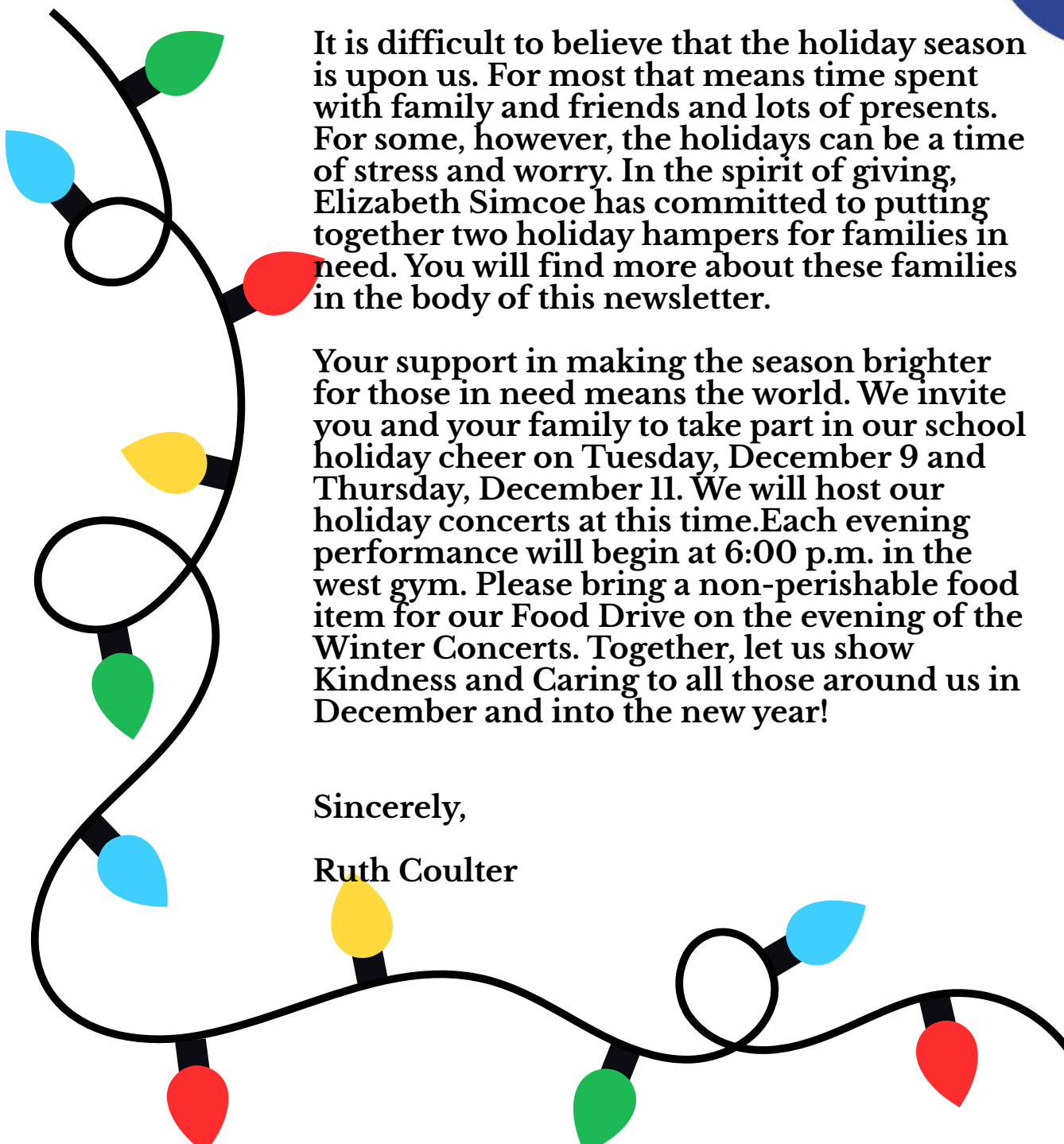


December 2025 Newsletter



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



It is difficult to believe that the holiday season is upon us. For most that means time spent with family and friends and lots of presents. For some, however, the holidays can be a time of stress and worry. In the spirit of giving, Elizabeth Simcoe has committed to putting together two holiday hampers for families in need. You will find more about these families in the body of this newsletter.

Your support in making the season brighter for those in need means the world. We invite you and your family to take part in our school holiday cheer on Tuesday, December 9 and Thursday, December 11. We will host our holiday concerts at this time. Each evening performance will begin at 6:00 p.m. in the west gym. Please bring a non-perishable food item for our Food Drive on the evening of the Winter Concerts. Together, let us show Kindness and Caring to all those around us in December and into the new year!

Sincerely,

Ruth Coulter

TDSB Holiday Hamper Program - December 2025

We are excited to share that our school will be supporting two families this year through the TDSB Holiday Hamper Program, a long-standing initiative that provides warmth, dignity, and care to families experiencing significant challenges during the holiday season. This aligns beautifully with our school's focus on Kindness Month in December and offers our students a meaningful opportunity to learn about empathy and community support.

About the Families

We have been matched with two families, each facing difficult circumstances, and the generosity of our school community will make a genuine difference.

Family A (Hamper A)

A single father raising five children is currently facing severe financial hardship after job loss while also living in an area with considerable social challenges. The family is in need of essentials such as warm clothing, food, household basics, and small gifts to brighten the holiday season.

Family B (Hamper B)

This family includes a Grade 8 student in the MID program. They are struggling financially after the student's older brother survived a serious accident and now requires full-time care from their mother, limiting the family's income. Support with groceries, household items, and modest gifts would significantly ease the strain they are under.

How the Program Will Work at ESPS

A Google Sheet is being created with wish-list items for both families. Each hamper will have its own tab to keep things organized. Families will be able to sign up for items in a way that avoids duplication.

- Families will be instructed to send all donated items directly to their child's teacher.
- Teachers are asked to check off items in the Google Sheet as they come in to help us track donations clearly.
- We will collect items until Friday, December 12th.
- Classrooms will be visited intermittently to help clear donated items and reduce storage needs.

Additional Notes

- All items must be new.
- Gifts will not be wrapped, as this allows the families to organize things appropriately.
- Grocery gift cards are especially needed; each family member typically benefits from at least \$100 in grocery gift cards.

HOLIDAY GIVING AT ELIZABETH SIMCOE

As we move into this season of kindness and community, Elizabeth Simcoe is excited to share several holiday initiatives supporting families both within our school and across Scarborough.

Holiday Hampers

Our school community is coming together to support two local families through holiday hampers. Each class will be collecting new, unwrapped items that correspond to their assigned family needs. Families can sign up for items using the Google Sheet shared soon, and donations will be accepted until Friday, December 12th. Thank you in advance for helping make the season brighter for families in our community.

SCHC Food & Toiletry Drive

We will also be collecting non-perishable food items and toiletries for Scarborough Centre for Healthy Communities (SCHC). Collection bins will be available in the front entrance on both evenings of our Holiday Concert. Your contributions help support local families who rely on SCHC's essential programs.

Holiday Concert Front Row Ticket Raffle – Supporting Dr. Roz's Healing Place

Our School Council will be holding a raffle for front-row seating at this year's Holiday Concerts. All funds raised will go directly to Dr. Roz's Healing Place, a Toronto-based centre providing emergency shelter, counseling, and wrap-around supports for women and children escaping violence. Thank you for supporting this meaningful cause.

Winter Clothing Drive for Eastview Public School – Thank You!

We are wrapping up our winter clothing collection for Eastview Public School, and we are delighted to share that we surpassed last year's total thanks to the generosity of our school community. Your donations of warm winter items will directly support local families in need – thank you to everyone who contributed!



UPCOMING SCHOOL DATES:

December 9: Primary Winter Concert 6:00p.m.

December 11: Junior Winter Concert 6:00p.m.

December 19: Last Day of School before the Winter Break

January 5: School Resumes

January 14: School Visit by Superintendent 9:30 a.m.

January 15: School Council 6:30 p.m.

January 16: PA Day – Reporting and Assessment

January 20-21: Sewing Studio for students K-6

Week of January 26: Olympian sessions