



# Ernestown Secondary School

## Principal's Message

Nov/Dec, 2023

Hello Eagle families!

It is hard to believe that we are already at the end of 2023!

I continue to be so proud of our school community and all that is happening at Ernestown! In our second newsletter of the year, you will find many special moments experienced by our staff and students that reflect our community-building, shared accomplishments, and our growth as a caring, exciting, and innovative school. From organizing our annual food drive to our concert band touring our feeder schools, Ernestown staff and students always give the best of themselves.



Through our numerous extracurricular opportunities, including athletics, mathletes, and a wide variety of field trips, many students were able to extend their learning beyond the classroom into our community. They have truly embodied our message of *Enter to learn; depart to serve*. We are all so fortunate to call ESS home.

As we leave our Eagles nest for the last time in 2023, I would like to extend my warmest wishes to all our Eagle families and to wish their loved ones a restful break. I hope that this time of year brings you joy, peace and cherished moments with family and friends. We look forward to welcoming everyone back on Jan 8, 2024.

Happy Holidays!

Shannon



# Upcoming Events

## DECEMBER 18-22

- HOLIDAY SPIRIT WEEK
  - MONDAY: RED & GREEN DAY
  - TUESDAY: HOLIDAY HAT AND SOCK DAY
  - WEDNESDAY: HOLIDAY CHARACTER DAY
  - THURSDAY: UGLY SWEATER DAY
  - FRIDAY: PJ DAY AND PANCAKE BREAKFAST

## DECEMBER 22- JANUARY 5

- WINTER BREAK

## JANUARY 8

- FIRST DAY BACK AFTER BREAK

## JANUARY 9

- GRAD PHOTOS

## JANUARY 25, 26, 29, 30

- EXAMS

## FEBRUARY 2

- PA DAY

## FEBRUARY 19

- FAMILY DAY

# THESE EAGLES ARE SOARING!



Students who exemplify our school motto of Self-Discipline, Optimism, Action, or Respect are nominated to receive a SOAR award. We are so proud to see Eagles SOARING! In November, our SOAR recipients were Charlie, Anna, Laila, Zoey, and Lachlan. (Not pictured: Aya, Pravish, Haylee, Colton, and Matt)



# Ernestown Welcomes...



## Chris Koch

In early December, Ernestown welcomed **Chris Koch**, a motivational speaker, world traveler, athlete, and farmer from a small rural community in Nanton, Alberta.

Within hours of being born, Chris' family learned that he was healthy, but missing both arms and both legs. Rather than treating his disability like a tragedy, Chris' family chose to take it in stride and to focus on what things he could do, instead of the things he couldn't. On the day of his visit to ESS, Chris shared his remarkable life story with our students, one marked with amazing experiences, resilience, and humour. Thank you, Chris, for coming! Learn more about Chris at <https://www.ifican.ca/>

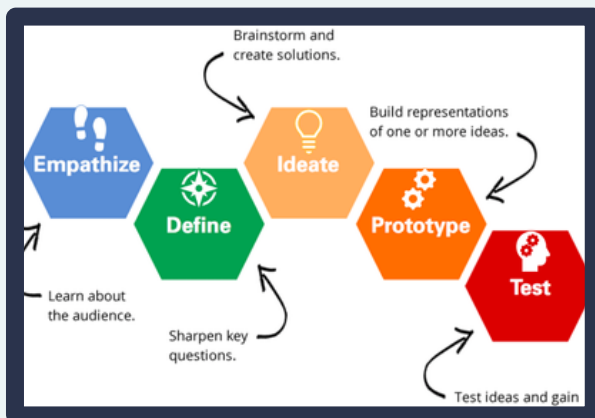


## Design Thinking Workshop

Derek Davies, program coordinator of Community and Justice Services at SLC, and recent graduate, Jen Probert, joined our IMPACT leadership class for some meaningful learning around community action and the Design Thinking Model.



Jen inspired us by recounting her success in the Mayor's Innovation Challenge and Derek shared his expertise around design thinking to prepare students with the tools to identify real-world issues in our communities and to work collaboratively to develop potential solutions. A huge thank you to our guests for joining us!



# Tree Decorating



Students from our School to Community classes joined us in the main office to decorate our tree! They took turns placing the ornaments on the tree followed by Ava topping it off with the star!

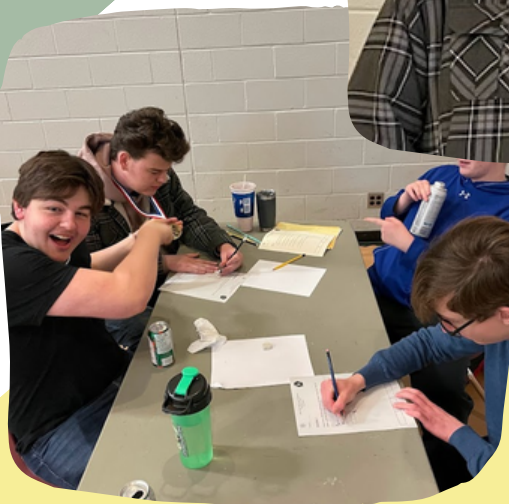


# Math Tournament



Ernestown was proud to send two teams of grades 11 and 12 students to compete in the Annual Senior Math League tournament at RND on Friday, November 24th. Both teams experienced success and demonstrated great teamwork and enthusiasm. In the individual component of the tournament, Drew Ogilvie was our ESS top scorer and brought home the gold medal!

Congratulations to Drew, and all of the other students who participated: Ayesha Bukhari, Oskar Brown, William Jugloff, Luis Schaefer, Nick Newport, Trent Burns, and Liam Cairns.





HAPPY  
*Holidays*



*From  
ESS!*



# A view from the classroom:

IT HAS BEEN AN ACTIVE FALL IN PHYS. ED WITH STUDENTS LEARNING MANY SKILLS AND GAMES! WE ALSO HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE SLC FITNESS AND HEALTH PROMOTION STUDENTS TO COME IN TO OUR POWERFIT CLASSES TO DO SOME MOBILITY TESTING.



THROUGH THE SUPPORT OF OUR PARENT COUNCIL AND BINGO FUNDS, WE NOW HAVE A COMPLETE SET OF ARCHERY EQUIPMENT THAT OUR GRADE 9 GYM CLASS AND OUR NEWLY FORMED ARCHERY CLUB WILL ENJOY USING!



# E-TOWN SPORTS

THE KASSAA WINTER SEASON IS WELL UNDERWAY WITH OVER 70 ATHLETES PARTICIPATING IN VOLLEYBALL, BASKETBALL, HOCKEY & WRESTLING! THE HOCKEY & BASKETBALL TEAMS HAD GREAT WARM-UPS AT THE KSS & NDSS TOURNAMENTS, OUR WRESTLERS WERE OFF TO THEIR FIRST MEET ON DEC. 19TH, AND OUR VOLLEYBALL TEAMS WILL BE COMPETING IN TOURNAMENTS IN JANUARY!

*Congratulations All-Stars!*

FIELD HOCKEY: ADA BEAL, CECI DIMOCK & DEANNA COMPTON (SR); LAYLA BEAL, DEANNA RODGERS, & HAYLEIGH KNETSCH (JR). VOLLEYBALL: JAMES BATES (SR); JACOB CARROLL-ADRIN (JR)



## Eagle in Profile




EMMA ROGERS

Emma is a key member of the senior girls volleyball team. She is a quiet but important leader on and off the court. Emma is always looking to improve her skill, and is a positive teammate and determined competitor.

Congratulations Emma!

## Stay in the loop...

 <https://twitter.com/ESSRecLead>

 <https://www.youtube.com/@ernestownathletics3201>

**STARTING SOON...**



# Arts Night

On December 6th, Ernestown hosted another successful and entertaining *Evening of the Arts!* Performances were given by the concert band and guitar class, and there were solo vocal and piano pieces, and dramatic monologues, as well. If that wasn't enough, *The Nick Newport Experience* debuted their rockstar talent! And, as always, there was lots of coffee and lots and tasty treats!



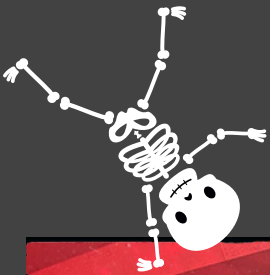
## National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women



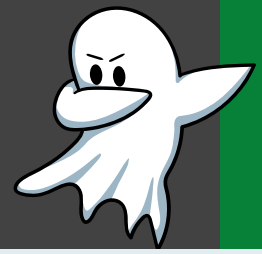
ESS recognized the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence against Women with fourteen chairs placed in the front foyer, each containing a tea light and a rose in memory what became known later as the Montreal Massacre. December 6th also provided our school community with an opportunity to remember those who have experienced gender-based violence. This is a day for all Canadians, men, women, and people of all gender identities to show their support for ending violence against women.







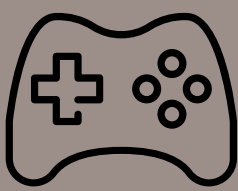
# Halloween Dance



Everyone had an eerily awesome time at the Halloween Dance this year! Thank you, to Student Council and all staff who helped with this event!

# Club Carousel

The ESS Impact Class planned a Club Fair to showcase the wonderful extra curricular activities that we have to offer at Ernestown. Grade 7 & 8 students from OPS, along with ESS students, were invited to visit displays and learn more about each club offered at the school. Students at Ernestown were also given the opportunity to sign up for these clubs and participate in a small trivia game to win prizes!



# Equity and Diversity Matters at ESS

## Dates of Significance

### NOVEMBER

- Indigenous Education Month
- Hindu Heritage Month
- Holocaust Education Week (1-8)
- Treaties Recognition Week (5-11)
- Indigenous Veterans Day (8)
- Remembrance Day (11)
- Diwali (12)
- Transgender Awareness Week (13-19)
- Transgender Day of Remembrance (20)
- World Children's Day (20)
- Bullying Awareness & Prevention Week (19-25)
- Pink Shirt Day (24)
- Day of the Covenant (26)
- Birth of Guru Nanak (27)
- Ascension of Abdu'l-Baha (28)
- National Day of Giving (28)

### DECEMBER

- International Day for the Abolition of Slavery (2)
- International Day of Persons with Disabilities (3)
- National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women (6)
- Hanukkah (Festival of Lights) (8-15)
- Human Rights Day (10)
- Winter Solstice (21)
- Christmas Eve (24)
- Christmas Day (25)
- Boxing Day (26)
- Kwanzaa (26-1)
- New Year's Eve (31)

In November, we honour **Indigenous Education Month** at the Limestone District School Board (LDSB). During this month, educators and students learn, about Indigenous perspectives, histories, and realities. We celebrate the unique cultures and languages of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples across Turtle Island (North America).

### TREATIES RECOGNITION WEEK OCTOBER 31 - NOVEMBER 6



November 5-11 is **Treaties Recognition Week**. All people living in Canada have their own treaty rights and responsibilities. Treaties Recognition Week honours the fact that we are all treaty people and learning more about our shared treaty relationships and obligations supports our national journey toward Reconciliation.



# News from Student Services

## Post-Secondary Planning



College and University applications have been submitted by many of our graduating students! Please visit the Grad Google Classroom for any information you need about this process.

# Graduation photos!

January 9, February 14, March 19

Info has been shared via Grad Google Classroom and student and parent email addresses.



Student Services Entry for the Holiday Door Decorating Contest!  
**Snowman Selfie Station**  
"There's SNOW one like you"

## Feeder School Visits!

Ms. Stinson and Mrs. Matheson visited our local grade 8 classrooms to welcome our newest Eagles and give them some information about upcoming grade 8-9 transitions

The holiday break can be hard. Reach out using the website below if you need help during this time.

<https://kidshelpphone.ca/get-info/how-reach-out-during-holidays/>



## Become a homestay family!



Have you ever considered welcoming a student from another country in your home? The Limestone DSB and Ernestown SS has a proud tradition of hosting students from other countries, and we are looking to continue this growth next year!

Limestone welcomes more than 120 international students each year from around the world. We are currently seeking Kingston area residents to open their homes to host secondary students. The students study in schools in the Kingston Area for September & February start times.

Students travel to the Kingston area to learn English or are here for a Canadian experience during the school year. Hosting an international student is very rewarding! Many lifelong international friendships have formed out of our homestay program. In addition, homestay families are compensated monthly, and are supported by the Limestone International Education Office full time friendly homestay staff.

Interested? Call 613-544-7745 or email [flindalls@limestone.on.ca](mailto:flindalls@limestone.on.ca) or [villeneuve@limestone.on.ca](mailto:villeneuve@limestone.on.ca) <https://internationaled.limestone.on.ca>



## Inclement Weather, Bus Cancellations & Exam Rescheduling

The Semester 1 Examination Schedule includes a day to account for potential inclement weather and bus cancellations. If buses are cancelled due to inclement weather, exams scheduled on that day will be rescheduled to the next exam day. Subsequent exams in the Semester 1 Exam Schedule will also be rescheduled to the next exam day.

For example, if buses are cancelled on Friday, January 26th, Friday's exams will be held on Monday, January 29th. Monday's exams would be held on Tuesday, January 30th, and so on.

In the event of inclement weather, it will be important for families to watch for communication about exam rescheduling. We will communicate with families through email and the school's social media accounts.

The Semester 1  
Examination Schedule is  
available here:  
<https://shorturl.at/otz04>





# ERNESTOWN EAGLES

*Think you know Ernestown?*

*Snap the QR code or click  
the picture below to see our  
newest School Profile!*



## ERNESTOWN SECONDARY SCHOOL



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[www.ernestownss.limestone.on.ca](http://www.ernestownss.limestone.on.ca)