween
NOVEMBER 2016	
Thursday, November 10	Fun Lunch
Friday, November 11	Remembrance Day (Assembly 10:30 am)
Tuesday, November 15	Report cards go home
Friday, November 18	PA Day – Parent/Teacher Interviews
Thursday, November 17	Picture Re-take day

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Monday, November 21	School Council Meeting
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DECEMBER 2016	
Friday, December 2	PA Day – No school
Thursday, December 8	Fun Lunch
Thursday, December 22	Fun lunch & Holiday sing-a-long
Friday, December 23	Last day of school
December 26– January 6	Winter Holiday – SCHOOL CLOSED

JANUARY 2017	
Monday, January 9	School Resumes
Thursday, January 12	Fun Lunch
Monday, January 23	SAC Meeting
Friday, January 20	PA Day – No School
Thursday, January 26	Fun Lunch

FEBRUARY 2017	
Monday, February 6th	Kindergarten Registration begins
Thursday, February 9	Fun Lunch
Tuesday, February 14	Report Cards Go Home
Tuesday, February 14	Valentine’s Day, Dance-a-thon
Friday, February 17	PA Day – Parent Teacher Interviews
Monday, February 20	Family Day- No School
Thursday, February 23	Fun Lunch

MARCH 2017	
Thursday, March 9	Fun lunch
Monday, March 13 – Friday, March 17	March Break – No School
Monday, March 20	School Resumes
Monday, March 20	SAC Meeting
Thursday, March 23	Fun lunch

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APRIL 2017	
Thursday, April 6	Fun Lunch
Thursday, April 6	Kindergarten Orientation Night
Friday, April 14	Good Friday
Monday, April 17	Easter Monday
Thursday, April 20	Fun Lunch
Friday, April 21	Earth Day Assembly
Monday, April 24	SAC Meeting

MAY 2017	
Thursday, May 4	Fun Lunch
Monday, May 15	SAC Meeting
Thursday, May 18	Fun Lunch
Monday, May 22	Victoria Day – No School
Saturday, May 27	Fun Fair

JUNE 2017	
Thursday, June 1	Fun Lunch
Friday, June 9	PA Day
Thursday, June 15	Fun Lunch
Monday, June 19	School Council Meeting
Thursday, June 22	Volunteer Appreciation Day
Tuesday, June 27	Grade 5 Graduation (9:30 AM)
Tuesday, June 27	Report Cards Go Home
Thursday, June 29	Last Day of School
Friday, June 30	PA Day

As new dates are added to our calendar of events or any listed dates are revised, parents/guardians will receive information about them in monthly calendars on the school's website.

ELKHORN GARDENS



Elkhorn staff, students, and parents are very proud of our gardens at the front of the school. The caretaker works with a small team of parents to make our gardens beautiful, welcoming, and reflective of the level of care in our school. If you are interested in helping with the gardens, please contact the School Council Chairs.

TECHNOLOGY

All our classrooms are equipped with at least one computer. There are at least five interactive whiteboards for classes to use.

Students have the opportunity to use computers in the classrooms as well as having access to an iPad cart containing 30 iPads. Each classroom also has an iPad Mini. We are continually upgrading the technology at Elkhorn to enhance your child's learning. The following information outlines the Toronto District School Board's On-Line Code of Conduct. Students who will be using the Internet will be given a copy of the



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Internet Agreement to sign and have their parents sign. The entire TDSB Code of On-Line Conduct can be viewed at <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/tdsb/initiatives/OCCfinal.htm>.

TDSB Code of On-Line Conduct

The Toronto District School Board (TDSB) provides computers and connects on-line for the use student and staff for educational purposes. All of the rules of the TDSB apply when using its computers and connections. Code of On-Line Conduct applies specifically to the use of computers and connections provided by the TDSB. The TDSB has the right to monitor the use of all its computers and connections.

On-line resources include all material that is accessed through a computer or telecommunications network.

All policies, procedures, codes of behaviour and rules of the TDSB apply to those using online systems and resources provided by or on behalf of the TDSB. This Online Code of Conduct pertains to the use of on-line systems and resources. This Code has been prepared to protect the rights and safety of all.

Personal Safety Rules

Never give information out on the network that someone could use to find you in person.

Never give out information about anyone else unless you have their permission and you know that the information will not be used to harm them.

Never share your personal password with anyone.

Never try to impersonate someone else or use another person's account on the network.

If a message, a picture or anything else you see on the computer makes you uncomfortable, tell your teacher immediately.

Unacceptable Sites and Materials

TDSB computers are not to be used for any purpose that is illegal, pornographic, hateful, threatens someone or is obviously offensive to an individual or group.

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Use Guidelines

Consider the others who use the systems. Keep use of the computers and connections to reasonable amounts of time and transfer of files.

Report any damage to the system that happens by accident or on purpose.

Actions NOT Allowed

Transfer of computer viruses or other material that might harm the computers or network.

Damage to any of the equipment.

Opening a computer, connecting or disconnecting any devices or trying to repair equipment without permission.

Copying or borrowing files or information and presenting it as your own original work.

Results of Misuse

Misuse of computers or connections could cause the offender to be disciplined and could include legal or police action.

On-Line Publishing

All web pages hosted or paid for by the TDSB are property of the TDSB.

Any advertising on these sites must be approved by a supervisory officer of the TDSB.

No information is to be published that could lead to strangers gaining access to TDSB students without authorization.

The TDSB makes no warranties of any kind regarding the reliability or safety of its computer systems.

LIBRARY & INFORMATION CENTRE



Elkhorn's library is designed to meet each child's needs in all areas of the curriculum. Classes, small groups, and individual students, visit the library weekly and work with the teacher librarian to enhance and enrich classroom themes. Computers have been networked to provide internet access. Children are

encouraged to enjoy all the centre's resources for enrichment, information and enjoyment.

CURRICULUM

Elkhorn Public School provides a balanced program of Languages (including English and French), Mathematics, Social Studies, Science and Technology, Arts and Health/Physical Education. It is the goal of the school to help each child develop to his/her intellectual and emotional potential, to stress basic skills, and to encourage special interests.

For detailed curriculum information, see the Ministry of Education and Training website at www.edu.gov.on.ca. Teachers will provide some detail regarding the curriculum specific to the grade.

SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS

When a teacher observes that a child might be having difficulty being successful with the curriculum, the teacher will discuss concerns with the parent. If difficulties persist, the teacher may refer the child to the School Support Team (SST) to ask for programming recommendations.

THE ARTS

Music is a very important part of Elkhorn Public School. Our choirs have the opportunity to perform for our school and are often invited to perform for our neighbouring community.

Elkhorn is committed to balanced programming across the curriculum. In addition to supporting arts programs in the classroom (music, drama, dance and visual arts) we provide a series of "in school" arts-based performances by professionals.



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HOMEWORK

For every grade, reading should be the priority every night of the week. At Elkhorn, we believe that families need time together; therefore, we do not assign homework very often. If there is homework, this is what to expect:



- In grades 1-2, homework will often take the form of reading, playing a variety of games, having discussions, and interactive activities such as building and cooking with family.
- In late primary and junior grades (3-6), homework may begin to take the form of independent work.
- Homework is curriculum-based, with a direct link to topics or skills that have been taught in class.
- Homework is part of a positive learning experience, and not intended to be punitive.
- Homework is clear so students understand what they are expected to do.
- Homework should meet the developmental needs and abilities of individual students, and be modified, when necessary, to do that.
- Homework is designed so that families can balance the time needed to complete it with extra-curricular activities scheduled outside of the school day, and activities that support personal and family wellness. Homework will not be assigned on scheduled holidays as outlined in the school-year calendar or on days of significance.

REPORT CARDS

Your child's progress is regularly assessed and monitored. If there is a concern we will contact you very early in the year. Any time you have a concern, please contact your child's teacher to make an appointment to discuss it.



Report Cards are issued in February and June. A Progress Report is issued in November. Teachers will arrange to meet with parents in November and in February as needed or at the parent's request.

For more information about Report Cards and the Ontario Curriculum, please consult the Ministry of Education website at

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/general/elemsec/elemsec.html>.

CROSSING GUARDS

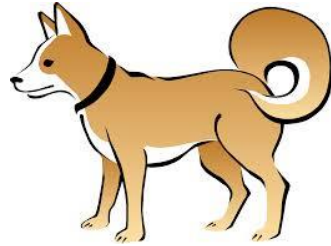


To assist our children in arriving at school safely, crossing guards are on duty at the Burbank & Sheppard lights and at the Burbank and Whittaker cross streets.

Crossing Guards are on duty before, and after school.

DOGS

Dogs must be on a leash at all times and are not to be tied up to a school fence. Dogs are not allowed on school property during school hours as some students have a fear of dogs or are allergic to dogs. If you do come on school property after school hours with your pooch, please ensure that you pick up after your dog.



INSURANCE

Unfortunately, accidents sometimes happen. The Toronto District School Board has arranged for low cost insurance coverage to be made available to parents who wish to purchase this type of coverage. Insurance forms are sent home with students at the beginning of the school year in September and upon registration.

Elkhorn and the TDSB are not responsible for the theft of any personal items.

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REGISTRATION

In order to register your child at school you will need to provide the documentation listed below.

1) **Proof of Address:**

Two pieces of identification that show your address, such as:

- ✓ current rental or lease agreement
- ✓ current utility bill, phone bill (residence, not cellular or business)
- ✓ driver's license
- ✓ bank statement
- ✓ income tax form
- ✓ tax bill

2) **Citizenship:**

- ✓ Birth certificate or passport
- ✓ Record of landing for landed immigrants
- ✓ Other status, i.e. student authorization, refugee status, parent on work permit, etc.

3) **Proof of age**

- ✓ Birth certificate, baptismal record or passport

4) **Proof of immunization –**

- ✓ The record that shows a list of vaccinations that your child has received.

5) **Health Card**

- ✓ Your child's health card

For more information please contact our Office Administrator, Mrs. Daley, at 416-395-9500.

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LOST AND FOUND

A lost and found box is located in the hallway across from the office. From time to time the “Lost and Found” contents are displayed on tables near the school office before disposing of unclaimed items (sent to Good Will). Parents are given at least a weeks’ notice through the Elkhorn Express and announcements are made reminding students to check the front table for Lost and Found articles. The Kindergarten classrooms have their own lost and found boxes.



MONEY AND VALUABLES

Students should not bring money to school unless they are paying for pizza lunch or school trips etc.. Students should bring only the amount necessary for fundraising days (pizza lunch, bake sale, etc.). Valuables should also be left at home (e.g., cameras, electronic games, iPods, etc.). Once money or valuables have gone missing, it is extremely difficult to account for their loss, and the school is not responsible for replacement.

PERSONAL BELONGINGS

Trading cards, collectors’ items and special toys are all items which might be best left at home. However, some students enjoy bringing these items to use during their recess and lunch periods.

These are brought at the students’ own risk and the school will not accept any responsibility for them.

CELL PHONES

Students must keep cellphones in their backpacks. Cellphones are not to be used in class or at recess times. Students may call home from the office at the discretion of the teacher, the office staff or the principal. In the event of an emergency or ill health parents will be called by the office staff, the teacher or the principal.



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PARKING LOT AND BUS LOOP

Please do not drive into the parking lot in the MORNING (8:45 - 9:15), NOON (11:30 - 1:00) or LATE AFTERNOON (3:15 - 3:45) to drop off or pick up your children. This area is for busses to pick up and drop off students. *City by-laws prohibit parking in the fire route driveway area leading from the street into the parking lot. **City by-laws have been changed so that you can now park in front of the school for 15 minutes.**



The parking lot is for staff, volunteers, and visitors only.

Too many vehicles driving in and out pose a serious safety concern for our children walking to and from school. Parents who transport children by car are asked to consider parking on Whittaker or Moorewood.

Due to the lack of parking in front of the school building, parents/guardians may use the bus loop as a pick-up and drop-off “kiss and ride” location in the morning only. **Drivers are required to stay in their vehicles** and not block traffic for the school buses and other vehicles passing through.

SCHOOL HALLWAYS

For the safety of our children, we ask parents and caregivers to please wait outside the school for children. Designate a spot where you will meet your child. Congestion in the hallways before and after school is dangerous and can pose a hazard for the children and staff.

We require that students enter and exit through their "recess doors". This allows us to keep the front hallway clear for visitors. Kindergarten to grade 2 students must be picked up by an adult.

YMCA Childcare - please use the doors allocated for the YMCA to avoid disrupting the classrooms.

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PLAYGROUND SAFETY

For your information, these are the safety rules in place at Elkhorn. Teachers reinforce them with students throughout the year. When students follow these rules we have fewer injuries and tears.



Playscape:
- no running, no tag
- no touching
- wait your turn
- go DOWN the slide one at a time
- keep woodchips on the ground
- two on the monkey bars at a time
- secure footwear must be worn
- no flip flops or boots

Field:	Out of Bounds:
- no tackle games	- east hill (winter sliding)
- no wooden/metal bats	- parking lot
- treat our trees, flowers and bushes with care	- trees
- no hard balls or bats	
- no snowballs	
- don't dig deep holes or caves	

Students are also encouraged to eat their snacks while sitting down (benches, picnic tables, boundaries of the playscape) in order to avoid running with food in their mouth and choking.

VOLUNTEERS

Every year, Elkhorn Public School is fortunate to have dedicated parents and community members willing to give of their time regularly to assist our school. Elkhorn School Advisory Council welcomes volunteer involvement in our school. There are numerous ways for parents, seniors and community volunteers to get to know other parents, the school staff, and their children's classmates.



Volunteers are needed for Play Days, Pizza Lunch Days, Gardening, Arts & Crafts, Field Trips, Track and Field, and other special events. Volunteers are encouraged to share any special skills they have with the school.

SMOKING

Smoking is not permitted on any Toronto District School Board property.



SNOWY DAYS – SCHOOL BUS CANCELLATIONS AND SCHOOL CLOSINGS

Occasionally, severe weather conditions may require the Toronto District School Board to cancel bus transportation and close schools.



Keeping Your Child Safe

In the event of severe weather conditions, please keep children at home if possible.

Decision to Close Schools

The decision to close schools is made by the **Director of Education**.

School Closures and Cancellation of Transportation Services Before the Opening of Schools

Closure of schools or cancellation of transportation services will be announced from 6:30 a.m. onward on the following stations:

AM Radio	FM Radio	TV	.COM
FAN 590	KISS 92.5	The Weather Channel	www.globaltv.com
CFTR 680	CHFI 98.1	CP 24	www.thestar.com
CFRB 1010	CBC 99.1	CFMT	
CHUM 1050	CKFM 99.9	CFTO	
CHIN AM-1540	CFNY 102.1	CITY-TV	
CHOG-TALK 640	CHUM 104.5	GLOBAL ROGERS	
	CILQ- 107.1		
	CHIN FM-100.7		
	CIDC-HITS 103.5		
	CJEZ-EZ		
	ROCK 97.3		
	FLOW 93.5		

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School Closures or Bus Schedule Changes During the School Day

Should schools close during the school day or transportation schedules change, announcements will be on the radio stations above by 12:00 noon. If there is no announcement about school closing before 12:00 noon, schools will remain open for the day. You will also receive an email notification from the school.

Child Pick-Up

Please be prepared to pick up your child or make arrangements for your child, if required, should schools close early or if transportation schedules are changed.

Arrangements for Students

For students in JK – Grade 5, parents will be notified and suitable arrangements for the child's safety will be made until the parents arrive at the school.

TRIPS

An essential part of your child's program involves activities which take place outside of school. These trips are an extension of the learning which goes on in the classroom and as such, all students are expected to take part.

You will be asked to sign a consent form for each out of school trip that your child's class takes. We will not be able to allow your child to participate without the signed consent form. A cost is often attached to each trip to cover admission and for transportation.



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